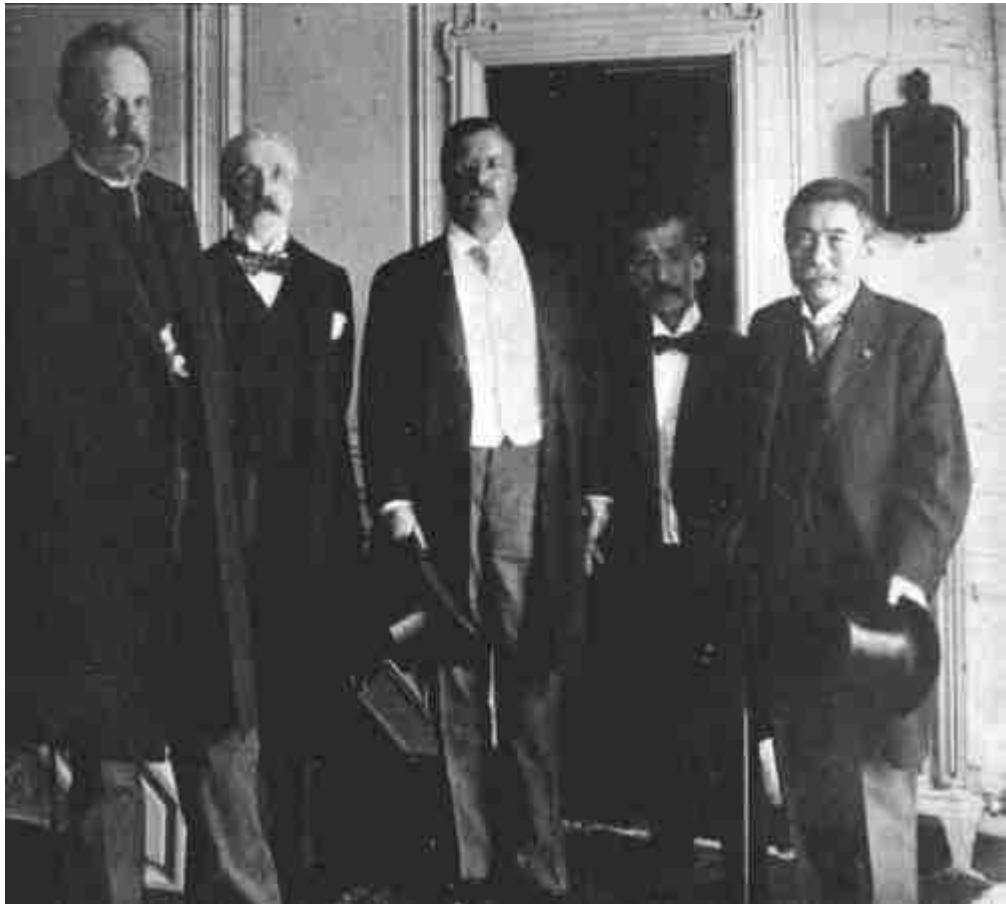


Document Based Question



Theodore Roosevelt & his nobel peace
prize

Using your own background knowledge and the following documents, please respond to the following prompt: **Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?**

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

DBQ Background:

The dog-days of summer in the year 1905 saw the world's attention focus on the small seaside town of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The combatants of a bloody conflict half a world away were staring eyeball-to-eyeball across a table in pursuit of mutually acceptable terms for the cessation of hostilities.

Problem was that the terms of each side lacked the mutually acceptable aspect. To the rescue comes Theodore Roosevelt and for his efforts, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Price of 1906. Thus the Treaty of Portsmouth brought to a close the Russo-Japanese War that had raged on land and sea the better part of the previous two years in northeast Asia.

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

Document 1

Source: Excerpt from the Treaty of Portsmouth, Article II, 1905

“The Imperial Russian Government, acknowledging that Japan possesses in Korea paramount political, military and economical interests engages neither to obstruct nor interfere with measures for guidance, protection and control which the Imperial Government of Japan may find necessary to take in Korea”

Questions:

1. What country is Japan claiming possession of?
 2. What reasons are given for this?
 3. Why is Japan insisting Russia acknowledge their claim over Korea?
 4. What do you think is Japan's motivation(s) for annexing Korea?

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

Document 2



1905 cartoon showing Roosevelt (middle) and two figures representing Japan (left) and Russia (right).

Questions:

1. What do the skulls represent?
2. Why is there a cross on top of the skulls on the right?
3. Why is Russia's pile of skulls bigger and why does he have only one leg?
4. What is symbolic of the word "pax" (Latin for "peace") written on the rising sun?
5. What role is Roosevelt portrayed as playing?

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Document 3

Source: "Teddy Roosevelt's Secret Deal with Japan" an interview with James Bradley by Aaron Leonard on History News Network, 12-7-2009

Theodore Roosevelt believed that an ascending race, the Japanese, would take on the White Man's Burden for the first time. No Asian country had industrialized. No Asian country had militarized. No Asian country wore Brooks Brothers suits. Most Asians were still wearing pony tails and robes. Roosevelt, a modern guy, a young guy, a theoretical guy, not knowing anything about Asia, saw in his wisdom... thought it was a wise move to ally U.S. interests to Japan in expanding to pick up the pieces of the Chinese empire.

Questions:

1. How did Roosevelt view the Japanese?
 2. What is the “White Man’s Burden”
 3. Why is Roosevelt wanting to ally the U.S. with Japan over China?
 4. Should Roosevelt’s racial views be held to modern standards? Why/Why not?

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Document 4

"Talk about war being 'hell,' this war beats the hottest estimate ever made of that locality. Caloocan was supposed to contain seventeen thousand inhabitants. The Twentieth Kansas swept through it, and now Caloocan contains not one living native. Of the buildings, the battered walls of the great church and dismal prison alone remain. The village of Maypaja, where our first fight occurred on the night of the fourth, had five thousand people on that day, -- now not one stone remains upon top of another. You can only faintly imagine this terrible scene of desolation. War is worse than hell."

Source--Captain Elliott, of the Kansas Regiment, February 27th, 1902 deployed by Roosevelt to suppress the Filipino insurgency fighting American occupation.

Questions:

1. How were the Filipinos, combatants and civilians, treated by the American Forces?
2. Why were the American forces fighting in the Philippines?
3. Is Roosevelt responsible the actions of the American forces? Why/Why not?
4. Do you think the Nobel Prize Committee should or should not consider Roosevelt's policy in suppressing the Filipino insurgency when considering him for the Peace Prize? Explain your opinion:

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

Document 5



Colonial Possessions in East Asia, 1914

Questions:

1. What evidence do you see of U.S. and Japanese imperialism?
2. How does this relate to the Treaty of Portsmouth?
3. How does the U.S.'s and Japan's policy of expansion compare to the other industrialized powers of this era? Cite examples from the map:
4. If the U.S. and Japan were merely pursuing policies similar to other modern nations of the time, is it wrong to condemn their imperialism?

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Document 6



"The Chinese Cake." A French postcard depicts Russia and Japan beginning to cut up Korea and Manchuria as Italy, France, the United States, and England watch. Portsmouth Athenaeum Collection.

Questions:

1. What do you think is the message the cartoon is trying to send?
2. How does this reflect the situation in N.E. Asia c. 1905?
3. Do you feel it is fair to include Roosevelt among the other powers in the image? Why/Why not?
4. By having a fork in Roosevelt's hand, what intentions do you think he has, according to the cartoon?

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

Document 7

"We must ever bear in mind that the great end in view is righteousness, justice as between man and man, nation and nation, the chance to lead our lives on a somewhat higher level, with a broader spirit of brotherly goodwill one for another. Peace is generally good in itself, but it is never the highest good unless it comes as the handmaid of righteousness; and it becomes a very evil thing if it serves merely as a mask for cowardice and sloth, or as an instrument to further the ends of despotism or anarchy. We despise and abhor the bully, the brawler, the oppressor, whether in private or public life, but we despise no less the coward and the voluptuary. No man is worth calling a man who will not fight rather than submit to infamy or see those that are dear to him suffer wrong. No nation deserves to exist if it permits itself to lose the stern and virile virtues; and this without regard to whether the loss is due to the growth of a heartless and all-absorbing commercialism, to prolonged indulgence in luxury and soft, effortless ease, or to the deification of a warped and twisted sentimentality"

Source-Theodore Roosevelt, Nobel Lecture, May 5, 1910

Questions:

1. When does peace become “...a very evil thing”?
 2. Do you see any incongruity between Roosevelt’s words and his actions?
Why/Why not?
 3. What do you think Roosevelt means by saying that peace can only reach the highest good when “...it comes as the handmaid of righteousness”?

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

Document 8

“Russia’s occupation of Manchuria threatened the existence of Korea, which was closely linked to the security of Japan. Therefore, Japan could not consider separating the Korea problem from the Manchuria problem but decided to resolve the issue through military action once the limits of diplomatic negotiation with Russia became apparent. Therefore, the Korean Peninsula was a life-or-death matter for Japan in terms of its security.”

Source: "Japanese Diplomacy Before and After the War" by Yasutoshi Teramoto, published in "The Treaty of Portsmouth and Its Legacies" 2008, Dartmouth College Press

Questions:

1. Why did Japan consider Korea to be a “life-or-death” matter?
 2. Do you think Roosevelt could have negotiated the end of the Russo-Japanese War AND preserved Korean sovereignty? Why/Why not?
 3. In order to achieve peace, Japan was allowed to annex Korea; do you think this was a justifiable trade-off? Why/Why not?

Prompt: Was Theodore Roosevelt deserving of the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize?

Document 9

Background: On July 29, 1905, Japan's Count Katsura met with Secretary of War (later President) William Howard Taft to resolve the grievances between the two countries. Japan agreed to accept the US presence in Hawaii and the Philippines and in exchange America agreed to give Japan a free hand in Korea:

"Count Katsura and Secretary Taft had a long and confidential conversation on the morning of July 27... First, in speaking of some pro-Russians in America who would have the public believe that the victory of Japan would be a certain prelude to her aggression in the direction of the Philippine Islands, Secretary Taft observed that Japan's only interest in the Philippines would be, in his opinion, to have those islands governed by a strong and friendly nation like the United States... Count Katsura confirmed in the strongest terms the correctness of his views on the point and positively stated that Japan does not harbor any aggressive designs whatever on the Philippines..."

In regard to the Korean Question, Count Katsura observed that Korea being the direct cause of our war with Russia, it is a matter of absolute importance to Japan that a complete solution of the peninsula question should be made as a logical consequence of the war. ...Japan feels absolutely constrained to take some definite step with a view to precluding the possibility of Korea falling into her former condition and of placing us again under the necessity of entering upon another foreign war. Secretary Taft fully admitted the justness of the Count's observations and remarked to the effect that, in his personal opinion, the establishment by Japanese troops of a suzerainty over Korea to the extent of requiring Korea to enter into no foreign treaties without the consent of Japan was a logical result of the present war and would directly contribute to permanent peace in the East. His judgment was that President Roosevelt would concur in his views in this regard, although he had no authority to give assurance of this..."

President Roosevelt concurred with Taft's understanding in a telegram on July 31 1905:

"Your conversation with Count Katsura absolutely correct in every respect. Wish you would state to Katsura that I confirm every word you have said..."

Source: Archives of the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, V38 , part 1 . Copy in the Washington University Far East Library.

Questions:

1. What is the secret deal being made between the U.S. and Japan?
2. How does this benefit each country?
3. How does this affect the sovereignty of Korea and the Philippines?
4. How did this agreement help Roosevelt in his negotiations at the Portsmouth peace talks?