

Showing the Light to the Filipinos

Creator: Unknown

Date: March 1899

Published in: Boston Herald

Source type: Newspaper Cartoon

Introduction: This cartoon was published in the *Boston Herald* in 1899 as Americans argued about U.S. control of the Philippines. Viewers of the cartoon would have easily recognized the man on the left as President McKinley.



Senator Albert Beveridge Speaks about Empire

Creator: Albert J. Beveridge

Date: 9 January 1900

Published in: Congressional Record, 56th Congress, 1st Session, 9 January 1900, 704-712.

Source type: Speech (Adapted)

Introduction: Indiana Senator Albert J. Beveridge made the following speech in Congress on January 9, 1900. Beveridge was a Republican, along with President McKinley and Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt. Republicans favored a strong military and developing trade to build up the United States.



Our largest trade **henceforth** must be with Asia. More and more, Europe will **manufacture** most of what it needs, and secure from its colonies most of what it consumes. So where shall we turn for consumers of our **surplus** products?

Geography answers the question. **China is our natural customer.** It is geographically closer to us than to the great **commercial** powers of England, Germany, and Russia. But those nations have moved nearer to China by building permanent [naval] bases on her borders. The Philippines give us a base at the door of China and the rest of Asia.

The Declaration of Independence allows us to do our part in the **regeneration** of the world. The Declaration applies only to people capable of self-government.

Our founders were not only concerned with national issues. Their outlook was global. They were soldiers as well as citizens, and they knew that where our ships go our flag might follow. So they wrote into the Constitution language about growth, expansion, and empire. They said our expansion should not be limited by geography, climate or anything but the energy of the American people: "**Congress shall have power to . . . make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory belonging to the United States .**"

God has made us the master organizers of the world to establish order where chaos reigns. **He has marked the American people as His chosen nation to lead in the regeneration of the world .** This is the **divine** mission of America, and it holds for us all the profit, all the glory, all the happiness possible to man. We are **trustees** of the world's progress and guardians of its peace.

Galicano Apacible on U.S. War in Philippines

Creator: Galicano Apacible

Date: 10 June, 1899

Published in: The Public, a U.S. Magazine: "A Letter from the Filipino Junta"

Source type: Letter (Adapted)

Introduction: Galicano Apacible (Ah-pah-see-blai), a Filipino, wrote the following letter about U.S. **annexation** of the Philippines. Apacible was a **nationalist**, and represented the Filipino Central Committee, a revolutionary group that wanted independence for the Philippines. In 1899, Apacible travelled to the United States seeking American help in making peace with Spain, but failed in his mission. On June 2, 1899, after the McKinley administration refused to recognize Filipino **self-government**, the Philippines declared war against the United States.



We desire to be on the best of terms with your people. It is deeply **regrettable** that your government is **waging** war against us. It is spending millions of dollars and sacrificing many valuable American lives.

We are fighting for our homes, for all that is dear to us. To not fight back would be proof that we are incapable of **self-government**.

During the six months before the outbreak of **hostilities**, we carried on self-government. We extended our rule throughout the **provinces**, and kept perfect order. There has been no anarchy except that which has been created by the **aggressive actions of the McKinley government**.

Our government can conduct itself in a way that will satisfy all the nations we do business with. But Mr. McKinley won't give us an opportunity to demonstrate our ability. We were kept down by the **Spaniards**, and it seems that it is also the desire of your government to keep us down.

Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League

Creator: The American Anti-Imperialist League

Date: 1899

Published in: The League's Newsletter to the Public

Source type: Pamphlet (Adapted)

Introduction: The Anti-Imperialist League was formed on June 15, 1898, by Americans who opposed U.S. **annexation** of the Philippines. This platform is a statement of the League's principles.



We hold that **imperialism** is hostile to liberty and tends toward **militarism**, an evil from which it has been our glory to be free. We regret that it has become necessary in the land of Washington and Lincoln to reaffirm that all men, of whatever race or color, are entitled to **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**. We maintain that **governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed**. We insist that the **subjugation** of any people is "**criminal aggression**" and is disloyal to the principles of our government.

We **condemn** the policy of our administration in the Philippines. It seeks to **extinguish** the **spirit of 1776** in those islands. We deeply disapprove of sacrificing our soldiers and sailors, whose bravery deserves admiration even in an unjust war. We denounce the slaughter of the Filipinos as a needless horror. We protest against the extension of American **sovereignty** by **methods used by the Spanish**.

We demand an immediate stop to **this war against liberty that was begun by Spain and is being continued by us**. We urge that Congress meet promptly to announce to the Filipinos that we will grant them the independence for which they have so long fought and which is rightfully theirs.

We agree with Abraham Lincoln that "No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. When the white man governs himself, that is **self-government**, but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than **self-government**—that is **despotism**." We also agree with this statement by Lincoln: "Our reliance is in **the love of liberty which God has planted in us**. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

We **invite the co-operation** of all men and women who remain loyal to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.