

Resolved that the U.S. should adopt a colonial policy

The late war between Spain and the U.S. was not entered upon by the latter as a war of conquest but to relieve the oppressed humanity from the despotic rule of Spain.

As a result of this war Spain was the vanquished and we were the victor and in possession to demand indemnity. When Dewey lowered the Spanish flag at Manila, he was then responsible for the protection of the inhabitants, and the U.S. was then responsible for the protection of the inhabitants, and the U.S. was responsible for a form of government over them in the place of the Spanish government they (note: why 'they'?) had destroyed.

A great change has come over the U.S. There is coming to be a general agreement that recent events have compelled a reversal of the traditional policy of the U.S. That policy has been one of isolation that's henceforth to be one of fraternization.

During America's early history its unique principles of government, its location remote from the old world, its comparative weakness and inexperience, and its complicated domestic..(?)..all combined in compelling it to avoid world-counsels and world-responsibilities.

But time has changed these conditions. Our principles of government are no longer unique. They are already winning their way into acceptance, or furnishing the basis for popular agitation, in England, France, Germany, Italy and Scandinavia.

Finally, this war with the responsibility which it has laid upon the nation for fair government in Cuba and the Philippines has awakened us all to the fact, that the isolation of the past is forever at an end.

The republic could not retreat if it would...(?)... whatever its destiny it must proceed. As a Christian nation the U.S. is under moral and necessary obligations to guarantee Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines some form of government and see that the old despotism is not followed by a new one, or by an anarchy which is still worse.

That book of all books, the one which has survived all others, the one which will continue through all ages, the Bible, says,

"I shall give thee the heathen for thy inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." When this prophecy is being fulfilled and the heathens are honorably our possessions, how can we shirk the responsibility resting upon us? How can we neglect that command, "Go ye unto all the world?" Yet some do. Can it be through ignorance?

Have we no duties to perform as a nation? The people of these islands are many of them heathens. Is it not our duty to Christianize them? Who knows but what God has opened these islands to us that through them all Asia shall be converted to Christianity? God has given us this grand opportunity. Shall we disregard it? What greater glory could we achieve than through the Christianization of the Philippines to Christianize all of Asia.

Certainly we can now conceive of no better way to advance civilization than by the colonial policy.

The term imperialism has been applied by its opponents to the policy of expansion. But it has not been adopted nor accepted by the friends of that policy. They are not imperialists; they do not believe in imperialism.

This expansion policy does not mean that we intend to set up a despotic form of government: making all the laws for them, taxing them and ruling tyrannically over them.

This does not mean expansion in the sense that we would annex these islands as we annexed Louisiana, Texas, California and Oregon, by making states out of them and then receiving them into the Union on an equality.

But it does mean an expansion of American ideas of liberty and republicanism. The expansionist believes that our recent war was not for dominion and power, but for the emancipation of subject races. He believes so absolutely in self-governing states that he desires to see his own nation aid liberty loving people beyond the boundaries of his own continent to establish and maintain a republican form of government.

The colonial policy also means that a civilized free country should exercise its best influence over a crude untaught people and tend to civilize them. It means that our flag will float over these islands. And it also means we will guarantee them self-government in so far as they are capable of sustaining it. We will establish schools and churches, construct roads, erect factories, open mines and build telegraphs. We would take charge of their foreign affairs and protect them from other countries.

It would mean that a closer relation might be established between the Philippines and the U.S., a relation similar to that which exists between Great Britain and Canada.

Finally it might secure for the Philippines the same protection which the English Constitution secures for the Canadians and bring them under one flag as Canada is brought under the one flag of Great Britain.

In this case the Philippines would be a self-governing colony of America, absolutely free from all imperialistic control, but having our aid in all their advancements.

What the expansionist desires to see is the U.S. giving protection, inspiration and, and assistance to communities emancipated from crushing despotism, and needing the blessings of freedom, justice and self-government.

The Philippines are more than a thousand islands little and big, with about 114,000 square miles and 7,000,000 people. These islands are in close reach of India, Malay, China and Japan and will give us a grand base of operations at those very doors of these rich countries.

They produce tropical productions which we are compelled to buy; if we owned these islands it would add vastly to our commerce. It would be the nucleus around which to build a (?) trade.

And there is the Orient and import trade which in round numbers amount to a billion dollars a year. Where we only get five percent of this trade, through the aid of the Philippines, we would have a nucleus for trade and have a chance to compete with England. The great commercial nations of the earth agree that the nation that owns these islands will control a large part of the eastern world. Other nations look upon them as valuable. If valuable to others why not to us? England has found such islands exceedingly valuable to her. Holland and France also deem them valuable. Germany considers these islands so valuable that she is almost willing to go to war with U.S. for their possession.

The territory formally obtained by the U.S. either by purchase or won by conquest has been partitioned into territories and then as soon as they possess a sufficient population are admitted as states into the Union. But it does not follow that what has been always must be. "History is a guide by which to direct our footsteps into the future, not a manacle to chain us to an immovable past." (note by PCB: I googled and cannot find a source for the quote.)

This colonial policy is regarded by many as inconsistent with the Monroe Doctrine. Even if were so, this would not constitute a conclusive objection. A political doctrine at one stage in a nation's history may become inappropriate or even fatal another time. Policies are like clothes; we change them as we grow. Seemingly the central thought in the Monroe Doctrine was Americans for America, but also the spirit which inspired the declaration was a prophetic appreciation of our own interests and a human sympathy, with weaker and oppressed people for our country's welfare.

Though vague the extension of the Monroe Doctrine may seem to some, it involves certain definite aims to be kept steadily in view, certain principles to be kept faithfully followed. They are such as these: that wherever the American flag has gone up carrying American supremacy with it as in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, it must not come down until the people who have lived under it if only be only an hour, have a government which assures their justice, liberty, and education.

There are many people who see a violation of the Constitution in every great measure proposed for the country's welfare.

And who ravenlike croak "unconstitutional." Where would the world be today if these people had had their way all through the ages? When Christ was upon the earth, they would have joined Herod in massacring the innocents and Pilate on the ground that the Saviour's teachings were "revolutionary" and unconstitutional and dangerous to the old order of things.

When the ships of Sampson and the soldiers of Shafter and Schley and soldiers of Shafter and Wheeler were writing in letters large enough for the whole world to read, the final doom of Spanish dominion in this New World, these same Jeremiahs, with clasped and upraised hands, cried out, "unconstitutional" and abominable.

It would disgrace America in the eyes of all nations for her to turn in these islands over to England or back to Spain, or to lower our flag and leave them helpless without even an attempt to civilize and elevate them.

Finally, the American people must make the world understand that the Anglo Saxon race is a unit in itself in the support of justice, liberty and education: and to the promotion of this higher life all international policies must be shaped and guided. This is the new Monroe Doctrine, the new imperialism, the imperialism of liberty.

In considering whether the U.S. govt. should extend its authority over such communities as those of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, there are very important questions to be considered, first, what are our interests? Second, what are our responsibilities? And third, what is our capacity? The first two depend upon the last for it is certainly not to the interest of the U.S. to enter upon some undertaking for which it has no capacity.

The capacity of the U.S. for governing subject populations has been tested by its treatment of the populations of acquired territory, such as Louisiana, Texas and California, and by treatment of the inferior classes of immigrants such as the Poles, the Hungarians and the Italians, and also its treatment of the negro. In regard to the territory west of the Mississippi River, there were populations that were not thought to be any more fit for freedom than we now think the Cubans and Filipinos to be.

We all well know what the U.S. has done for these people and it is just as capable of doing as much for the Filipinos today as it did for other oppressed people in time past.

Time alone can determine and make clear the duty.