

2018 AP® US HISTORY DBQ

Question 1 (Document-Based Question) Suggested reading and writing time: **45 minutes**

It is suggested that you spend 10 minutes reading/planning the documents and 35 minutes writing your response. Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following.

1. Contextualize the topic of the prompt.
2. Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning. Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
3. Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least four documents.
4. Use two additional piece of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
5. For at least two documents, explain how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
6. Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt. (complexity of history point)

PROMPT BELOW...

PROMPT:

Evaluate the relative importance of different causes for the expanding role of the United States in the world in the period from 1865 to 1910.

Document 1

Source: Treaty concerning the Cession of the Russian Possessions in North America by his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias to the United States of America, June 20, 1867.

“His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede, to the United States, all the territory and dominion now possessed by his said Majesty on the continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth. . . .

The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice . . . may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may, from time to time, adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country. . . .

In consideration of the cession aforesaid, the United States agree to pay . . . seven million two hundred thousand dollars in gold.”

Document 2

Source: Josiah Strong, *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis*, 1885.

“It seems to me that God, with infinite wisdom and skill, is training the Anglo-Saxon race for an hour sure to come in the world’s future. Heretofore there has always been in the history of the world a comparatively unoccupied land westward, into which the crowded countries of the East have poured their surplus populations. . . . There are no more new worlds. . . . Then will the world enter upon a new stage of its history—the final competition of races, for which the Anglo-Saxon is being schooled. . . . Then this race of unequalled energy, with all the majesty of numbers and the might of wealth behind it—the representative, let us hope, of the largest liberty, the purest Christianity, the highest civilization—having developed peculiarly aggressive traits calculated to impress its institutions upon mankind, will spread itself over the earth.”

Document 3

Source: Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Interest of America in Sea Power, Present and Future*, 1897.

“To affirm the importance of distant markets, and the relation to them of our own immense powers of production, implies logically the recognition of the link that joins the products and the markets,—that is, the carrying trade; the three together constituting that chain of maritime power to which Great Britain owes her wealth and greatness. . . . There will dawn the realization of America’s unique position, facing the older worlds of the East and West, her shores washed by the oceans which touch the one or the other, but which are common to her alone.

...the United States is woefully unready, not only in fact but in purpose, to assert in the Caribbean and Central America a weight of influence proportioned to the extent of her interests. We have not the navy, and, what is worse, we are not willing to have the navy, that will weigh seriously in any disputes with those nations whose interests will conflict there with our own....We have not, but many other powers have, positions, either within or on the borders of the Caribbean.”

Document 4

Source: *The Boston Globe*, May 28, 1898.

POLITICAL CARTOON CUT OUT FOR THIS 2020 ASSIGNMENT

Document 5

Source: John Hay, United States Secretary of State, The Second Open Door Note, July 3, 1900.

To the Representatives of the United States at Berlin, London, Paris, Rome, St. Petersburg, and Tokyo Washington, July 3, 1900

In this critical posture of affairs in China it is deemed appropriate to define the attitude of the United States as far as present circumstances permit this to be done. . . . We regard the condition at Pekin[g] as one of virtual anarchy. . . . The policy of the Government of the United States is to seek a solution which may bring about permanent safety and peace to China, preserve Chinese territorial and administrative entity, protect all rights guaranteed to friendly powers by treaty and international law, and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese Empire.

Document 6

Source: Puck, a satirical magazine, November 20, 1901.

POLITICAL CARTOON CUT OUT FOR THIS 2020 ASSIGNMENT

Document 7

Source: President Theodore Roosevelt, Fourth Annual Message to Congress, December 6, 1904.

It is not true that the United States feels any land hunger or entertains any projects as regards the other nations of the Western Hemisphere save such as are for their welfare. All that this country desires is to see the neighboring countries stable, orderly, and prosperous. Any country whose people conduct themselves well can count upon our hearty friendship. If a nation shows that it knows how to act with reasonable efficiency and decency in social and political matters, if it keeps order and pays its obligations, it need fear no interference from the United States. Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and . . . the exercise of an international police power.