



In the late 1800s, the United States embarked on a new wave of expansionism during which it acquired overseas territories. Explain the reasons for this new wave of expansionism.

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- The U.S. wanted to expand its territory because they wanted more production, more power, and more resources.
- Expansionism in America during the late 19th and early 20th century shared many similarities and differences to previous American expansionism ideas. In both cases of American expansionism, America believed that we must expand our borders in order to keep the country running. Also, the Americans believed that the U.S. was the strongest of nations, and that they could take any land they wanted. This is also shown during the "manifest destiny" of the 1840's and the "Darwinism" of the late 1800's and early 1900's. There were also several differences that included the Americans attempt to expand their empire across the seas and into other parts of the world.

- America's race for expansion became more of a global competition than that of controlling the surrounding lands. Other countries were quickly taking the remaining uncontrolled territories, and America felt that they needed to stake their claim in imperialism around the world. All the European countries were picking away at the lands still open for taking. In addition to the sense of "catching up" with the other nations around the world, America also felt that they were more powerful than ever, with the addition of an improving navy, setting their sights on lands across the seas. During earlier attempts of expansion, America had virtually no navy, which made the oversea conquest out of their reach, leaving them only the surrounding areas for taking. America now had the opportunity at such territories as Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines, due to their navy and its power.

- Also, during the expansion of the late nineteenth century, there was much more outside resistance towards American expansion. Because of the locality of the first expansion, there were not very many disputes over land as there were when America took their hopes for land overseas. With the addition of the Philippines and other islands to the American empire, the U.S. took on the self ordained title of "rulers of the Western Hemisphere." America stood at the door of their territories, not allowing anyone else to enter.
- In the new expansion of the American Empire, the Americans, as they did in earlier expansion, saw themselves as only "helping" those who they took under their power. President Roosevelt stated in his Annual Message to Congress of 1904 he says, "All that this country desires is to see the neighboring countries stable, orderly, and prosperous." This was also believed in expansion of the 1840's, where the U.S. pushed the Native's aside, presumably "helping" them, and making way for what rightfully belonged to the Americans, eventually dwindling the Nave American population to next to nothing.

- In both periods of American expansionism throughout the world, there are many similarities and differences that occurred, yet the one thing that remained the same in both cases was the strong American necessity for domination and to expand their power as far out as possible.