

# Imperialism and manifest destiny assignment

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During that era, America was under divine guidance to control the North American continent from coast to coast. It would appear that the new imperialistic behavior was a mere extension of the ideas that led Americans west; now, they were traveling South and East. Both policies also seemed to have economic motives and instilled a sense of national pride into America. However, there are notable distinctions. It is fair to say that imperialism was a direct expansion of Manifest Destiny with striking similarities and differences. The overseas expansion began in 1898 with the Spanish-American war.

Now impulsive, and rash to act, America used the explosion of the Maine to ignite a war with Spain. As the Rough Riders engaged in battle in Cuba, the American dominance overseas was beginning to be realized. Another successful campaign occurred in the Philippines, where the capture of Manila led to their victory. Although many believe that the victory in the Spanish-American War supplanted them as a world power, the war solidified the reality that they had always been a world power. The imperialistic victories of America throughout the world gave twice to that they were not afraid to act.

As time progressed, America began to grow as the Pacific islands were becoming possessions of America. This territorial expansion that took place during imperialism can be paralleled to the expansion of Manifest Destiny. Both sought to expand America. The Mexican War, as part of Manifest Destiny, begins over a border dispute between Texas and Mexico, but the U. S. quickly asserts control over California, far to the west, even subduing a more for independence there. The Spanish-American War, as part of

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imperialism, begins over Cuba, but the U. S. icily asserts control over the Philippines, half the world away. “ Defensive expansionism” is sometimes used to justify these conquests, but the shadings between such “ defensive” strategic actions and imperialism can be subject to debate in both instances. Despite America’s contention that Manifest Destiny and imperialism were for “ spreading democracy’ or to create a sense of national pride, the main motive behind the two probably lye in economic gains. During Manifest Destiny, Americans sought to find natural resources previously unknown and of course the pursuit of gold in California and the Black Hills.

Manifest Destiny had economic implications that would make America a stronger industrial force. When gold was discovered in California thousands rushed to the area to find gold, and during imperialism, America rushed to other countries to find their natural resources. In Cuba for example, the vast sugar cane plantations could be used by America for their own profit. In the Pacific, these islands, such as the Philippines, opened up Asian trade, a vast area that America could now sell and buy products from without much of a hassle, being that the Islands were so close to the continent.

Both Manifest Destiny ND imperialism broadened America’s economy and provided for economic growth for the future. Manifest Destiny can be said to be responsible for the industrial boom that occurred later in the century, for as a result of moving westward the railroads were built and were in turn the focal point of the nations economy in times to come. As for imperialism, a new market for trade was established in the Far East that America had previously been denied of for the incredibly high price that such a trade

would yield. America also needed this market in order to protect themselves for falling behind in the global arena.

Germany and France were quickly advancing their industrial growth worldwide and America had catching up to do, as a result of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the ability to imperialism and create new fields of trade helped to establish America as an economic force in the world. The direct connection between Manifest Destiny and imperialism can be easily seen by America's prospering as a result of both. Differences between Manifest Destiny and later imperialism included the different state the nation was in. Fifty years earlier, the nation was still attempting to control the lands surrounding its boundaries.

But by the turn of the century, they were prepared to reveal their dominance as a world power. No longer were they boys fighting amongst men. Having control over native lands, America sought out new endeavors. Creating a new empire, just as world powers had done before. America established itself by traveling abroad and successfully overtaking their enemy. But more importantly than the successes on the battlefield, were the new changes made to the policy of the nation's government and the military. Among them were the Root reforms, which orchestrated a newly structured military that would be prepared to continue

America's expansion efforts. The imperialistic actions at the turn of the 20th century revealed similar circumstances to Manifest Destiny, but it illustrated the new prowess of America and its policy. Manifest Destiny and the consequent imperialistic policies are evident of America's fervor to expand

and better the country. The ties between both ideals are clearly seen through the pursuit of territorial gains, the bettering of the economy and the building of a stronger nation in both instances. Imperialism is a direct extension of Manifest Destiny, despite the differences that may have existed between the two.