

Primary Source 1:

Paul Leroy-Beaulieu: On the Desirability of Imperialism (1891)

It is impossible not to consider imperialism as one of the tasks imposed on the civilized states for the last four centuries, more particularly on our age.

The present-day world is composed of four different categories in terms of types of civilization. First is that of Western civilization--our own part. A second part is inhabited by people of a different civilization, but organized in compact, coherent and stable societies and destined by their history and present character to govern themselves--the Chinese and Japanese peoples for example. In the third part live peoples advanced enough in some respects, but ones which have either deteriorated or ones that have not been able to.... Finally, a great part of the world is inhabited by barbarian tribes or savages, some given over to wars without end and to *brutal customs*, and others knowing so little of the arts and being so little accustomed to work and to invention that *they do not know how to exploit their land and its natural riches*. They live in little groups, *impoverished* and scattered, in enormous territories *which could nourish vast numbers of people* with ease.

This state of the world implies for the civilized people *a right of intervention* . . . In the affairs of the peoples of the last two categories.

Primary Source 2:

Mark Twain, Returning Home, an article in *New York World* (1900)

You ask me about what is called imperialism. Well, I have formed views about that question. I am unsure if our people are for or against spreading themselves over the face of the globe. I should be sorry if they are for it, for *I don't think that it is wise or a necessary development*. We have no more business in... any other country that is not ours. There is the case of the Philippines. I have tried hard, and yet I cannot for the life of me comprehend how we got into that mess. Perhaps we could not have avoided it -- perhaps it was inevitable that we should come to be fighting the natives of those islands -- but I cannot understand it, and *have never been able to get at the bottom of the origin of our resentment towards the natives*. I thought we should act as their protector -- *not try to get them under our control*. We were to relieve them from Spanish rule to enable them to set up a government of their own, and we were to stand by and see that it got a fair trial. It was not to be a government according to our ideas, but a government that represented the feeling of the majority of the Filipinos, a government according to Filipino ideas. That would have been a worthy mission for the United States. But now -- why, we have got into a mess, a quagmire from which each fresh step renders the difficulty of getting out immensely greater.

Primary Source #1 Worksheet

Name: _____

Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

What are the four categories Beaulieu breaks civilizations into?

Describe the fourth and final category of civilization.

Does Beaulieu view imperialism as necessary? Why or why not?

Primary Source #2 Worksheet

Name: _____

Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

Is Mark Twain for or against Imperialism? Why?

What are two aspects of U.S. Imperialism that Twain disagrees with?

Does Twain think that the United States acting as a “protector” of certain nations is acceptable?
Cite specific evidence from the text.