

EXTRA CREDIT

OPTION 1: REWRITING IMPERIALIST LITERATURE

You must read the following pieces of literature:

1. Rudyard Kipling's *The White Man's Burden* (see below)
2. Earnest Crosby's *The Real White Man's Burden* (see below)
3. Grit's *Why Talk of the White Man's Burden?* (see below)
4. British woman Mary Francis Ames (who published the book under "Mrs. Ernest Ames") made a book - the ABC's for Baby Patriots - that taught the alphabet through nationalist ideals. Read that book on this link: <https://flashbak.com/an-a-b-c-for-baby-patriots-1899-english-imperial-glory-for-beginners-363683/>

"The White Man's Burden": Kipling's Hymn to U.S. Imperialism

In February 1899, British novelist and poet Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem entitled "The White Man's Burden: The United States and The Philippine Islands." In this poem, Kipling urged the U.S. to take up the "burden" of empire, as had Britain and other European nations. Published in the February, 1899 issue of McClure's Magazine, the poem coincided with the beginning of the Philippine-American War and U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty that placed Puerto Rico, Guam, Cuba, and the Philippines under American control. Theodore Roosevelt, soon to become vice-president and then president, copied the poem and sent it to his friend, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, commenting that it was "rather poor poetry, but good sense from the expansion point of view." Not everyone was as favorably impressed as Roosevelt. The racialized notion of the "White Man's burden" became a euphemism for imperialism, and many anti-imperialists couched their opposition in reaction to the phrase.

Take up the White Man's burden—
Send forth the best ye breed—
Go send your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need

To wait in heavy harness
On fluttered folk and wild—
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child

Take up the White Man's burden
In patience to abide
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;

By open speech and simple
An hundred times made plain
To seek another's profit
And work another's gain

Take up the White Man's burden—
And reap his old reward:
The blame of those ye better
The hate of those ye guard—

The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah slowly) to the light:
"Why brought ye us from bondage,
"Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden-
Have done with childish days-
The lightly proffered laurel,
The easy, ungrudged praise.

Comes now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years,
Cold-edged with dear-bought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers!

Source: Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden: The United States & The Philippine Islands, 1899." Rudyard Kipling's Verse: Definitive Edition (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1929).

Crosby on Kipling: A Parody of "The White Man's Burden"

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With apologies to Rudyard Kipling
Take up the White Man's burden.
Send forth your sturdy kin,
And load them down with Bibles
And cannon-balls and gin.

Throw in a few diseases
To spread the tropic climes,
For there the healthy negroes
Are quite behind the times.

And don't forget the factories.
On those benighted shores
They have no cheerful iron mills,
Nor eke department stores.

They never work twelve hours a day
And live in strange content,
Altho they never have to pay
A single sou of rent.

Take up the White Man's burden,
And teach the Philippines
What interest and taxes are
And what a mortgage means.

Take up the White Man's burden
And if you write in verse,
Flatter your nation's vices
And strive to make them worse.

Give them electrocution chairs,
And prisons, too, galore,
And if they seem inclined to kick,
Then spill their heathen gore.

They need our labor question, too,
And politics and fraud—
We've made a pretty mess at home,
Let's make a mess abroad.

And let us ever humbly pray
The Lord of Hosts may deign
To stir our feeble memories
Lest we forget—the Maine.

Take up the White's Man's burden.
To you who thus succeed
In civilizing savage hordes,
They owe a debt, indeed;

Concessions, pensions, salaries,
And privilege and right—
With outstretched hands you raised to bless
Grab everything in sight.

Then learn that if with pious words
You ornament each phrase,
In a world of canting hypocrites
This kind of business pays.

Source: Ernest Crosby, "The Real White Man's Burden," *Swords and Ploughshares* (New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1902), 32–35

Why Talk of the White Man's Burden? By Bruce Grit

This poem was written in response to Kipling's and published in a major African American newspaper, *The Colored American*, in 1899.

Why talk of the white man's burden;
What burdens hath he borne
That have not been shared by the black
man
From the day creation dawned?

Why talk of the white man's burden,
Why boast of the white man's power
When the black man's load is heavier,
And increasing every hour?

Why taunt us with our weakness,
Why boast of your brutal strength;
Know ye not that the children of
meekness
Shall inherit the earth — at length?

"Take up the white man's burden!"
What burdens doth he bear,
That have not been borne with courage
By brave men everywhere?

Then why the white man's burden?
What more doth he bear than we –
The victims of his power and greed
From the great lakes to the sea?