



# Honors' American History 1&2 (Reconstruction—Today)



## Unit #2: "America 2.0" Blue Book Review

### Question 2-A

Imperialism corresponds closely to the concept of empire and signifies all sorts of expansion policies: economic, political, military, cultural, and so on. Because of the close connection between the concept of imperialism and the concept of empire, many scholars assume a description of human history in terms of imperialism. From a national viewpoint, imperialist policy is necessarily irrational. In colonial occupation of foreign countries, the mother country at least attempted to establish a colonial government and extend political and civil liberties to the occupied territories in order to raise a state of civilization. The tendency of imperialism goes the other way, seeking more drastic control of annexed territories and destruction of the achieved state of civilization. Politically, imperialism is an expansion of dictatorship. In terms of international relations, imperialism means a permanent rivalry between imperialist countries for the redistribution of natural resources, often a cause of new wars. Of course, imperialism on the "home front" can be just as brutal. The manner in which the U.S. handled Native Americans is viewed today as nothing short of genocide. Nonetheless, their removal helped in the completion of Manifest Destiny, which meant such actions were often justified for the "greater good". What were some of the other methods (and justifications) by which the U.S. expanded its economic and political influence both at home and around the globe in the late 1800s and early 1900s? How did economic interests sometimes lead to military action? What did Teddy Roosevelt mean when he said, "*Speak softly and carry a big stick*"? Be sure to cite specific examples—such as Hawaii, Cuba, the Philippines, China, and Panama—in your answer.

### Question 2-B

Immigration is a worldwide phenomenon. From the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, millions of Europeans came to North and South America, Eastern and Southern Africa, Australia, and Asia. Many of these immigrants resettled in colonies established by their home countries. Most modern immigrants, like the colonists of the past, are motivated to relocate far from their original homes by the desire to improve their economic situation. Such people, known as "economic immigrants", resettle in other countries in search of jobs, farmland, or business opportunities. Today, immigration generally brings people from less developed and poorer countries to more developed and prosperous countries. Although the U.S. has been shaped by successive waves of immigrants, Americans have often viewed immigration as a problem. Trace the history of immigration in the U.S. by focusing on the five "waves" that came to its shores: 1607-1775, 1776-1839, 1840-1920, 1921-1964, and 1965-Present. What immigrants came over during each wave? Why did they come to the U.S.? How were they perceived/treated?

### Question 2-C

Adam Smith was a British philosopher and economist whose celebrated treatise *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (or simply, *The Wealth of Nations*) was the first serious attempt to study the nature of money and the historical development of industry and commerce. The central thesis of *The Wealth of Nations* centered on governmental non-interference (*laissez-faire*) and free trade. In Smith's view, the production and exchange of goods, as well as raising the standard of living, could only occur if there was minimum regulation and control by the government. To explain this better, Smith stated that every person—in pursuing his or her own good—is led, as if by an "invisible hand", to achieve "the best good for all". Therefore, any interference with free competition by government is almost certain to be injurious. Trace the development of big business in the U.S. during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries by focusing on concepts like Smith's *laissez-faire* economics, the Protestant Work Ethic, Social Darwinism, and monopolies. How did Progressive reformers attempt to protect the workers that built the U.S. into being an industrial power?