

7.2 Imperialism: Debates

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS imperialism debate 帝国主义辩论

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **imperialism debate** 帝国主义辩论.

You must be able to:

- name the four imperialist arguments
- name the three anti-imperialist arguments
- state what both sides invoked
- explain what the shared argument shows

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Four imperialist arguments

Economic opportunities, racial theories, competition with European empires, and the perception in the 1890s that the western frontier was “closed” — used to argue that Americans were destined to expand their culture and institutions to peoples around the globe.

■ Three anti-imperialist arguments

Principles of self-determination, racial theories, and the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism.

■ The shared argument

Racial theories appear on both lists. The same body of thought was used to argue for expansion and against it.

■ What that shows

An argument is not the same as a position. Racial theory could justify governing others or refusing to admit them, so knowing someone’s premises does not tell you their conclusion — which is exactly why the CED lists it twice.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four imperialist arguments. [2]

2.2 Name the three anti-imperialist arguments. [3]

2.3 One argument appears on both lists.

(a) Name it and explain how it served both. [2]

(b) State what this shows about arguments and positions. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Imperialists cited the 1890s perception that the western frontier was [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A “closed”
 - B expanding
 - C unexplored
 - D foreign

3.2 Anti-imperialists invoked self-determination, racial theories and [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A the tradition of isolationism
 - B the Monroe Doctrine
 - C the tariff
 - D free silver

3.3 The same theory is used by both sides of a debate.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) Explain what an answer must therefore do. [2]
