## **Primary Source: Rudyard Kipling**

## **“The White Man’s Burden” (1899)**

***As the United States waged war against Filipino insurgents, the British writer and poet Rudyard Kipling urged the Americans to take up “the white man’s burden.”***

**Take up the White Man’s burden—**

**Send forth the best ye breed—**

**Go send your sons to exile**

**To serve your captives’ need**

**To wait in heavy harness**

**On fluttered folk and wild—**

**Your new-caught, sullen peoples,**

**Half devil and half child**

**Take up the White Man’s burden**

**In patience to abide**

**To veil the threat of terror**

**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—**

**And reap his old reward:**

**The blame of those ye better**

**The hate of those ye guard—**

**The cry of hosts ye humour**

**(Ah slowly) to the light:**

**“Why brought ye us from bondage,**

**“Our loved Egyptian night?”**

**Take up the White Man’s burden-**

**Have done with childish days-**

**The lightly proffered laurel,**

**The easy, ungrudged praise.**

**Comes now, to search your manhood**

**Through all the thankless years,**

**Cold-edged with dear-bought wisdom,**

**The judgment of your peers!**

Source: Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden,” *Literature* (February 4, 1890), 115.

***What is the “burden” that Kipling believes all white men must bear?***

***How did this attitude affect both Europeans and people of color (Africans and Asians)?***