

## II.G.12

### The Other Side of Modernity

# US-History (1898–1945) – Das Selbstverständnis der USA im Spiegel der Zeit

Nach einer Idee von Dr. Ingeborg Braisch



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Welche historischen Ereignisse und Voraussetzungen zementierte die amerikanische Vorstellung des Exzeptionalismus? Vom Sieg über Spanien 1898 bis zum Zweiten Weltkrieg untersuchen die Lernenden die Schlüsselereignisse amerikanischer Geschichte.

### KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenspanne: 10–12

Dauer: 68 Unterrichtsstunden

Kompetenzen: Quellen in ihren historischen Kontext einordnen und interpretieren; direkte und indirekte Propaganda erkennen; sachorientiert diskutieren; Informationen recherchieren und präsentieren

Thematische Bereiche: amerikanischer Imperialismus, Isolationismus, Große Depression, New Deal, der Weg in den Zweiten Weltkrieg

## Auf einen Blick

### American Imperialism

1.–4. Stunde

- M 1** **Who, what, when? – Quick US History in the 19th century** / The students will match facts and events to the correct date in the context of a riddle in order to revise the most important events in American history.
- M 2** **A magnificent little war – Explosion of the Maine** / How did propaganda work during the Spanish-American War?
- M 3** **The Philippines' fate – From a US point of view** / The students will get two texts to work out the advocacy for US-American Imperialism. What roles did religion and tradition play?
- M 4** **Betrayal of our principles – Anti-Imperialism** / The students will analyse a caricature and a text. They will get to know the character of Uncle Sam, who is important for US propaganda.

**Benötigt:** Internetzugang, Farbstifte

### Neutrality – „America First“

5./6. Stunde

- M 5** **World War I – Dream and reality** / How did the USA establish a new world order? It becomes apparent how closely illusion and disillusionment were joined together.
- M 6** **„America First“ – Failure of the Fourteen Points** / A newspaper article about reactions to a speech sheds light on American nationalism and the deep-rooted scepticism towards Europe.

**Benötigt:** Internetzugang

### The Great Depression – Depression – New Deal

7. Stunde

- M 7** **Great Depression, New Deal – Consequences** / A song and a caricature depict hardship of the depression and the government's interference with the New Deal. The hints give suggestions for student projects and insight into the citizens' mood as well as contemporary propaganda.

**Benötigt:** Internetzugang

### Neutrality – Quarantine – Defence of the free world

8. Stunde

- M 8** **Presidential election campaign – World War II** / Survey results from 1940, Roosevelt's promise and an election poster from 1944 trace the path from securing peace to Pearl Harbour to realising the necessity of the "defence of the free world".

**Benötigt:** Internetzugang

## M 1

## Who, what, when? – Quick US-History in the 19th century

## Tasks

1. Hints 1 to 10 refer to the USA's expansion. Match the hints and dates to the key words in the left column.
2. Name an important event in US history that was crucial for its development but is not listed here.

## Hint

It has nothing to do with expansion.

Stichwort	Jahr	Hinweis (Nummer notieren)
Alaska		
End of the Frontier		
Hawaii		
Louisiana		
Wounded Knee Massacre		
Monroe Doctrine		
Panama		
Open Door policy in China		
Roosevelt's Amendment to the Monroe Doctrine		
Texas		

## Dates for the middle column

1803; 1823; 1845; 1867; 1876 (L X); 1893/1898; 1899/1900; 1903–1914; 1904

## Hints for the right column

1. The useless land that the president bought from a plutocracy pinched for money was ridiculed a lot in the USA: "Is that his ice box?"; "Does he want to open a zoo for polar bears there?". Today, due to the huge oil and natural gas deposits, this purchase is considered a super deal.
2. American plantation owners overthrew the queen of this island group abundant in volcanoes, established a republic and enforced annexation by the US. This way the plantation owners could export their sugar to the US without high customs duties.
3. If you wanted to go west even further, you would walk into the Pacific Ocean.
4. American ambassadors offered \$11 million to the owner. This was the largest acquisition of property in history. It granted the US a spicy cuisine, a big harbour and, one century later, the first jazz.
5. The songs "The Ballad of the Alamo" glorifies the "struggle for freedom" of Americans, who settled, in part illegally, in a province of a bordering country and declared the area as independent.

## M 4

## Betrayal of our principles – Anti-Imperialism

## Tasks

1. Analyse the picture. Pay special attention to the publication date and all children in the room. Determine which symbolic American figure the teacher is supposed to represent. Do research using the key words "Uncle Sam" and "Treaty of Paris 1898".
2. Read the texts. Work out what accusations Mark Twain is making.
3. Balangiga and Bud Dajo on the Philippines are no tourist attractions, they are considered to a mass grave. Do some research to find out more about this.

The approval of those governed is good in theory, but rarely in reality



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1899. Auf dem Tisch auf dem Lehrerpult steht „U. S. SELF GOVERNEMENT“, auf dem Zettel darunter sind u. a. „Philippines“, „Cuba“ und „Puerto Rico“ zu entziffern. Auf der Tafel steht, dass die Zustimmung der Regierten in der Theorie gut sei, aber sehr selten in der Realität. Die USA müssten die Regierung der neuen Territorien übernehmen, bis diese dazu selbst in der Lage seien.

### Mark Twain on American imperialism

That is, shall we go on conferring our Civilization upon the peoples that sit in darkness, or shall we give those poor things a rest? Shall we bang right ahead in our old-time, loud, pious way, and commit the new century to the game; or shall we sober up and sit down and think it over first? Would it not be prudent to get our Civilization-tools together, and see how much stock is left on hand in the way of Glass Beads and Theology, and Maxim Guns and Hymn Books, and Trade-Gin and Torches of Progress and Enlightenment (patent adjustable ones, good to fire villages with, upon occasion), and balance the books, and arrive at the profit and loss, so that we may intelligently decide whether to continue the business or sell out the property and start a new Civilization Scheme on the proceeds?

Twain, Mark: To a person sitting in darkness. In: <https://archive.org/details/jstor-25105120> [letzter Aufruf 23.07.2021]

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