



Many Americans (and Europeans too) felt that it was every white Christian's duty to spread their religion and culture to those countries they considered underdeveloped and "backward". Author Rudyard Kipling wrote the poem "The White Man's Burden" shortly after America took control of the Philippines in 1898 to illustrate these ideas.

The White Man's Burden

Take up the White Man's burden--
 Send forth the best ye breed--
 Go bind your sons to exile
 To serve your captives' need;
 To wait in heavy harness,
 On fluttered folk and wild--
 Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
 Half-devil and half-child.

Rudyard Kipling

1. What action is happening in the cartoon?
2. When was "White Man's Burden" written?
3. What words does Kipling use to describe the people who are now under the control of the United States?
4. Why has Kipling given the poem the title 'White Man's Burden'?
5. As best as you can, describe what reason Kipling is giving for America expanding past our borders.
6. If you were President, would you favor Expansionism or Isolation? Explain.