

## The “White Man’s Burden”

### Central Historical Question:

Should the Westerners be forgiven if their mistreatment of natives was due to the misunderstanding that it was their duty to “to serve [their] captives' need”?

### Document #1 Rudyard Kipling, The White Man's Burden, 1899

Take up the White Man's burden--  
Send forth the best ye breed--  
Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need;  
On fluttered folk and wild--  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half-devil and half-child.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
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.

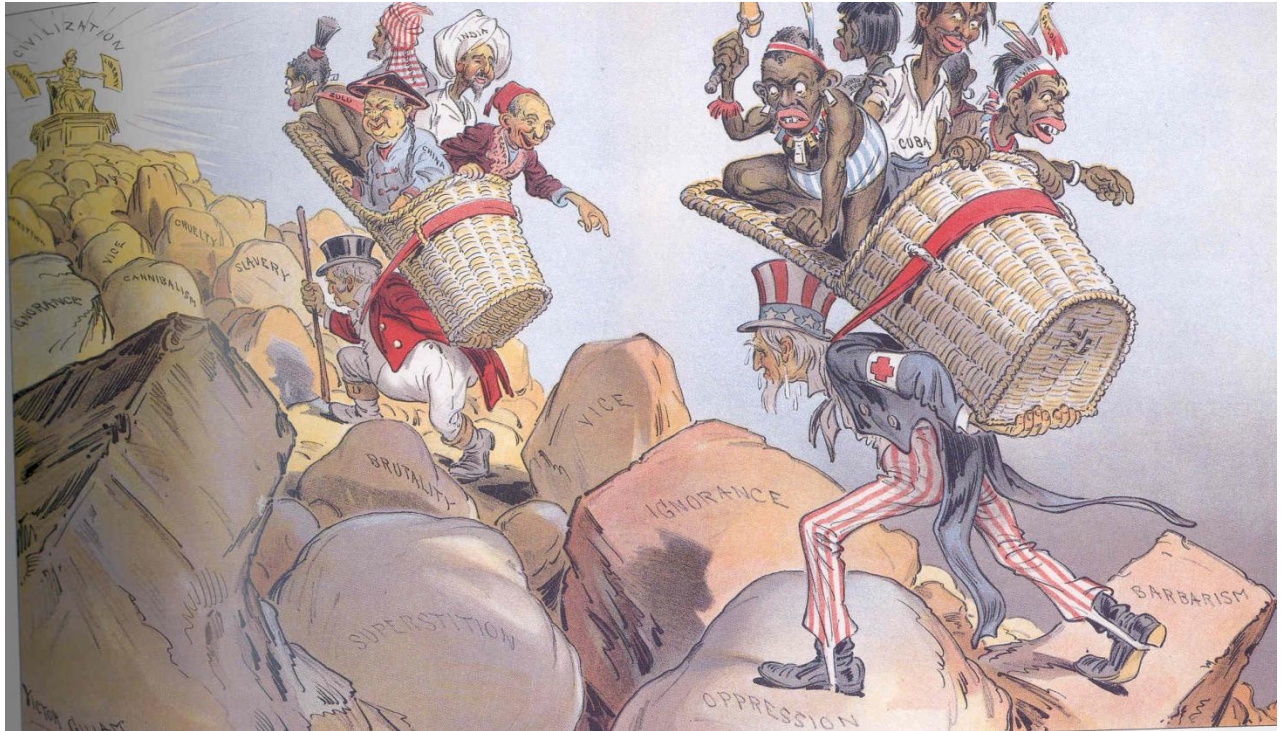
Take up the White Man's burden--  
The savage wars of peace--  
Fill full the mouth of Famine  
And bid the sickness cease;  
And when your goal is nearest  
The end for others sought,  
Watch sloth and heathen Folly  
Bring all your hopes to naught.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
The ports ye shall not enter,  
The roads ye shall not tread,  
Go mark them with your living,  
And mark them with your dead.

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 humor  
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--  
"Why brought he us from bondage,  
Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden--  
Have done with childish days--  
Come now, to search your manhood  
Through all the thankless years  
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom  
The judgment of your peers

Document #2 The White Man's Burden (Apologies to Kipling) Victor Gillam 1899



Document #3 "The White (?) Man's Burden" William H Walker, Life, 1899

