

### Halls of Power Scenario

The United States has defeated the Spanish Empire after a naval victory in the Battle of Manila Bay (Philippines). Filipino leaders, who have been fighting a revolutionary war against Spain for several years, declare independence and establish the First Philippine Republic. A few months later, American diplomats negotiate a peace treaty with Spain that will officially end the war. Filipino representatives are not included in these negotiations.

As part of the treaty negotiations, President William McKinley must now decide whether or not the U.S. should take over the Philippines from Spain. The president is planning to meet with both supporters and opponents of annexation to hear their arguments before making his decision. Politicians, organizations, and Filipino activists all care deeply about the outcome of the President's decision because it will have lasting effects on the U.S. and the Philippines.

You are among those waiting, and have time to talk with two other people who might help you prepare for the President and strengthen your argument.

In order to influence President McKinley's foreign policy decision making, you will need to read your document carefully to determine your role, position, and evidence that supports your position. When talking to others you may find that they agree or disagree—take careful notes on their positions and why they hold them so that you can compare them to your own. *Use the first chart to take notes on your and others' positions.*

People support or oppose annexation of the Philippines for a variety of reasons. Some make economic arguments—saying that annexation could either make the U.S. richer or poorer—and others make arguments about annexation based on the effects it could have on the United States' military power, democratic values, or expansionist agenda. Others are more concerned about the effects annexation could have on the Filipino people themselves. After determining your own position and discussing the topic with others, try to analyze the underlying reasons behind each person's argument. *Use the second chart to help you do this.*

Good luck—and remember to stay in character during discussions!

**Role: American Anti-Imperialist League (with text supports)**

*The Anti-Imperialist League was formed on June 15, 1898, to oppose U.S. annexation of the Philippines. The League held its position for a variety of reasons, including economic and moral ones. In this document, the League lays out its central platform.*

We hold that the policy known as **imperialism** is hostile to liberty and tends toward **militarism**, an evil from which it has been our glory to be free. We regret that it has become necessary in the land of Washington and Lincoln to reaffirm that all men, of whatever race or color, are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We maintain that governments derive their just powers from the **consent** of the governed. We insist that the **subjugation** of any people is “criminal aggression” and open disloyalty to the distinctive principles of our government.

*\* In this sentence, the League is basically arguing that for the U.S. to extend its authority over the Filipino people, like the Spanish once did, would be unjust and that the Filipinos should rule themselves.*

We earnestly condemn the policy of the present national administration in the Philippines. It seeks to extinguish the spirit of 1776 in those islands. We deplore the sacrifice of our soldiers and sailors, whose bravery deserves admiration even in an unjust war. We denounce the slaughter of the Filipinos as a needless horror. We protest against the extension of American **sovereignty** by Spanish methods.\*

We demand the immediate **cessation** of the war against liberty, begun by Spain and continued by us. We urge that Congress be promptly **convened** to announce to the Filipinos our purpose to **concede** to them the independence for which they have so long fought and which of right is theirs. . . .

We hold with Abraham Lincoln, that “no man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. When the white man governs himself, that is self-government, but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government—that is **despotism**.” “Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it.”

**Vocabulary**

**imperialism:** a policy by which a country increases its power by gaining influence over other areas of the world

**militarism:** the use of military force by a country to gain power and to achieve its goals

**consent:** to agree to or allow something

**subjugation:** the conquering of a people through use of force

**sovereignty:** unlimited power over a country

**cessation:** end

**convened:** brought together

**concede:** to give or agree to

**despotism:** total rule by one person who uses that power in cruel ways

We cordially invite the co-operation of all men and women who remain loyal to the declaration of independence and the constitution of the United States.

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Source: American Anti-Imperialist League, "Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League," in Frederick Bancroft, ed., *Speeches, Correspondence, and Political Papers of Carl Schurz*, vol. 6, (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1913), 77, note 1, available on *Modern History Sourcebook: American Anti-Imperialist League, 1899*, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1899antiimp.html>

**Role: Senator Alfred Beveridge (with text supports)**

*On January 9, 1900, Indiana Senator Albert J. Beveridge presented the following speech to Congress in support of annexation of the Philippines. Along with President McKinley and Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt, Beveridge belonged to the Republican Party. At this time, Republicans favored a strong military and developing trade to build up the United States.*

Mr President: The Philippines are ours forever, "territory belonging to the United States," as the Constitution calls them.\* And just beyond the Philippines are China's [unlimited] markets...

\* Beveridge refers to Article IV Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution. This article gives Congress the power to set rules deciding how the U.S. can add new territories to the nation.

Our largest trade henceforth must be with Asia. The Pacific is our ocean. More and more Europe will manufacture the most it needs, secure from its colonies the most it consumes. Where shall we turn for consumers of our **surplus**? Geography answers the question. China is our natural customer. She is nearer to us than to England, Germany, or Russia, the commercial powers of the present and the future. They have moved nearer to China by securing permanent [naval] bases on her borders. The Philippines give us a base at the door of all **the East**. . . .

The Declaration of Independence does not forbid us to do our part in the **regeneration** of the world... The Declaration applies only to people capable of self-government. How dare any man [**debate**] this expression of the very elect of self-governing peoples to a race of **Malay** children of barbarism, schooled in Spanish methods and ideas? ...

The founders of the nation were not **provincial**. Theirs was the geography of the world. They were soldiers as well as landsmen, and they knew that where our ships should go our flag might follow... And so our fathers wrote into the Constitution these words of growth, of expansion, of empire, if you will, unlimited by geography or climate or by anything but the **vitality** and possibilities of the American people: "Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory belonging to the United States. . . .

God ... has made us the master organizers of the world to establish **system** where chaos reigns... And of all our race He has marked the American people as His chosen nation to finally lead in the regeneration of the world. This is the divine mission of America, and it holds for us all the profit, all the glory, all the happiness possible to man. We are trustees of the world's progress, guardians of its righteous peace...

**Vocabulary**

**surplus:** when a country produces more goods than it needs

**the East:** Asia, specifically China in this document

**regeneration:** the act of giving new life to something

**debate:** to disrespect strongly

**Malay:** a person from the Malaysian peninsula, or nearby islands

**provincial:** unsophisticated; having narrow or limited concerns and interests

**vitality:** energy

**system:** order

Source: *Congressional Record*, 56th Cong., 1st Sess., 9 January 1900, 704-712; from Vincent Ferraro, ed., "Albert J. Beveridge: In Support of an American Empire," *Documents Related to American Foreign Relations 1898-1914*, <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/ajb72.htm>.

**Role: Galicano Apacible (with text supports)**

*Galicano Apacible was a Filipino nationalist. He supported other Filipinos who wanted independence from Spanish colonial rule. In 1899 he travelled to the United States to try to convince the McKinley administration to support Filipino self-government. The following excerpt is from a letter Apacible published in a Cincinnati, Ohio newspaper.*

In replying to your kindly letter I **avail** myself of the opportunity to correct a very false impression which seems unfortunately to have been generally accepted as an undeniable truth by millions—for all I know, some tens of millions—of your countrymen. I refer to the false and mischievous notion that the Filipinos are engaged in a war with and against the American people.

We desire to be on the best of terms with your people of all peoples. It is indeed deeply regrettable that your government should wage war upon us; that millions of dollars and many valuable American lives should be sacrificed under what you so aptly describe as a pretense of suppressing an insurrection\*. We are fighting for our homes, for all that is dear to us. If we did not fight under the circumstances... we should be giving proof of our utter unfitness for self-government. During the trying period of six months prior to the outbreak of **hostilities** we carried on self-government, extended our rule throughout the **provinces** and kept perfect order. There has been no **anarchy** except that which has been created by the **overt** acts of the McKinley government. We have proved our ability to maintain order in the provinces, to carry on the post and telegraph services throughout the country, and we can conduct the business of all departments of government in a manner that would satisfy all the nations having business relations with us. But Mr. McKinley won't

give us an opportunity to demonstrate our ability. We were kept down by the Spaniards, and it seems that it is the desire of your government to keep us down.

...I hope, dear sir, that you will put it very clearly before your countrymen that the Filipinos do not regard the American people as their enemies. We do not. We regard them as our friends, and we wish to be on friendly terms with them. It is against the actions, the tyranny, the ruthless invasion of our country **sanctioned** by Mr. McKinley and his colleagues, that we protest by fighting as best we can. It is a hard struggle for our little nation against the great forces which McKinley is able to bring against us, but we shall struggle

\* Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the US Constitution gives Congress the power to call forth the military to suppress insurrections, meaning to stop a group from trying to take over a country. Apacible is saying that the U.S. is using this idea as a fake reason to exert influence in the Philippines.

**Vocabulary:**

**avail:** use or take advantage of

**hostilities:** fighting

**provinces:** areas of a country away from the capital

**anarchy:** disorder; having no government

**overt:** out in the open; not secret

**sanctioned:** gave official permission or approval to

on, for life without liberty is valueless. We hope for the best. We hope that the great American **republic** may yet give a helping hand to the youngest republic, the only republic in Asia.

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Source: Galicano Apacible, "A Letter from the Filipino Junta," *The Public*, 10 June 1899.







**republic:** a country that is governed by elected representatives and an elected ruler (e.g. not by a king or queen)

### Role Play Worksheet: Should the U.S. Annex the Philippines?

#### Presenting the Characters' Viewpoints

To prepare, fill in boxes A-E after reading your document. Then, take notes in boxes F and G during your groupmates' speeches.

Preparing for the role play: Take notes on your document	
<b>A.</b> Name: _____	
<b>B.</b> Position in society or government? [Who is this person/group?]	
<b>C.</b> Supports annexation (imperialist) OR Opposes annexation (anti-imperialist)?	
<b>D.</b> Reasons for this position <u>in your own words</u>	1)  2)
<b>E.</b> Most persuasive quote that shows reason for/against annexation	

During the role play: Take notes on other students' speeches	
<b>F.</b> Name: _____  Who is this person/group?  Does this person support or oppose your position?  For what reasons? Be specific.	
<b>G.</b> Name: _____  Who is this person/group?  Does this person support or oppose your position?  For what reasons? Be specific.	

**Role Play Worksheet: Should the U.S. Annex the Philippines?  
Continuing the Discussion/Debate**

Where do the characters agree OR disagree on the impact annexation would have on the United State and the Philippines? Use the following categories to guide your conversation, making sure to take notes. (Not every character talks about each of these categories, so some boxes may be blank, but in each category at least two out of the three character’s boxes should have notes.)

	Apacible (anti-annexation)	Anti-Imperialist League (anti-annexation)	Beveridge (pro-annexation)
Are the Filipinos ready to govern themselves?			
How will annexation impact the US economy?			
Is annexation consistent with democratic values?			