reasons for american imperialism answer key

reasons for american imperialism answer key reveals the complex motivations behind the United States' expansionist policies at the turn of the 20th century. This article explores the multifaceted factors that drove American imperialism, including economic interests, strategic ambitions, ideological beliefs, and influential historical events. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of why the U.S. pursued overseas territories and how these reasons shaped both domestic and international policies. By examining economic, political, social, and military motivations, as well as the ideological foundations of imperialism, this article provides a thorough answer key for students, educators, and anyone interested in America's role on the global stage. The content is designed to be accessible, engaging, and SEO-optimized, making it a valuable resource for those seeking clear explanations of this significant historical development.

- Economic Motivations Behind American Imperialism
- Strategic and Military Reasons for Expansion
- Political Factors Influencing American Imperialism
- Social and Cultural Justifications
- Key Historical Events Driving Imperialism
- Impact and Legacy of American Imperialism

Economic Motivations Behind American Imperialism

Economic interests played a pivotal role in the rise of American imperialism. As the United States industrialized rapidly in the late 19th century, business leaders and politicians sought new markets to sell goods and acquire raw materials. American factories produced more than ever before, fueling a demand for overseas locations to sell surplus products and source essential resources like sugar, rubber, and minerals. This economic imperative was a driving force, influencing policymakers to support expansionist policies.

Search for New Markets

One of the primary reasons for American imperialism was the search for lucrative new markets. U.S. businesses wanted to sell their goods abroad to prevent economic stagnation and overproduction. Territories such as the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii provided opportunities for American exports and investment, creating a global economic presence.

Access to Natural Resources

Securing access to valuable raw materials was another key motivation. The acquisition of territories allowed American companies to exploit local resources, supporting industrial growth and reducing reliance on foreign suppliers. This economic strategy contributed to the expansionist mindset and justified imperial actions.

Investment Opportunities

Imperialism opened doors for American investors to participate in overseas ventures, infrastructure projects, and commercial enterprises. The promise of profits and economic influence in new territories helped drive U.S. imperial ambitions.

- Expansion of trade routes
- Establishment of overseas naval bases for protection of commerce
- Growth of American-owned plantations and businesses abroad

Strategic and Military Reasons for Expansion

Strategic considerations were integral to American imperialism answer key. The United States sought to strengthen its global military presence and ensure national security by acquiring key naval bases and territories. Control over strategic locations enabled the U.S. to project power, protect shipping lanes, and compete with other world powers for influence.

Establishment of Naval Bases

The construction and acquisition of naval bases in the Pacific and Caribbean were essential to American military strategy. Locations such as Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba allowed the U.S. Navy to operate globally and safeguard American interests.

Competition with Other Powers

American leaders were motivated by the desire to keep pace with European imperial powers. The global race for colonies and influence prompted the U.S. to claim overseas territories, ensuring it remained competitive on the world stage.

Monroe Doctrine and Hemispheric Security

The Monroe Doctrine shaped American foreign policy by asserting U.S. dominance in the Western Hemisphere. Imperial expansion was seen as a way to prevent European intervention and secure regional stability.

Political Factors Influencing American Imperialism

Political motivations were deeply intertwined with American imperialism. Expansion abroad was often justified as a means of promoting national interests, strengthening international standing, and supporting governing ideologies. Policymakers viewed imperialism as a way to assert American leadership and influence global affairs.

Desire for Global Influence

American leaders believed that acquiring overseas territories would enhance the nation's prestige and political power. By building an empire, the U.S. could shape international policies and participate more actively in global diplomacy.

Domestic Political Support

Imperialism garnered support from various political groups, including business interests, military advocates, and expansionist politicians. Nationalistic rhetoric and the promise of economic growth helped build public and legislative backing for imperial policies.

Manifest Destiny Extended

The concept of Manifest Destiny, which originally justified continental expansion, was extended to overseas imperialism. This ideology argued that the U.S. was destined to spread its values and institutions beyond its borders.

Social and Cultural Justifications

Social and cultural factors played a significant role in shaping American imperialism answer key. Many Americans believed in the superiority of their culture and sought to "civilize" other nations. This belief was often rooted in racial, religious, and ideological assumptions.

Belief in Racial Superiority

The idea of Anglo-Saxon superiority was used to justify American expansion. Proponents argued that it was the nation's duty to bring "civilization," democracy, and progress to less developed societies, reflecting a paternalistic attitude toward colonized peoples.

Missionary Zeal

Religious groups supported imperialism as a means of spreading Christianity and Western values. Missionaries played a prominent role in advocating for

U.S. involvement in foreign lands, believing they could improve local societies through religious conversion and education.

Social Darwinism

Social Darwinism provided a pseudo-scientific rationale for imperialism, suggesting that stronger nations were naturally destined to dominate weaker ones. This ideology reinforced expansionist attitudes and justified American actions abroad.

Key Historical Events Driving Imperialism

Several key historical events accelerated American imperialism and shaped the nation's expansionist policies. These turning points highlight how external factors and domestic pressures influenced U.S. actions on the global stage.

Spanish-American War

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was a watershed moment in American imperialism. The U.S. victory resulted in the acquisition of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam, marking the nation's emergence as a colonial power. The war also fueled public support for expansion.

Annexation of Hawaii

The annexation of Hawaii in 1898 was driven by both economic and strategic interests. American sugar planters and military leaders advocated for U.S. control, ensuring a reliable source of resources and a key naval base in the Pacific.

Opening of the Panama Canal

The construction and control of the Panama Canal exemplified American imperial ambitions. The canal facilitated global trade and military movement, demonstrating the importance of strategic infrastructure in U.S. foreign policy.

- 1. 1898: Spanish-American War and Treaty of Paris
- 2. 1898: Annexation of Hawaii
- 3. 1904-1914: Panama Canal construction
- 4. 1899-1902: Philippine-American War

Impact and Legacy of American Imperialism

The impact and legacy of American imperialism answer key continue to influence contemporary discussions about U.S. foreign policy. The acquisition of overseas territories altered global power dynamics and shaped the nation's role in international affairs. While imperialism brought economic and strategic advantages, it also sparked debates about morality, self-determination, and national identity.

Economic Growth and Global Influence

Imperial expansion contributed to American economic growth and established the U.S. as a global power. Access to overseas markets and resources supported industrial development and enhanced the nation's international profile.

Political and Social Controversies

The imperial era generated significant controversy, with critics arguing that expansion contradicted democratic principles and violated the rights of colonized peoples. Debates over imperialism's morality and legacy persist in modern American society.

Long-Term International Relations

American imperialism set the stage for ongoing involvement in world affairs. The legacy of expansion continues to influence U.S. relations with former colonies and shape its global reputation.

Questions and Answers: reasons for american imperialism answer key

Q: What were the main economic reasons for American imperialism?

A: The main economic reasons included the search for new markets to sell surplus goods, access to valuable natural resources, and opportunities for American investment and trade abroad.

Q: How did military strategy influence American imperialism?

A: Military strategy motivated the U.S. to acquire overseas naval bases, protect shipping lanes, and compete with other global powers for influence and security.

Q: What role did ideology play in justifying American imperialism?

A: Ideologies such as Manifest Destiny, Social Darwinism, and beliefs in cultural and racial superiority were used to justify expansion and the spread of American values.

Q: Which historical events accelerated American imperialism?

A: Key events included the Spanish-American War, the annexation of Hawaii, the construction of the Panama Canal, and the Philippine-American War.

Q: How did social factors contribute to American imperialism?

A: Social factors included missionary efforts to spread Christianity, belief in American cultural superiority, and the desire to "civilize" other nations.

Q: What impact did American imperialism have on the United States?

A: American imperialism led to economic growth, increased global influence, and ongoing debates about the morality and consequences of expansionist policies.

Q: Why did the United States seek new markets during the era of imperialism?

A: The U.S. sought new markets to prevent economic stagnation, sell industrial surplus, and ensure continued economic growth.

Q: How did the Monroe Doctrine relate to American imperialism?

A: The Monroe Doctrine asserted U.S. dominance in the Western Hemisphere and was used to justify expansion as a means to prevent European intervention.

Q: What controversies surrounded American imperialism?

A: Controversies included debates over democracy versus colonization, self-determination for acquired territories, and the ethical implications of imperialist policies.

Q: What is the legacy of American imperialism in

international relations?

A: The legacy includes lasting influence on global power dynamics, ongoing relationships with former colonies, and continued debate over America's role in world affairs.

Reasons For American Imperialism Answer Key

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Reasons for American Imperialism: Answer Key to a Complex Era

Introduction:

Unraveling the complexities of American imperialism requires more than just a simple yes or no answer. The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed a dramatic shift in American foreign policy, marked by aggressive expansion and the acquisition of overseas territories. This post serves as your comprehensive "answer key" to understanding the multifaceted reasons behind American imperialism, providing a detailed exploration of the economic, political, social, and ideological factors that fueled this transformative period. We'll go beyond simple bullet points to offer a nuanced understanding, providing context and critical analysis for a deeper comprehension. Get ready to delve into the motivations behind this pivotal era in American history.

Economic Drivers of American Imperialism

H2: The Quest for New Markets and Resources:

American industrialization generated a massive surplus of goods. Domestic markets, while expanding, couldn't absorb the sheer volume of production. Imperialism offered a solution: new markets hungry for American goods and raw materials. The acquisition of territories like the Philippines provided access to vast resources like sugar, rubber, and minerals, fueling industrial growth and corporate profits. This economic imperative propelled expansion, as businesses actively lobbied the government for favorable policies supporting overseas ventures.

H3: The Role of Corporations and Big Business:

Corporations like the United Fruit Company wielded significant political influence, shaping foreign policy to secure access to resources and favorable trade agreements in newly acquired territories. Their influence extended beyond mere lobbying; they often directly participated in the exploitation of these resources, further solidifying the economic case for imperialism.

Political Motivations: Power and Global Influence

H2: Strategic Geopolitical Considerations:

Acquiring overseas bases provided the United States with strategic advantages in global power dynamics. The Spanish-American War, for instance, resulted in the acquisition of Guam and the Philippines, giving America a foothold in the Pacific and significantly increasing its naval power projection capabilities. This strategic positioning was crucial in the burgeoning global competition for influence and resources.

H3: Manifest Destiny's Shadow:

The idea of "Manifest Destiny," the belief in America's divinely ordained right to expand across the continent, continued to shape national identity and foreign policy. This ideology, while initially focused on westward expansion, was adapted to justify overseas acquisitions, portraying them as a continuation of America's destined rise to global prominence.

H4: The Need for Naval Bases and Coaling Stations:

The rapid expansion of the US Navy necessitated access to strategically located naval bases and coaling stations around the world. These bases provided crucial logistical support for the fleet, enabling longer-range operations and projecting power across oceans.

Social and Ideological Justifications

H2: The White Man's Burden and Social Darwinism:

Imperialist ideology often drew upon Social Darwinist theories, portraying other cultures as inferior and justifying intervention as a civilizing mission. The concept of the "White Man's Burden," popularized by Rudyard Kipling, presented the moral obligation of the superior white race to uplift and govern "lesser" peoples. This paternalistic justification masked the often brutal realities of imperial domination.

H3: Missionary Zeal and Cultural Superiority:

Missionary efforts played a significant role in justifying imperialism. Many believed it their duty to spread Christianity and Western culture to supposedly "backward" societies, often disregarding the existing cultural richness and autonomy of those communities.

The Spanish-American War: A Catalyst for Imperial Expansion

H2: The Trigger for Overseas Acquisition:

The Spanish-American War of 1898 proved to be a watershed moment. While ostensibly sparked by humanitarian concerns regarding Spanish rule in Cuba, the war's outcome led to the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, dramatically expanding American power and influence beyond its continental borders.

H3: The Debate Over Annexation:

The acquisition of the Philippines, in particular, sparked intense debate within the United States. Anti-imperialists argued against the annexation, citing moral objections to colonialism and the potential for entangling alliances. Pro-imperialists, however, emphasized the economic and strategic benefits of acquiring the territory.

Conclusion

The reasons for American imperialism were multifaceted and intertwined. Economic incentives, strategic geopolitical considerations, and socially ingrained ideologies all played significant roles in driving the nation's expansionist ambitions. While the era brought significant economic and geopolitical gains for the United States, it also resulted in profound consequences for the colonized peoples, highlighting the complex and often contradictory legacy of American imperialism. Understanding these diverse factors provides a richer and more complete picture of this pivotal period in American history, allowing for a more nuanced and critical assessment of its impact.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. Was American imperialism solely driven by greed? While economic motives were undoubtedly significant, imperialism was a complex phenomenon driven by a confluence of economic, political, social, and ideological factors. Reducing it solely to greed simplifies a far more intricate historical process.
- 2. Did all Americans support imperialism? Absolutely not. There was significant anti-imperialist sentiment in the United States, particularly among those who opposed colonialism on moral or pragmatic grounds.
- 3. What was the long-term impact of American imperialism? The long-term impacts are complex and

far-reaching, encompassing lasting economic, political, and social consequences both within the United States and in the colonized territories. These impacts continue to shape international relations today.

- 4. How does understanding American imperialism help us today? Studying this period offers crucial insights into the dynamics of power, the complexities of global politics, and the enduring legacy of colonialism. It provides a framework for understanding contemporary issues related to interventionism, globalization, and the unequal distribution of power.
- 5. What are some primary sources for further research on American imperialism? Excellent resources include primary documents from the era, such as letters, speeches, and government records, along with scholarly articles and books analyzing the period's key events and figures. Archival research and digitized collections are particularly useful.

reasons for american imperialism answer key: Building an American Empire Paul Frymer, 2019-07-16 How American westward expansion was governmentally engineered to promote the formation of a white settler nation Westward expansion of the United States is most conventionally remembered for rugged individualism, geographic isolationism, and a fair amount of luck. Yet the establishment of the forty-eight contiguous states was hardly a foregone conclusion, and the federal government played a critical role in its success. This book examines the politics of American expansion, showing how the government's regulation of population movements on the frontier, both settlement and removal, advanced national aspirations for empire and promoted the formation of a white settler nation. Building an American Empire details how a government that struggled to exercise plenary power used federal land policy to assert authority over the direction of expansion by engineering the pace and patterns of settlement and to control the movement of populations. At times, the government mobilized populations for compact settlement in strategically important areas of the frontier; at other times, policies were designed to actively restrain settler populations in order to prevent violence, international conflict, and breakaway states. Paul Frymer examines how these settlement patterns helped construct a dominant racial vision for America by incentivizing and directing the movement of white European settlers onto indigenous and diversely populated lands. These efforts were hardly seamless, and Frymer pays close attention to the failures as well, from the lack of further expansion into Latin America to the defeat of the black colonization movement. Building an American Empire reveals the lasting and profound significance government settlement policies had for the nation, both for establishing America as dominantly white and for restricting broader aspirations for empire in lands that could not be so racially engineered.

reasons for american imperialism answer key: Empire for Liberty Richard H. Immerman, 2010 How could the United States, a nation founded on the principles of liberty and equality, have produced Abu Ghraib, torture memos, Plamegate, and warrantless wiretaps? Did America set out to become an empire? And if so, how has it reconciled its imperialism--and in some cases, its crimes--with the idea of liberty so forcefully expressed in the Declaration of Independence? Empire for Liberty tells the story of men who used the rhetoric of liberty to further their imperial ambitions, and reveals that the quest for empire has guided the nation's architects from the very beginning--and continues to do so today.

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John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 U.S. History is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

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reasons for american imperialism answer key: The Significance of the Frontier in American History Frederick Jackson Turner, 2014-02-13 2014 Reprint of 1894 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition. The Frontier Thesis or Turner Thesis, is the argument advanced by historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1894 that American democracy was formed by the American Frontier. He stressed the process-the moving frontier line-and the impact it had on pioneers going through the process. He also stressed consequences of a ostensibly limitless frontier and that American democracy and egalitarianism were the principle results. In Turner's thesis the American frontier established liberty by releasing Americans from European mindsets and eroding old, dysfunctional customs. The frontier had no need for standing armies, established churches, aristocrats or nobles, nor for landed gentry who controlled most of the land and charged heavy rents. Frontier land was free for the taking. Turner first announced his thesis in a paper entitled The Significance of the Frontier in American History, delivered to the American Historical Association in 1893 in Chicago. He won very wide acclaim among historians and intellectuals. Turner's emphasis on the importance of the frontier in shaping American character influenced the interpretation found in thousands of scholarly histories. By the time Turner died in 1932, 60% of the leading history departments in the U.S. were teaching courses in frontier history along Turnerian lines.

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reasons for american imperialism answer key: How to Hide an Empire Daniel Immerwahr, 2019-02-19 Named one of the ten best books of the year by the Chicago Tribune A Publishers Weekly best book of 2019 | A 2019 NPR Staff Pick A pathbreaking history of the United States' overseas possessions and the true meaning of its empire We are familiar with maps that outline all fifty states. And we are also familiar with the idea that the United States is an "empire," exercising power around the world. But what about the actual territories—the islands, atolls, and archipelagos—this country has governed and inhabited? In How to Hide an Empire, Daniel Immerwahr tells the fascinating story of the United States outside the United States. In crackling, fast-paced prose, he reveals forgotten episodes that cast American history in a new light. We travel to the Guano Islands, where prospectors collected one of the nineteenth century's most valuable commodities, and the Philippines, site of the most destructive event on U.S. soil. In Puerto Rico, Immerwahr shows how U.S. doctors conducted grisly experiments they would never have conducted on the mainland and charts the emergence of independence fighters who would shoot up the U.S. Congress. In the years after World War II, Immerwahr notes, the United States moved away from colonialism. Instead, it put innovations in electronics, transportation, and culture to use, devising a new sort of influence that did not require the control of colonies. Rich with absorbing vignettes, full of surprises, and driven by an original conception of what empire and globalization mean today, How to Hide an Empire is a major and compulsively readable work of history.

reasons for american imperialism answer key: Kaplan SAT Subject Test U.S. History 2015-2016 Kaplan Test Prep, 2015-03-03 Proven strategies, practice, and review to ace the SAT Subject Test U.S. History. Getting into a top college has never been more difficult. Students need to distinguish themselves from the crowd, and scoring well on a SAT Subject Test gives students a competitive edge. Kaplan's SAT Subject Test: U.S. History is the most up-to-date guide on the market with complete coverage of both the content review and strategies students need for success on test day. Kaplan's SAT Subject Test: U.S. History features: * A full-length diagnostic test * Full-length practice tests * Focused chapter summaries, highlights, and quizzes * Detailed answer explanations * Proven score-raising strategies * End-of-chapter quizzes Kaplan is serious about raising students' scores—we guarantee students will get a higher score.

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monograph concerned with the political economy of imperialism, John Smith's Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century is a seminal examination of the relationship between the core capitalist countries and the rest of the world in the age of neoliberal globalization. Deploying a sophisticated Marxist methodology, Smith begins by tracing the production of certain iconic commodities-the T-shirt, the cup of coffee, and the iPhone-and demonstrates how these generate enormous outflows of money from the countries of the Global South to transnational corporations headquartered in the core capitalist nations of the Global North. From there, Smith draws on his empirical findings to powerfully theorize the current shape of imperialism. He argues that the core capitalist countries need no longer rely on military force and colonialism (although these still occur) but increasingly are able to extract profits from workers in the Global South through market mechanisms and, by aggressively favoring places with lower wages, the phenomenon of labor arbitrage. Meticulously researched and forcefully argued, Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century is a major contribution to the theorization and critique of global capitalism.

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reasons for american imperialism answer key: American Imperialism Adam Burns, 2017-01-17 Provides a critical re-evaluation of US territorial expansionism and imperialism from 1783 to the presentThe United States has been described by many of its foreign and domestic critics as an aempirea Providing a wide-ranging analysis of the United States as a territorial, imperial power from its foundation to the present day, this book explores the United States acquisition or long-term occupation of territories through a chronological perspective. It begins by exploring early continental expansion, such as the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803, and traces US imperialism through to the controversial ongoing presence of US forces at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The book provides fresh insights into the history of US territorial expansion and imperialism, bringing together more well-known instances (such as the purchase of Alaska) with those less-frequently discussed (such as the acquisition of the Guano Islands after 1856). The volume considers key historical debates, controversies and turning points, providing a historiographically-grounded re-evaluation of US expansion from 1783 to the present day.Key Features Provides case studies of different examples of US territorial expansion/imperialism, and

adds much-needed context to ongoing debates over US imperialism for students of both History and PoliticsAnalyses many of the better known instances of US imperialism (for example, Cuba and the Philippines), while also considering often-overlooked examples such as the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa and GuamExplores American imperialism from a aterritorial acquisition/long-term occupationa viewpoint which differentiates it from many other books that instead focus on informal and economic imperialismDiscusses the presence of the US in key places such as Guantanamo Bay, the Panama Canal Zone and the Arctic

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reasons for american imperialism answer key: Charles Austin Beard Richard Drake, 2018-12-15 Richard Drake presents a new interpretation of Charles Austin Beard's life and work. The foremost American historian and a leading public intellectual in the first half of the twentieth century, Beard participated actively in the debates about American politics and foreign policy surrounding the two world wars. In a radical change of critical focus, Charles Austin Beard places the European dimension of Beard's thought at the center, correcting previous biographers' oversights and presenting a far more nuanced appreciation for Beard's life. Drake analyzes the stages of Beard's development as a historian and critic: his role as an intellectual leader in the Progressive movement, the support that he gave to the cause of American intervention in World War I, and his subsequent revisionist repudiation of Wilsonian ideals and embrace of non-interventionism in the lead-up to World War II. Charles Austin Beard shows that, as Americans tally the ruinous costs—both financial and moral—of nation-building and informal empire, the life and work of this prophet of history merit a thorough reexamination.

reasons for american imperialism answer key: *The American Yawp* Joseph L. Locke, Ben Wright, 2019-01-22 I too am not a bit tamed—I too am untranslatable / I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.—Walt Whitman, Song of Myself, Leaves of Grass The American Yawp is a free, online, collaboratively built American history textbook. Over 300 historians joined together to create the book they wanted for their own students—an accessible, synthetic narrative that reflects the best of recent historical scholarship and provides a jumping-off point for discussions in the U.S. history classroom and beyond. Long before Whitman and long after, Americans have sung something

collectively amid the deafening roar of their many individual voices. The Yawp highlights the dynamism and conflict inherent in the history of the United States, while also looking for the common threads that help us make sense of the past. Without losing sight of politics and power, The American Yawp incorporates transnational perspectives, integrates diverse voices, recovers narratives of resistance, and explores the complex process of cultural creation. It looks for America in crowded slave cabins, bustling markets, congested tenements, and marbled halls. It navigates between maternity wards, prisons, streets, bars, and boardrooms. The fully peer-reviewed edition of The American Yawp will be available in two print volumes designed for the U.S. history survey. Volume I begins with the indigenous people who called the Americas home before chronicling the collision of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans. The American Yawp traces the development of colonial society in the context of the larger Atlantic World and investigates the origins and ruptures of slavery, the American Revolution, and the new nation's development and rebirth through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Rather than asserting a fixed narrative of American progress, The American Yawp gives students a starting point for asking their own questions about how the past informs the problems and opportunities that we confront today.

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traditions by British political andreligious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, Things Fall Apart provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

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