Imperialism, Immigration, and American Civilization

Length: about 1200 words (about 4 pages)
Due: Friday, March 31

Read the prompt below, as well as the instructions on the next page.

Prompt: From the 1880s to the 1920s, millions of new immigrants arrived in the United States, and America expanded its influence overseas, particularly in territories such as Cuba and the Philippines. A growing debate emerged in the United States about the consequences of immigration and imperialism, and about the definition of American culture and American civilization.

Write an essay discussing the most significant debates over American culture between the 1880s and 1920s. In writing your essay, analyze the key arguments in the debates over imperialism and immigration to the United States, and the debates over the role of race and ethnicity in defining who is an American. What do these debates tell us about the definition of American culture and civilization during this period?

In writing your essay, make use of ALL of the following sources.

Primary Sources

- Richard Pratt, "The Advantages of Mixing Indians with Whites" (1892)
- Josiah Strong, Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis (1885)
- Emilio Aguinaldo, "Aguinaldo's Case against the United States" North American Review (1899)
- American Anti-Imperialist League Platform (1899)
- Senator Albert Beveridge (IN), “The March of the Flag,” campaign speech (1898)
- Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, “Imperialism—Its Dangers and Wrongs” (1898)
- Samuel Bryan, “Mexican Immigrants in the United States,” The Survey (1912)
- 1920s Immigration Laws, with associated census data.

You may use relevant sections of the textbook to provide context and additional information, where appropriate, but your essay should focus on analyzing the primary sources and using them to help you answer the question.

Do not simply summarize each primary source, one after the other. Analyze the main arguments made by each author, comparing and contrasting them where appropriate, in a way that addresses the key issues raised in the question. Use evidence from the sources to support your argument.
Instructions for Long Essay #1 – Due March 31, 2017

- **Address every part of the question.** Be sure to answer each part of the question in the prompt. It may help to organize your essay using the parts of the prompt as a guide.

- **Include a thesis statement.** You are encouraged to introduce the main argument of your essay in the first or second paragraph, so that your explanation of it is clear throughout.

- **Think for yourself.** Answer the questions with your own brainpower, in your own words. This is NOT a research paper assignment!

  ** ***Do NOT visit the Library or the World Wide Web for additional resources. Everything you need to answer the question is in the listed sources. Students who use outside sources risk failing the assignment***

- **Prove your point.** Provide ample evidence to support your argument(s) by providing concrete examples and illustrations from your reading. You do not need to use quotations, but your paper should demonstrate a familiarity with the important arguments made by the documents.

- **Avoid personal sentiments.** Your essay should make an academic argument based on evidence, not opinion.

- **Cite your sources.** Be sure to make specific reference to and cite specific examples from your reading as evidence to support your answer.

- **Use your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable.** If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, consult the library’s guide, or ask the instructor. You MAY use quotations, but they must be clearly indicated using quotation marks, and they should only be used to support YOUR arguments, and not to make your arguments for you.

- **Citations.** You may use whatever format you like (MLA, APA, Chicago style) to cite your sources, but you must make clear for your reader where your information (and not just direct quotations) comes from.

**Format and Submission**

- **Length.** Your paper should be about 4 pages long, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins (about 1200 words)

- **Format.** Submit your paper in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, .odt, .rtf, .txt, .pdf. Do NOT use the Apple .pages format.

- **Submission.** Submit your paper through TurnItIn on the Cougar Courses website. You will receive a TurnItIn submission number. Please record this number.

- **Due Date:** Friday, March 31, by 11.59 p.m. No late submissions will be accepted.