

Passage Option 1

Although there were people who supported Kipling's idea of American imperialism, this response is clearly against it. It questions Great Britain's motives of asking us to join them in their imperial task, suggesting that they have bit off more than they can chew and we would just be getting ourselves into a mess. It says that the pursuit of imperialism will just result in increased debt and a disturbance in politics. It also says that we have our own problems to take care of at home, and don't need to be involving ourselves with other countries under false pretenses. It is crazy how similar this situation and peoples reactions are to our current situation in Iraq. I guess it is true what they say, "History repeats itself". After 9/11 we went over to Iraq in search of weapons of mass destruction and then remove Saddam Hussein, but now we are just occupying. In "The Response to the White Man's Burden", the author says at the end that "It is not required of him to upset the brown man's house under pretense of reform and then whip him into subjugation whenever he revolts at the treatment." This is exactly what has taken place in Iraq. The war in Iraq has also imposed a great debt upon America as the author said it did back then. People also believe now that we have enough problems at home to worry about, and don't need to be out solving the Middle East's problems. I think that this passage not only shows us one point of view of Americas imperialism in the early 1900s, but also that this situation is timeless. The feelings of American citizens have remained the same over the last 100 years. I can only imagine that the proponents of imperialism have similar arguments in favor of such actions.