America Becomes an Empire

At the turn of the century, America went from a 2nd class country to one of the world leaders. This all changed due to the Spanish American War. A war that is often referred to as the “splendid little war”. Over the next two weeks you are going to work in small groups to examine events that caused this transition as well as the result of the transition.

The Task: Each group will create a magazine surrounding how the United States became a world power.

Directions: In your group of four, you will be looking at the Spanish American War, the Philippine American War and the Open Door Policy of China to determine exactly how the United States became a world power. You will be following lessons found on <http://edsitement.neh.gov/curriculum-unit/birth-american-empire> with some adaptation.

Roles:

Editor (2): This role is responsible for proofreading all the articles.

Creative Director: This person is responsible for putting together the final copy

Photographer: they are responsible for finding graphics/pictures to accompany the stories.

Part 1: Investigating the Spanish American War

Each group will read the two speeches at <http://edsitement.neh.gov/sites/edsitement.neh.gov/files/worksheets/Birth%20of%20an%20American%20Empire%20Lesson02.pdf> to determine how American views regarding annexation have changed. This will help you write your first article for your magazine – the changing views of imperialism. (only one article needs to be written for the magazine) Your group will then complete the webquest at <http://civclients.com/nehint/spanam/>. Each person is required to take on a role and meet the requirements listed.

Part 2 – the Philippine American War

As a group you will read pages 1 and 2 of the document found at <http://edsitement.neh.gov/sites/edsitement.neh.gov/files/worksheets/Birth%20of%20American%20Empire%20Lesson03-Philipians.pdf>. This will help your write your second group article – “The Official” take on the Philippines – only one per magazine. Each group will read pages 3-13 of the above document. This is divided into three sections. Pages 3-6 focus on political/military issues, Pages 7- 9 focus on Economic issues, and pages 10-13 focus on political/moral issues. From each of the three view points you will address one of the following and include recommendations as well as a defense for your standing:

* Negotiate the return of the Philippines to Spain, with strict guarantees by Spain of human rights and political autonomy for the islands
* Grant independence after a short transitional period, with an American protectorate relationship made part of the Philippine Constitution
* Grant independence with no political relationship, but with American possession of a naval base on the islands
* Turn the islands over to a relatively friendly power (e.g., Britain) in exchange for economic or other concessions (e.g., annexation of Canada)
* Govern the islands jointly with a consortium of great powers Annex and govern the Philippines as an American colony, with a commitment to improve conditions on the islands -- independence may be considered in the future

Each group does not have to address the same question.

Part 3: China

As a group read pages 1-2 of the Open Door Notes found at <http://edsitement.neh.gov/sites/edsitement.neh.gov/files/worksheets/Birth%20of%20American%20Empire%20Lesson04%20Imperialism.pdf> This will be the basis for your third group article – Open Door Notes – what are they? Each group will then divide up the final 3-13 pages of the document. Each group will choose four of the 6 to summarize and include in their magazine.

Due October 22nd. This is the final grade of the marking period.

Grading:

Class work: Each individual will be graded based on how well your work in class. If you are not prepared, off task, or just not doing what you are assigned your grade and not your groups will be affected. 10 pts

Articles: Individual articles will be graded as such – an individual grade. You will be graded on organization, content, and grammar/mechanics. 20 pts for each article. You will be writing at least three articles per person.

Roles – each person will be graded on the role they took. For example if the pictures are not included or not relevant –that photographer will be held responsible. The editors will be equally responsible for making sure the articles are proof read – have appropriate articles. The creative director will be responsible for the overall organization of the final product. 20 pts.

References – the last page of your magazine will include a reference page for all sources used in the document. If this is not included, the final product will not be read. Remember your reference page must be in proper APA format. Each source must have a corresponding in text citation and vice versa. 10 pts

Group articles – your magazine will include three group articles – one for each part. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade for these as a whole. 20 pts total.