In the spring and summer of 1898 the United States went to war with Spain. In the hills of Cuba and on the waters of the Philippines, the Americans were victorious. They won. The U.S. was able to get new territory from the Spanish after winning including Guam, Puerto Rico and the **Philippines**. The United States had suddenly become a major world power.

The most complicated territory for the U.S. was the Philippines. It is located across the Pacific Ocean, near China, about 7,000 miles from Washington DC. After the destruction of the Spanish fleet (boats) in Manila Bay, 11,000 American sailors and soldiers marched into the capital of Manila. It was not clear whether they had come to **liberate** (free) from Spain or occupy (control) the Filipino people.

Filipino rebels had been fighting for independence against the Spanish for several years. These Filipinos believed that the Americans were coming to liberate. Their general, Emilio Aguinaldo, expected to march into Manila, the capital of the Philippines WITH the US troops. When the Americans would not allow this, Aguinaldo felt betrayed. He was hurt.

In October 1898 a conference was held in Paris to write a peace treaty (agreement). Because America had won the war with Spain, America had most of the power. The US had three choices regarding the Philippines. They could hand the islands back to Spain, give the Philippines its independence, or annex the Philippines under some kind of American government. The United States decided on the third option and chose to annex (control) the Philippines.

A treaty was signed on February 6, 1899. The decision to annex the Philippines was not popular with the rebels in Manila. Aguinaldo and his men now turned their guns on the Americans, starting a very bloody war. A war that led to the death of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos as well as over 4,000 Americans.

**Use your main ideas to summarize what happened with the Philippines?**

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Should the United States Have Annexed the Philippines?
As you read, ANNOTATE as you look for answers to the question above.

Document A

Ten thousand miles from tip to tip. – Philadelphia Press, 1898

Note: Notice the image of the smaller United States 100 years earlier in 1798.
Should the United States Have Annexed the Philippines?
As you read, ANNOTATE as you look for answers to the question above.

**Document B**


“All some argue that American rule in the Philippine Islands will result in the better education of the Filipinos. Be not deceived (tricked)…(We) dare not educate them unless they learn to read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and mock (make fun of) us for our inconsistency. These documents claim the U.S. should be

…(A) war of conquest is as unwise as it is unrighteous…It is not necessary to own people in order to trade with them…”

**Document C**

*Source: Albert J. Beveridge, “The March of the Flag.” Campaign speech while running for US Senate in Indiana, September 16, 1898.*

“The opposition tells us that we ought (should) not to govern a people without their consent (permission). I answer, The rule...that all just government derives (gets) its authority from the consent of the governed, applies only to those who are capable of self-government. We govern the Indians without their consent, we govern our territories without their consent, we govern our children without their consent...Would not the people of the Philippines prefer the just, human, civilizing government of this Republic to the savage, bloody [Spanish] rule...from which we have rescued them?

Do we owe no duty to the world? Shall we turn these peoples back to the reeking hands from which we have taken them? Shall we abandon them, with Germany, England, Japan hungering for them?”
Should the United States Have Annexed the Philippines?
As you read, ANNOTATE as you look for answers to the question above.

Document D

Source: Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League, October 1899.
Note: A platform is a series of positions or beliefs that a group or political party fights for

“We denounce the slaughter of the Filipinos as a needless horror. We protest against the extension of American sovereignty (power) by Spanish methods…

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 (rule by a tyrant*).”

*tyrant is a cruel, often violent ruler

Document E

Source: William McKinley speech to a group of clergymen (religious leaders), November 21, 1899.

I walked the floor of the White House night after night until midnight… And one night late it came to me this way...

1. We could not give (the Philippines) back to Spain - that would be cowardly and dishonorable

2. We could not turn them over to France and Germany - our commercial rivals in the Orient (Asia) - that would be bad business

3. We could not leave them to themselves - they were unfit for self-government- and they would soon have anarchy (chaos) and misrule over there worse than Spain’s was;

4. There was nothing left for us to do but to take them... educate the Filipinos, uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God’s grace do the very best we could by them...
Should the United States Have Annexed the Philippines?

As you read, ANNOTATE as you look for answers to the question above.

**Additional Document**

*Source:* Letter written by Galicano Apacible, a member of the Filipino Central Committee that supported independence from Spanish colonial rule, April 26, 1899. It was written to an organization in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“...It is deeply regrettable that your government should wage war upon us; that millions of dollars and many valuable American lives should be sacrificed...We are fighting for our homes, for all that is dear to us...We have proved our ability to maintain order in the provinces, to carry on the post and telegraph services throughout the country...in a manner that satisfies all nations having business relations with us. But Mr. McKinley won't give us an opportunity to demonstrate our ability…

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 ruthless invasion of our country sanctioned by Mr. McKinley and his colleagues, that we protest by fighting as best we can.”

1. Write a summary of this document. Use EXACTLY 20 words.

   ______  ______  ______  ______  ______
   ______  ______  ______  ______  ______
   ______  ______  ______  ______  ______
   ______  ______  ______  ______  ______.

2. Does this document show that the United States should or should not annex the Philippines? **Use at least three pieces of evidence to support your argument.**