

Document B

Source: Albert J. Beveridge, "The March of the Flag." Campaign speech while running for US Senate in Indiana, September 16, 1898.

The opposition tells us that we ought not to govern a people without their consent. I answer, The rule ... that all just government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, applies only to those who are capable of self-government. We govern the Indians without their consent, we govern our territories without their consent, we govern our children without their consent.... Would not the people of the Philippines prefer the just, human, civilizing government of this Republic to the savage, bloody [Spanish] rule ... from which we have rescued them?

... [D]o we owe no duty to the world? Shall we turn these peoples back to the reeking hands from which we have taken them? Shall we abandon them, with Germany, England, Japan hungering for them?...

Wonderfully has God guided us.... We can not retreat from any soil where Providence has unfurled our banner; it is ours to save ... for liberty and civilization.

Document Analysis

1. What does Albert Beveridge say about governing people without their approval?
2. Beveridge says America should not give back the Philippines to "the reeking hands from which we have taken them." What are "reeking hands" and whose hands were they?
3. According to Beveridge, if we let the Philippines go, who will gobble them up?
4. What is Providence, and, according to Beveridge, what does Providence have to do with America and the Philippines? (Hint: When Providence is capitalized it has a special meaning.)