

The Extent to which Expansionism in the late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Was a Continuation and Also a Departure of Past Expansionism

Americans pursued technology at a feverish pitch. America also pursued ownership of land. While U.S. expansionism vigorously continued on its path, it also departed to an extent. Now (3)

Expansion of the United States continued in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. People in the U.S. were adding to the old notion of Manifest Destiny. Originally, it meant that the U.S. was destined by God to control the whole country. Some even wanted to give the U.S. control of the entire continent. Manifest Destiny continued to be used as a justification for expanding the power of America. A strong imperialist, Josiah Strong, predicted that whites, and especially America would come to dominate "lesser" races. (Document B) Another famous imperialist, Alfred Mahan, uses Manifest Destiny. It is the duty of America to expand, according to Mahan. (Doc. C) While expansion had its supporters, dissenters continued to preach their message. Anti-imperialists claimed America's "foundation" was hurt by expanding. (Document D) People in the past were against expanding across the U.S., because they didn't want the Indian civilizations to be destroyed. They were also afraid it might hurt America to fight the Indians. Whatever the opinion of expansion was, domination continued. When Americans wanted lands in the western U.S., the Indians were pushed out of the way or forced to become "civilized". In the second expansion, the U.S. took over some land and made it America's. Then, they showed their domination by deciding if the new people should be citizens or not. (Document A) Expansion continued on its path.

There was a certain departure to the old expansionism.

Cool

America was not as harsh to the rest of the world as it was to the Indians. First, the Open-Door Policy was negotiated peacefully. (Document C). America did not force China to open its trade markets, but it persuaded China to agree to the policy. America was less harsh because of its diplomacy. America would intervene in a foreign land if they proved "unfit". If a nation proved to be a success, then it was a "friend" to America. (Document F) America did not destroy other nations to expand, unlike it did earlier. Finally, the whole world was involved in this ~~expansion~~ expansionism, and not just the U.S. and Indians. European powers tried to expand. (Document A) Asia was involved, because the Open-Door Policy opened up China, the Philippine War involved the U.S., Spain, and Filipinos, and Africa and the Pacific Ocean islands were involved. This was different from earlier expansion.

While U.S. expansionism vigorously continued, it also departed to an extent. As expansionism proved, strong nations were the ones to expand. A strong navy helped them expand.