

Test #2 Study Guide

1. Why did some Americans in the 1890s come to believe that the U.S. should pursue a more expansionist foreign policy?
2. How was “twisting the lion’s tail” a way to divert public attention away from domestic problems? Why did this tactic backfire when President Cleveland used it during the Venezuelan crisis?
3. Why did the Depression of 1893 convince some Americans that it was urgent for the US to open overseas markets for U.S. goods? What did they fear would happen if the U.S. did not open these markets?
4. Why did some Americans believe the U.S. needed to build a larger and more powerful military if the nation was going to succeed in opening new markets for its goods?
5. Why was there a “crisis of masculinity” during the 1890s? What were some men so worried about? What evidence of this crisis do we see in popular culture?
6. How was the idea of the “white man’s burden” related to American expansionism?
7. How did “realist” motivations for pursuing an expansionist foreign policy differ from “idealist” motivations?
8. How did newspaper men like Hearst and Pulitzer and politicians like Theodore Roosevelt use “gendered” language and imagery to pressure President William McKinley to declare war on Spain?
9. How did Maximo Gomez hope to convince Spain to abandon its Cuban colony? Why did Gomez’s tactics lead to General Weyler’s policy of re-concentration?
10. Why did the nature of Spanish colonial rule – particularly the re-concentration policy of General “Butcher” Weyler – win Americans’ support for the Cuban revolution?
11. Why did Weyler’s policy of re-concentration backfire? Why did his tactics end up making things *harder* for the Spanish and actually gather more support for the Cuban revolutionaries?
12. What were the goals of President McKinley’s Cuba policy? How did President McKinley’s views on U. S. policy toward Spain and Cuba differ from those of Theodore Roosevelt?
13. Why did many businessmen oppose U.S. entry into the Spanish-American war? How did figures like Theodore Roosevelt use business’s opposition to war with Spain as a way building support for the pro-war side?
14. What were some of the significant events in early 1898 that seemed to push the United States closer to war with Spain? How did these events affect public opinion and build pro-war sentiment?
15. Why did McKinley’s decision to send the USS Maine to Cuba end up not preventing war but making war with Spain more likely?
16. How did the DeLome letter play into the hands of the jingoists who were suggesting McKinley’s reluctance to go to war indicated a lack of “manliness”?
17. How do the “Four D’s” – duty, destiny, defense, and dollars – each explain in part the motivations for America’s foreign policy at the turn of the twentieth century? Which were “idealistic” motives and which were “realistic”?
18. Why did idealistic motivations for U. S. foreign policy – such as “duty” and “destiny” – often produce intolerant and even racist policies? Why was allowing the “ends” to justify the “means” a problem?

19. Why did the United States want to establish a naval base on the Philippine islands? How would a military presence there also assist American merchants who wanted to sell their goods to China?
20. Why did the United States' desire to open markets in China and Latin America seem unlikely to bring immediate economic rewards for US manufacturers?
21. Since the United States' major trading partners were European nations like Britain and France, why might it have been unwise for the Americans to demand that they be given the chance to sell more goods in China? If they upset the European nations already trading with China, what risk did the U.S. take?
22. Why did the Philippine insurrection that followed the Spanish-American War convince many Americans that pursuing an overseas empire was not such a good idea after all?
23. How were industrialization, immigration, and urbanization all related? Why did Progressives believe that immigration and the growth of cities would create "disorder" and conflict in society?
24. Why were Progressives worried about social turmoil and economic inequality?
25. What is a "unitary culture"? Why did Progressives believe that promoting a unitary culture would help to preserve order?
26. Why do some observers say Progressives' approach to solving social problems was grounded in "innovative nostalgia"? Explain how Progressives incorporated BOTH "nostalgia" and "innovation" into their social vision.
27. How did Progressives differ from Social Darwinists? How, for example, did their views on how to address urban poverty differ?
28. In the debate over "nature" vs "nurture," where did the Progressives stand? What about the Social Darwinists? How did their beliefs about how to address urban poverty differ?
29. In order to improve the human environment, Progressives sought to think "systematically." What does "thinking systematically" entail? Why was it important to think systematically in a society that had become increasingly interdependent?
30. What is a pragmatist? How do we know Progressives were pragmatists?
31. In looking at how Progressives set out to solve social problems, how do we know they were both "interventionists" and "optimists"?
32. How did the "Social Gospel" approach to religion differ from earlier theology?
33. What is the difference between a "social control" Progressive and a "social justice" Progressive? [Think in terms of how each would "solve" the problem of trash piling up in poor neighborhoods.]
34. Why did a Serbian nationalist's assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 start a conflict that engulfed all of Europe?
35. Why were the Russians, French, and British on the same side in World War I? Why were the Germans and Austrians on the same side?
36. What issues produced tensions among the European powers during the years leading up to World War I?
37. By 1914, certain technologies and innovations had advanced further than others. What were some of these technologies and innovations? How did the uneven advance lead to staggering casualties on the battlefields of Europe?
38. Why was it difficult for the U. S. to remain neutral once war broke out in Europe? What steps did many Americans – particularly bankers and investors – take that made it more likely the U.S. would enter the war on the Allies' side?
39. Both the British blockade of Germany (which kept neutral America from selling goods to the Germans) and the Germans' use of submarine warfare violated international law and the rights of neutral countries. Why, then, was the U.S. willing to tolerate Britain's blockade of Germany?

- but not willing to tolerate the Germans' use of submarine warfare?
40. Why was the British navy's blockade of German ports an effective tactic?
 41. Why did the Germans resort to submarine warfare? Why was German submarine warfare a major reason why the U.S. entered World War I?
 42. Why did the Germans pledge to stop using submarine warfare but then reverse this pledge? If resuming submarine warfare was likely to lead the U. S. to declare war on Germany, why did the Germans take this step anyway?
 43. Why did President Wilson believe that Germany's agreement to the "Sussex Pledge" would help ensure that the U.S. didn't become involved in the European War?
 44. What was the Zimmermann Telegram and why was it significant in shifting American public opinion toward a more anti-German position?
 45. Why was the Committee on Public Information's anti-German propaganda campaign an example of the "social control" brand of Progressivism?
 46. Explain how Wilson's 14 Points – particularly Points 9-13 – tried to address the reasons that Europe had gone to war in the first place.
 47. Why did more practical figures like the French leader Georges Clemenceau express skepticism about Wilson's 14 Points and his hope for a "peace without victory"?
 48. Why did the US Congress believe Wilson's Point 14 was unconstitutional?
 49. Why did World War I contribute to disillusionment, especially among young people?
 50. How did the terms of the Treaty of Versailles lay some of the groundwork for the Second World War?