

# Reasons for U.S. Imperialism

# US and Imperialism

The US was once a British colony. Americans declared their independence in 1776 on the basis of democratic beliefs. Some Americans, therefore, felt it was wrong to force colonial rule on others. They believed that taking over other countries was undemocratic.

On the other hand, a majority of Americans at the turn of the century supported the policy of imperialism. This support came about for several reasons:

# Why Americans Supported Colonial Expansion

- A. Economic Reasons: The US had recently become an **industrial power**. Colonies would provide
1. needed **raw materials** for factories, and
  2. a **guaranteed market** for goods.

# Why cont.

## B. Desire to Be a Great Power.

Some people believed that in order to be a great and powerful nation, the United States had to control areas around the world, just as the European powers were doing.

# Why cont.

## C. Belief in Moral/Cultural Superiority

Many Americans believed they were a **superior people** and should rule less able peoples by **spreading Christianity** and the **American way of life**.