

Sample: 1B

Circle the question number for Part B that you are answering on this page.

Part A — Mandatory

1

Part B — Circle one

2 or 3

Starting in the late 19th Century, American views on foreign policy began to undergo a radical change. Since George Washington's farewell address in the late 18th Century, Americans had favoured an isolationist, non-interventionist approach to foreign affairs. However, by entering the Spanish American War in the 1890s, the United States largely gave up ~~the~~ these long-held beliefs in favour of a desire to control — and, at least nominally, to better — the people in the colonies it acquired as a result of that war. Although the overwhelming views of that era held that expansionism was right and proper, views began to change in the early 20th Century to favour a return to the old ways.

There were a great many viewpoints on expansion in this period, but ~~almost all~~ ^{most} of them supported expansion. The most force advocates for it were the political leadership of the Republican party. Even before the Spanish-American War, the Republicans had shown this tendency, through their annexation of Hawaii's under President William McKinley (01). After the war, it was the Republican leadership which ~~continued~~ called for the United States to keep its new colonies as opposed to freeing them. President McKinley himself led the charge for this movement, making the crucial decisions to keep Guam, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines (3). When McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became perhaps an even more vocal advocate of expansionism. He argued in no uncertain terms that the Filipino people were unfit for democracy, and that ~~any~~ anyone who disagreed was weak-minded (5). ~~The~~ He further expanded this philosophy by staging a rebellion in the Colombian Province of Panama in the early 20th century to gain land for a transcontinental canal, and symbolically broke with Washington by becoming the first sitting President to visit a foreign country after he went to clean-up on the canal issue (01). There were ~~also~~ ^{some} social activists who felt that conquest would bring continental American closer together (1). There were also, however, a few detractors. The social reformer Jane Addams, better known for

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Championing birth control, noted that the constant culture of violence had made even here 'non-violent' neighbourly experience an increased murder rate — presumably of ~~the~~ Latino or Hispanic Americans by Whites (4). Some scholars ~~asserted~~ pointed out the irony of lambasting Spanish cruelty while praising subjugation of former Spanish colonies (5). But overall, the tide was towards conquest.

By the end of 20th century, however, many more were seeing the errors of the last century. The Presidential nominee of the opposition Democratic Party, William Jennings Bryan, began using the word 'imperialism' along with others, comparing America's foreign policy to that of the European powers it so desperately wanted to be different from (6). Furthermore, public opinion began to turn against the expansionists after seeing the horrors of the Philippine War, in which about 200,000 Filipinos were killed and a system with heavy indoctrination from the ~~Spain~~ oppressive Spanish 'Reconcentration' system was imposed by the American Army. Satirists ~~looked~~ ^{marked} the United States' for oversteering itself dangerously, and many began to feel that the loss of happy colonies far outweighed the bene fits (7). After the First World War, expansionism completely died out, replaced by an isolationism perhaps even more radical than that which came before it. This changed before reflected, in part, a ~~change from a view~~ ^{change from a view} of America as a bottom-of-international democracy at all costs to one of an America that should refrain from 'dragging its hands' by delving into foreign affairs. ~~The nation~~ ^{The nation} ~~operational~~ ^{operational} ~~functioned~~ ^{functioned} ~~from that time on, and on~~

The debate over expansion has roared on America since the ~~later~~ inception of the nation, and continues to this day. The matter is by no means settled, and probably never will be. The ~~late~~ ^{late} 19th century represents a period favouring expansion, ~~was~~ ^{was} the early 20th, a period rejecting it. The tide of public

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option has ~~been~~ shifted many times since then, reflecting an ever-changing world view for Americans, that helps to keep the worst excesses of empire behind in America. In addition, the shift represents a constantly-changing definition of America's place in the world.