**Historical Context:** The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were often referred to as the “Age of Imperialism”, when modern, relatively developed nations were taking over less developed areas, colonizing them, or influencing them in order to expand their own power. During most of the nineteenth century, the United States ignored this scramble for overseas empires, preferring to focus their attention on expanding across their own continent. In the late 1800s, however, the United States began an aggressive policy of expansionism, extending its political and economic influence around the globe.

**Document 1: Imperialism Quote**

MR. PRESIDENT, the times call for candor. The Philippines are ours forever, "territory belonging to the United States," as the Constitution calls them. And just beyond the Philippines are China's illimitable markets. We will not retreat from either. We will not repudiate our duty in the archipelago. We will not abandon our opportunity in the Orient. We will not renounce our part in the mission of our race, trustee, under God, of the civilization of the world. And we will move forward to our work, not howling out regrets like slaves whipped to their burdens but with gratitude for a task worthy of our strength and thanksgiving to Almighty God that He has marked us as His chosen people, henceforth to lead in the regeneration of the world.

**Source: Senator ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE : In Support of an American Empire 1899**

**Document 2: Anti-imperialist Quote**

The United States have always protested against the doctrine of international law which permits the subjugation of the weak by the strong. A self-governing state cannot accept sovereignty over an unwilling people. The United States cannot act upon the ancient heresy that might makes right...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.

**Source: The Anti-Imperialist League, 1899.**

**Document 3: President McKinley Quote**

When next I realized that the Philippines had dropped into our laps I confess I did not know what to do with them....I walked the floor of the White House night after night until midnight; and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed Almighty God for light and guidance....And one night late it came to me this way....: 1. That we could not leave them to themselves--they were unfit for self-government--and they would soon have anarchy and misrule worse than Spain's war; 2. That there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them as our fellow men for whom Christ also died.

**Source: President William McKinley on the Philippines, 1899**

**Document 4: Imperialism Poem**

II. In the Philippines

*Silvery rice fields whisper wide*

*How for home and freedom their owners died.*

We’ve set the torch to their bamboo town,

And out they come in a scampering rush,

Little brown men with spears.

Shoot!

Down they come in a crush,

Sickening smears,

Hideous writhing huddles and heaps

Under the palms and mango-trees.

More, still more! Shoot’em down

Like brown jack-rabbits that scoot

With comical leaps

Out of the brush.

No loot?

No prisoners, then. As for these-

Hush!

The flag that dreamed of delivery

Shudders and droops like a broken wing.

*Silvery rice fields whisper wide*

*How for home and freedom their owners died.*

**Source: From America the Beautiful and Other Poems. Written by Katharine Lee. Thomas Y. Crowell Company ,1911.**