

## **White Man's Burden**

Many people in the industrialized nations of the world thought they had a duty to spread Western ideas and knowledge around the world. People were considered inferior if their religion or culture differed from that of Europe and America.

### **“The White Man's Burden”**

British Poet Rudyard Kipling is widely considered to be the most powerful and influential voice in favor of imperialism. The title of one of his best-known poems is “The White Man's Burden.” This phrase is often used to sum up the Western attitude toward non-Western people.

Many Europeans agreed with what Kipling wrote. They thought that people outside of Europe and America were primitive barbarians and they needed the help and guidance of more civilized nations. These wrong ideas caused Europeans to justify changing the ways of life for millions of people.

### **The White Man's Burden**

(First four stanzas)

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.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
In patience to abide,  
To veil the threat of terror  
And check the show of pride;  
By open speech and simple,  
An hundred times made plain  
To seek another's profit,  
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
The savage wars of peace--  
Fill full the mouth of Famine  
And bid the sickness cease;  
And when your goal is nearest  
The end for others sought,  
Watch sloth and heathen Folly  
Bring all your hopes to nought.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
No tawdry rule of kings,  
But toil of serf and sweeper--

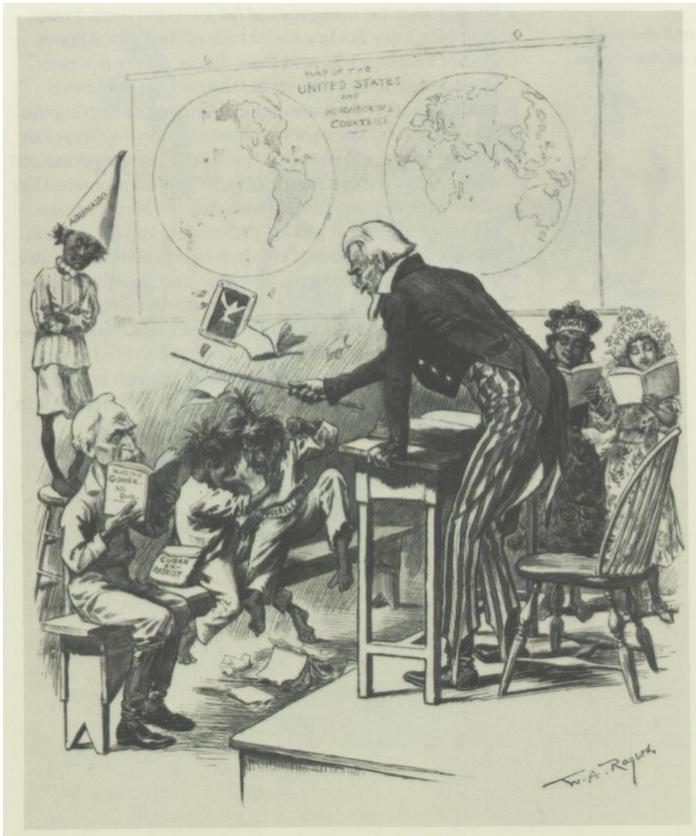
The tale of common things,  
The ports ye shall not enter,  
The roads ye shall not tread,  
Go mark them with your living,  
And mark them with your dead.

**Questions:** Write all of your answers using complete sentences in your own words, on your own paper.

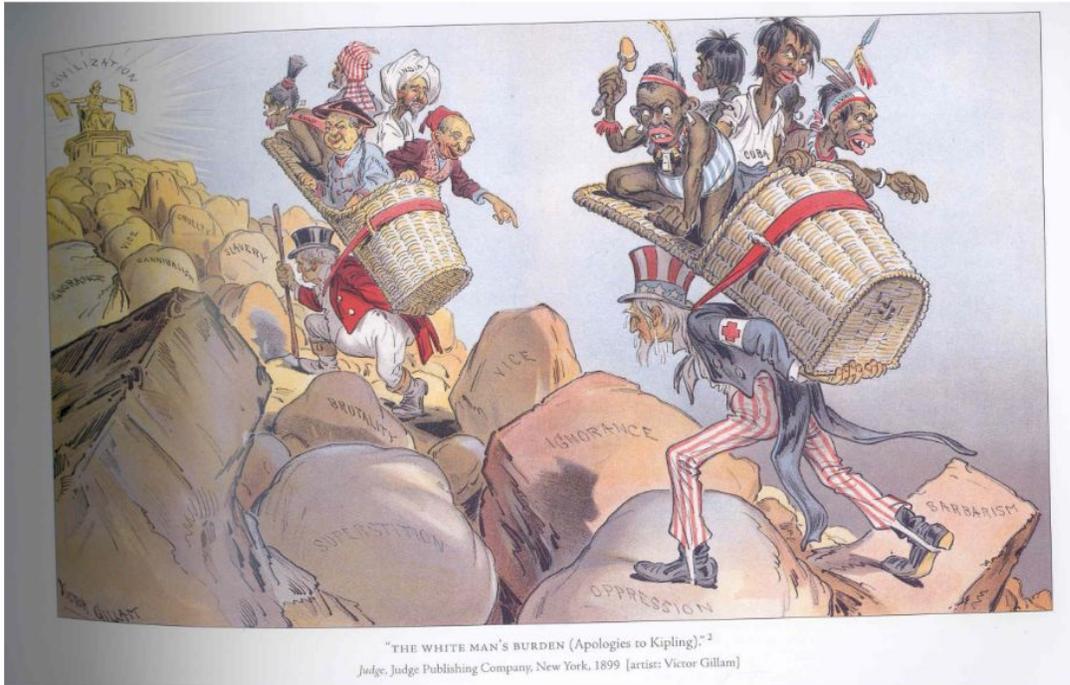
1. What was “The White Man’s Burden?”
2. What parts of this poem prove that “The White Man’s Burden” is really about imperialism?
3. Do you think the idea of “The White Man’s Burden” is really to help people in impoverished areas of the world? Why or why not?

## **Part II: Analyzing Political Cartoons**

For each of the following images answer the questions that follow. Write all of your answers using complete sentences on your own paper.



1. What is going on in this cartoon?
2. Who do the little people represent?
3. How is this representative of “The White Man’s Burden?”



1. What do the stones say that Uncle Sam and the English leader are stepping on? What is their significance?
2. Where are they walking to? Who are they carrying?
3. How is this cartoon representative of the "White Man's Burden"?

The first step towards lightening  
**The White Man's Burden**  
is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

**Pears' Soap**

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances, while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.

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1. What does this advertisement imply about non-Western people?
2. How is this advertisement representative of “The White Man’s Burden”
3. Is this image condescending or caring? Why do you say that?