

Evaluate the relative importance of different causes for the expanding role of the United States in the world in the period from 1865 to 1910.

Rubric Item	Example 1: 10/10 “You know it when you see it”
INTRO ¶	
Pre-context (thorough)	By the mid-19th Century, westward expansion had taken on many different forms, from the Louisiana Purchase to the Oregon Trail to the Mexican-American War, often pitting Anglo-American interests against those of Native Americans, blacks, and immigrants. As the Civil War came to a close in 1865, the previously Confederate South seemed to be in shambles. Cities were destroyed, properties looted, and the reliable labor force that was slavery abolished. Yet, the North seemed to be enjoying rapid economic growth and industrial expansion. This can, in part, be attributed to the favorable tariffs (like the Morrill Tariff) passed during wartime years and better transportation, technology, and mechanization that allowed corporations to thrive in the post-war years, such as US Steel and Standard Oil. As time went on, the growing surplus of manufactured goods caused America to shed previous isolationist policies and enter an era of increased involvement globally to dominate overseas markets for goods.
Thesis X → A/B → Y	(X) While notions of superiority and American exceptionalism evolved and contributed to American expansion in the latter half of the 19th Century, the most direct causes were (A/B) territorial gains to compete with European empires and the desire for new, untapped markets around the world. Therefore, (Y) global economic factors were more significant than nationalistic cultural factors.
X ¶	
Topic sentence 1	One of the primary reasons behind American imperialism after the Civil War was the popular and growing sentiment that America and its Anglo origins were better than other nations. The acquisition of the Alaskan territory from Russia in 1867 exposed these views as native groups are described as uncivilized and at the mercy of American laws (Doc 1). The purchase of Alaska, referred to at the time as Seward’s Folly, can be viewed in the context of manifest destiny. This belief propelled American influence across the North American continent throughout the 19th Century, justifying this expansion through the perceived cultural, economic, and political superiority of American civilization. Josiah Strong also claimed that as a superior people, America must expand to other lands to force its values on other supposedly less civilized people (Doc 2). This perspective was in line with many Social Darwinists at the time, seeing a “competition of the races” unfolding, with Anglo-Saxons as the most favored race. These ideas stemmed from the flawed premises of scientific racism and survival of the fittest that many in Western societies developed from Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection. The obligation or duty that Strong describes would be spread on an even larger scale by Rudyard Kipling’s poem, “The White Man’s Burden,” through which he encouraged America to colonize the Philippines after their victory in the Spanish-American War, thus civilizing and benefitting the Filipinos. The squashing of Filipino violent resistance to colonization can be seen through the lens of Strong’s envisioned “competition of races” and thus as a factor contributing to increased American influence abroad.
Doc 1 usage	
Doc 1 sourcing	
Doc 2 usage	
Doc 2 sourcing	
Outside evidence 1	
A/B ¶	
Topic sentence 1	While nationalistic views contributed to the United States’ expanded role in the world, the industrial growth fueled by the Civil War spurred a desire for territorial expansion and new resources and markets that were no longer available in the North American continent. Frederick Jackson Turner’s Frontier Thesis and the “closing of the frontier” in the 1890s caused America’s
Outside evidence 2	

<p>Doc 4 usage</p>	<p>expansionist drive to push solely beyond its continental boundaries of the 19th Century. Territorial gains through purchase, war, and economic imperialism would vault the United States into the top tier or world powers by the 20th Century. The cartoon depicting President McKinley as serving new territories to Uncle Sam alludes to the growth of the American empire following the</p>
<p>Doc 4 sourcing</p>	<p>Spanish-American War in 1898 (Doc. 4). Many of these Caribbean and Pacific territories offered the United States economic and strategic advantages as stepping stones to larger prizes like Chinese markets and extended the reach</p>
<p>Doc 3 usage</p>	<p>for the American navy. Alfred Thayer Mahan echoes this need for a stronger navy as a means of dominating shipping lanes to “distant markets” (Doc 3). After increased funding and attention to the navy by Teddy Roosevelt and others, the</p>
<p>Doc 3 sourcing</p>	<p>Great White Fleet’s trip around the world in the early 1900s showed rival powers that the United States was a global force that could defend its growing empire.</p>
<p>Doc 5 usage</p>	<p>As president, Teddy Roosevelt would reaffirm the United States’ dominant position in the Western Hemisphere and expand its role in the region (Doc 5). The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine went beyond preventing</p>
<p>Doc 5 sourcing</p>	<p>European influence in the Americas through its justification of direct intervention in Latin American countries. As the primary investor in Central American and Caribbean economies, the United States had immense leverage in trade</p>
<p>CONCLUSION ¶</p>	<p>relations and molding the economic policies of neighboring nations throughout the hemisphere.</p>
<p>Restate thesis</p>	<p>Thus, while social and ideological developments certainly encouraged American expansion between 1865 and 1910, the economic motives of a growing industrial power directly resulted in an improved military, increased territorial holdings, and a new self-appointed role of “international police” that would set the course for the United States into the 20th Century and beyond. As</p>
<p>Post-context</p>	<p>a second-rate world power at the beginning of the century, the United States found itself at the top, along with the Soviet Union, following the global conflicts of WWI and WWII. The Cold War would cause further American influence around the world through its policy of containment throughout the so-called Third World.</p>
	<p><i>Score: thesis (1/1), contextualization (1/1), evidence from documents (3/3), evidence beyond documents (2/2), analysis/reasoning (2/2), complexity (1/1).</i></p>
	<p><i>* Note that the surplus document sourcing, all being historical situation, could double as outside evidence at the discretion of the reader.</i></p>

Rubric Item	Example 2: 6/10 “Laundry list with a pleasant twist”
Thesis X → A	<p>As the global role of the United States expanded in the latter half of the 19th Century into the early 20th Century, there were ample motivating factors that caused this growth. America looked to other lands and saw hope in potential territorial gains and economic improvement, but the leading motive was two-sided in providing assistance to other nations for humanitarian and Social Darwinist reasons.</p>
Context (simple)	<p>American values of democracy and freedom were trailblazing when a new government was established in 1776. Since then, several other nations, such as France, looked up to the United States and its values and sought to integrate these values. After expanding westward, the American eagle was ready to spread its wings over the other nations around the world as the other world powers were already scrambling for territory.</p>
Doc 1 usage Outside evidence (attempted)	<p>In the search for land, the nation first turned within its own hemisphere to Russian-controlled Alaska. Although many were opposed to gaining the territory, calling it “Walrussia” and naming the quest “Seward’s Folly,” the US gained Alaska from the Russians in exchange for gold (Doc 1). This is a prime example of the US’s motivation in gaining land.</p>
Doc 3 usage Doc 3 sourcing (attempted)	<p>Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan compares America’s foreign motives to the “wealth and greatness” that Great Britain acquired through trade. America was rapidly becoming a power in production and manufacturing due to its industrialization and abundant natural resources. Expanding the market and trading with other foreign nations would ameliorate the economy (Doc. 3). As a captain, Mahan’s point of view is pro-navy so he wants to see America strengthen its military.</p>
Doc 5 usage Doc 5 sourcing	<p>Although imperialism was an option that provided promising territorial and economic benefits, the ideology of providing assistance to countries in need proved to be the nexus of imperialist motives. In a Message to Congress in 1904, President Roosevelt denies any land hunger as an intent, but instead expands upon building friendships with other nations and establishing mutual stability and prospering. Roosevelt says that if a country is in a good place politically and socially, the United States will not intervene. However, “chronic wrongdoing” and a lack of civility would require a civilized power to intervene and assist that nation (Doc 5). During this time, the United States had just assisted Panama in their move for independence. However, the US was more interested in using their land for its own naval purposes: the Panama Canal.</p>
Outside evidence 1 Doc 2 Doc 2 sourcing	<p>This humanitarian intent took another spin among many of the American people to Social Darwinism; the ideology that superior nations and cultures are obligated to dominate other “inferior” cultures. Many believed that the Anglo-Saxon race was destined to “win” the “final competition of races” (Doc 2). Josiah Strong clearly speaks to other imperialists to convince them that it is America’s obligation to expand its culture and institutions to other lands that don’t share its “highest civilization”.</p>
Restate thesis	<p>To conclude, land gains and economic benefits proved to be motivation of America’s expanding role in the world, but the strongest intent of providing other nations assistance proved to be the biggest push factor.</p> <p><i>Score: thesis (1/1), contextualization (1/1), evidence from documents (1/3), evidence beyond documents (1/2), analysis/reasoning (1/2), complexity (0/1).</i></p>

Rubric Item	Example 3: 2/10 “The amoeba essay... no shape!”
<p>Thesis (attempted)</p> <p>Doc usage</p> <p>Sourcing/outside evidence attempts</p> <p>Outside evidence 1</p> <p>Doc 5 sourcing (attempted)</p> <p>Restated thesis (attempted)</p>	<p>The relative importance of different causes for the expanded role of the United States in the world between 1865 and 1910 is significant. America is a superpower today and would not be what it is without the historical actions of this time period. Document 1 shows how America bought Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000. Most people thought this was a bad idea and called it “Seward’s Folly”. Document 2 is about a guy, who was probably racist, who says that the Angel-Saxons will dominate the world with their culture. This is like Hitler’s master-race idea that led to the Holocaust. Document 3 is about America’s geographical superiority and how the US navy is weak. This would change by the time World War I and World War II come along. Document 4 shows McKinley waiting on a bearded man, probably representing America, and the menu is islands that he can choose from. After the Spanish- American War, the US won a bunch of territories like Hawaii and the Philippines so this is probably talking about that. Finally, Document 5 shows how the President, the strongest person in the country, is saying that America can exercise international police power whenever it wants. From his perspective, making America stronger would give him more power, as well, so it is understandable why he would think this. Many countries in the world hate America because it messes around with stuff that isn’t its business. As you can see in the documents, America’s role in the world expanded between 1865 and 1910.</p> <p><i>Score: thesis (0/1), contextualization (0/1), evidence from documents (1/3), evidence beyond documents (1/2), analysis/reasoning (0/2), complexity (0/1).</i></p>