THE CONSTABLE OR THE CONQUEROR? DEBATING U.S. INTERVENTION - FROM ALBUM THE CONSTABLE OR THE CONQUEROR? DEBATING U.S. INTERVENTION

Album Description

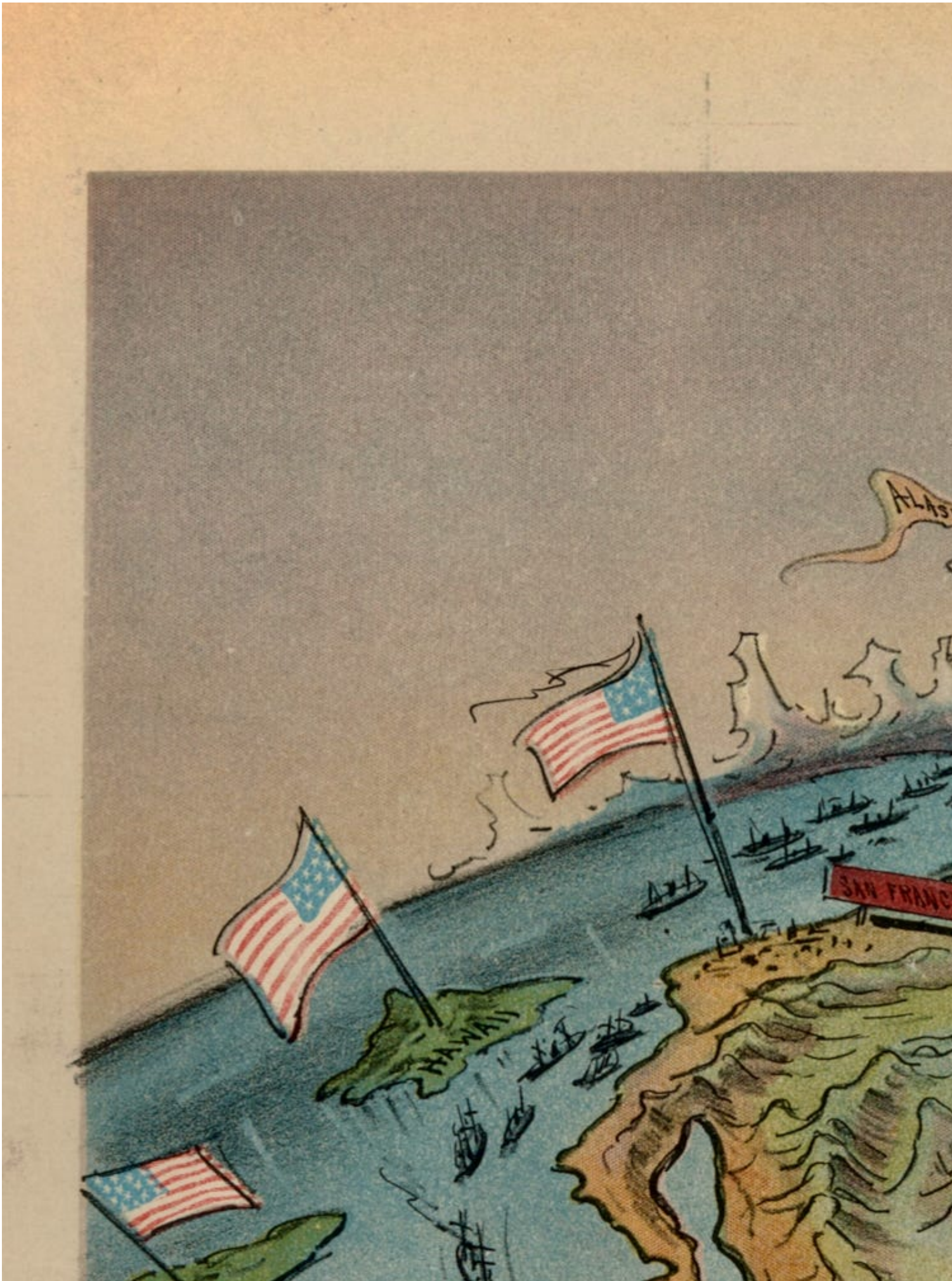

HAWAII
SAN FRANC

Image source Persuasive Maps: PJ Mode Collection: 1136.01

Album Description: This collection of political cartoons from the late 19th and early 20th centuries illustrates the polarized debate over U.S. foreign intervention. From the "Big Stick" of Theodore Roosevelt to anti-imperialist critiques of American expansion, these images reflect the same tensions we see in modern headlines regarding Venezuela.

The 2026 capture of Nicolás Maduro serves as a powerful reminder of the long history of U.S. interventions in the Western Hemisphere. For over a century, the United States has taken direct action in the region for a variety of reasons - ranging from security and stability to self-serving economic and political interests - with results that have been viewed as both beneficial and detrimental. This album invites students to use their historical thinking skills to examine how the visual rhetoric of the past mirrors today's geopolitical realities, encouraging them to analyze the motivations and consequences of American foreign actions across different eras.

Lesson Plan: Historical Thinking & Foreign Policy

- **Grade Level:** 9-12 (US History / Government)
- **Essential Question:** Does the United States have the right to intervene in the affairs of other nations?
- **Historical Thinking Skills:** Contextualization, Corroboration, and Sourcing.

1. Essential Question

Briefly mention the recent news regarding U.S. military interests and diplomatic pressure in Venezuela. Ask students: *"When we see the U.S. getting involved in South America today, are we seeing a new policy, or the continuation of a 120-year-old debate?"*

2. Analysis Activity: The "Spectrum of Intervention"

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group 2–3 cartoons from the album. Ask them to analyze the cartoons using the **LOC Primary Source Analysis Tool**.

The Categorization Task: Students must place their cartoons on a spectrum on the whiteboard/digital board:

- **The "Pro-Intervention" Side:** Cartoons that depict the U.S. as a "World Constable," a "Rescuer," or a "Teacher".
- **The "Anti-Intervention" Side:** Cartoons that depict the U.S. as an "Oppressor," "Greedy," or "Overburdened".

3. Analyzing Key Arguments (Corroboration)

Once the cartoons are categorized, have the students identify the core arguments used by the artists.

- **Arguments FOR Intervention:**
    - Maintaining order/stability in the hemisphere.
    - Humanitarian duty to "save" people from bad actors/dictators.
    - Advancing U.S. economic interests and trade routes.
- **Arguments AGAINST Intervention:**
    - Violation of the "consent of the governed."
    - The high cost (blood and treasure) of empire.
    - The hypocrisy of a former colony (the U.S.) becoming a colonizer.

Exit Choice Board: The Venezuela Debate

Instructions: Select **one** of the following options to demonstrate your understanding of the historical roots of the current U.S. intervention in Venezuela.

Option 1: The Visual/Creative (The "Modern Big Stick")

- **Task:** Create a rough sketch or a detailed "visual metaphor" for U.S. foreign policy in 2026.
- **Requirement:** Your drawing must incorporate at least one specific symbol or "character" found in the historical cartoons.
- **The Goal:** Show whether you think the 2026 intervention is a "Rescue" or an "Expansion".

Option 2: The Verbal/Performative (The "60-Second Briefing")

- **Task:** Record a one-minute "Voice Memo" or perform a live "Elevator Pitch" to a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- **Requirement:** You must cite **one specific historical cartoon** from the album to support your stance on the current military strikes.

- **The Goal:** Use the primary source as a "precedent." For example: *"Senator, we are repeating the mistake shown in the 1899 cartoon 'School Begins' by assuming we can 'teach' democracy through force..."*

Option 3: The Written/Analytical (The "Social Media Fact-Check")

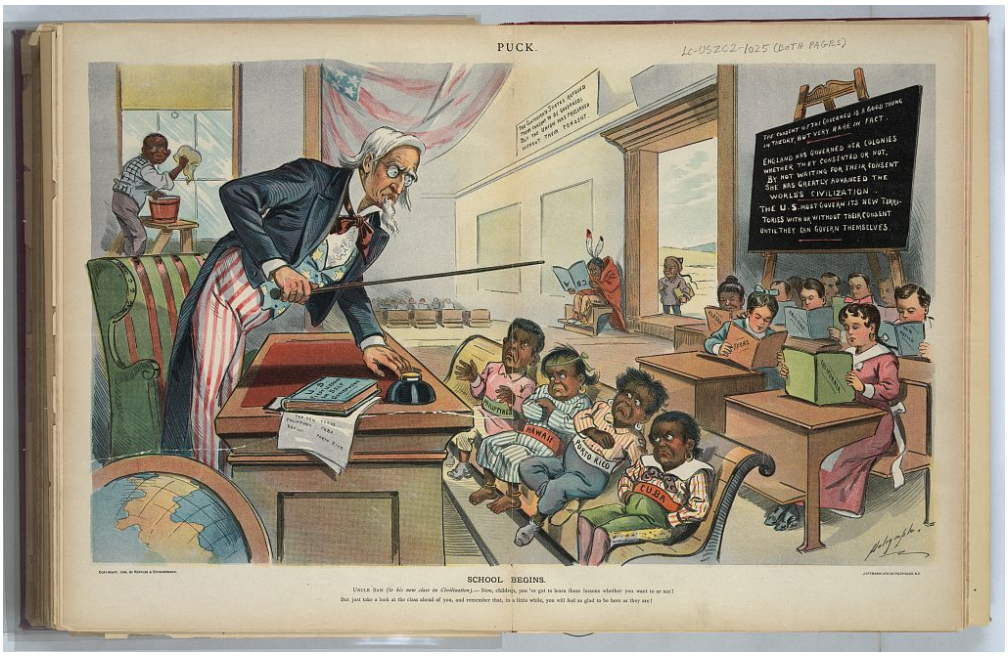
- **Task:** Write a "Community Note" or a "Thread" (3 posts) responding to a hypothetical modern headline supporting or opposing the capture of Maduro.

- **Requirement:** Use **two cartoons** to show how this debate is not new.

- **The Goal:** Use the skill of **Corroboration**. Show how the historical arguments are being echoed (or contradicted) by the arguments used for Operation Absolute Resolve today.

Art/Music Social Studies/History imperialism Venezuela Monroe Doctrine

SCHOOL BEGINS / DALRYMPLE.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2012647459/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Print shows Uncle Sam as a teacher, standing behind a desk in front of his new students who are labeled "Cuba, Porto [i.e. Puerto] Rico, Hawaii, [and] Philippines"; they do not look happy to be there.

At the rear of the classroom are students holding books labeled "California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, [and] Alaska". At the far left, an African American boy cleans the windows, and in the background, a Native boy sits by himself, reading an upside-down book labeled "ABC", and a Chinese boy stands just outside the door. A book on Uncle Sam's desk is titled "U.S. First Lessons in Self-Government".

Created / Published

- N.Y. : Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, 1899 January 25.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1890-1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1890-1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1890-1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Uncle Sam (to his new class in Civilization) Now, children, you've got to learn these lessons whether you want to or not! But just take a look at the class ahead of you, and remember that, in a little while, you will feel as glad to be here as they are!
- - Illus. from Puck, v. 44, no. 1142, (1899 January 25), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1899 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 28668 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.28668
- cph 3b48925 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b48925

IF THEY'LL ONLY BE GOOD / EHRHART.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2010651302/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Illustration shows Uncle Sam standing at center, gesturing to the left toward American soldiers boarding ships to return to America after defeating the Spanish in the Philippines, and gesturing to the right toward a group of matronly women, one labeled "Daughters of the Revolution", who have just arrived to educate the peoples of the Philippines.

Created / Published

- N.Y. : J. Ottmann Lith. Co., Puck Bldg., 1900 January 31.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Uncle Sam You have seen what my sons can do in war - now see what my daughters can do in peace.
- - Illus. in: Puck, v. 46, no. 1195 (1900 January 31), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1900 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

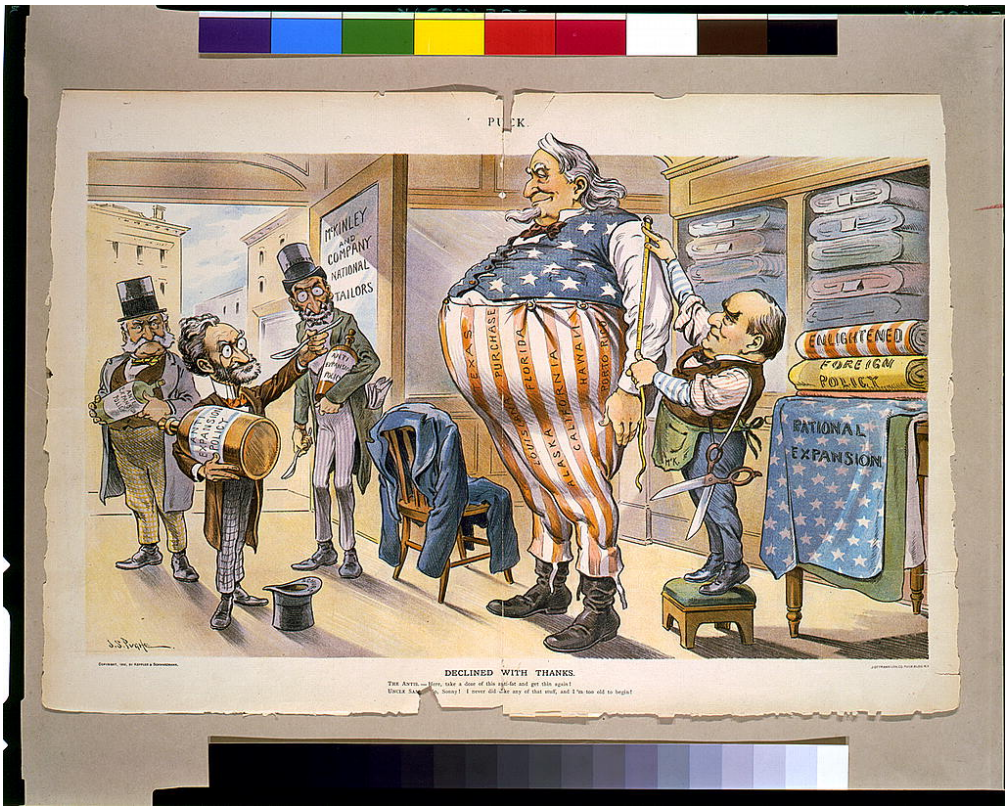
Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
  http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 25391 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.25391

DECLINED WITH THANKS / J.S. PUGHE.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/93512426/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Cartoon showing Uncle Sam as a large, fat man, anti-expansionists saying, "Here, take a dose of this anti-fat and get thin again!" Uncle Sam replies, "No, Sonny! I never did take any of that stuff, and I'm too old to begin!" William McKinley, as a tailor, is measuring Uncle Sam for clothing.

Created / Published

- c1900.

Genre

- Editorial cartoons--1900
- Lithographs--Color--1900

Notes

- - Illus. in: Puck, 1900 Sept. 5.
- - Copyright by Keppler & Swartzmann.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Digital Id

- cph 3g02158 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3g02158

LIKELY TO HAPPEN UNDER THE COMING ADMINISTRATION / J.S. PUGHE.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2012648458/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Print shows Sanford B. Dole, President of the Republic of Hawaii, conducting a land auction, selling property that he probably does not own, and contributing to the Americanization of Hawaii.

Created / Published

- N.Y. : Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, 1897 January 27.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1890-1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1890-1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1890-1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: The annexation hustlers in Hawaii will start a genuine American real estate boom, and reap all the profits there are in it.
- - Illus. from Puck, v. 40, no. 1038, (1897 January 27), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1897 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

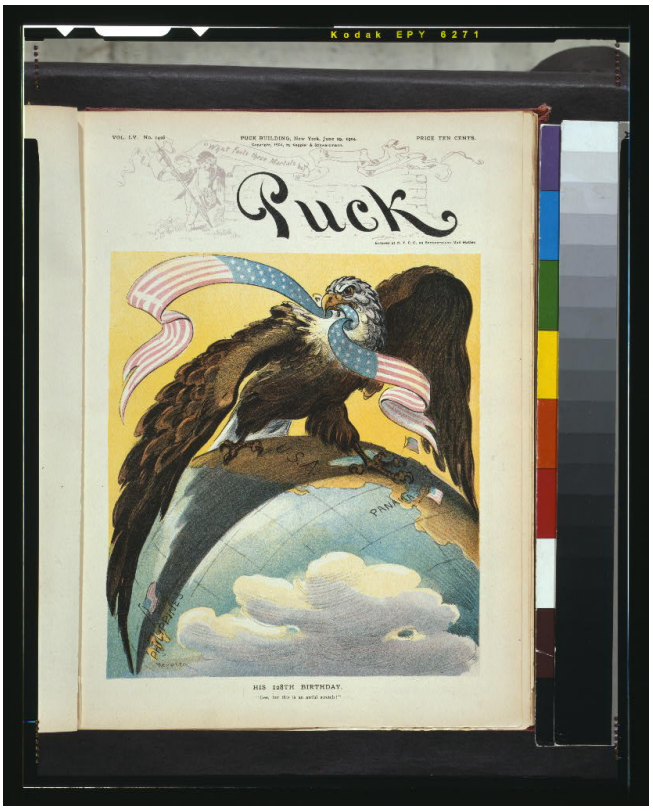
Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 28877 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.28877

HIS 128TH BIRTHDAY--"GEE, BUT THIS IS AN AWFUL STRETCH!" / KEPPLER



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/98511150/

Reference Note:

Summary

- American Eagle standing on the world--one foot in U.S.A., the other in Central America.

Created / Published

- 1904 June 29.

Genre

- Magazine covers--1900-1910
- Periodical illustrations--1900-1910
- Lithographs--Color--1900-1910

Notes

- - Illus. in: Puck, v.55, 1904 June 29, cover.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Digital Id

- cph 3g06549 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3g06549
- cph 3c20961 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c20961

A THING WELL BEGUN IS HALF DONE / VICTOR GILLAM.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2010651373/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Illustration shows President McKinley straddling the "Gulf of Mexico" with one foot on the United States and the other on Mexico or Central America, rolling up his sleeves to resume work on the "Proposed Nicaragua Canal"; Uncle Sam, in the background, departs Washington with an armload of tools. Ships line up on both sides of the proposed canal site, waiting to pass through. U.S. flags fly over "Philippines, Hawaii, Alaska, Cuba," [and] "Porto [i.e. Puerto] Rico."

Created / Published

- New York : Sackett & Wilhlems Litho. & Pt'g. Co., 1899 October 7.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1890-1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1890-1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1890-1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Uncle Sam "Finish the canal, McKinley, and make our national expansion complete in your first administration."
- - Illus. in: Judge, v. 37, no. 938 (1899 October 7), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1899 by Judge Company of New York.

- - This volume of Judge has been mutilated, with loss of cover and centerfold for this issue.

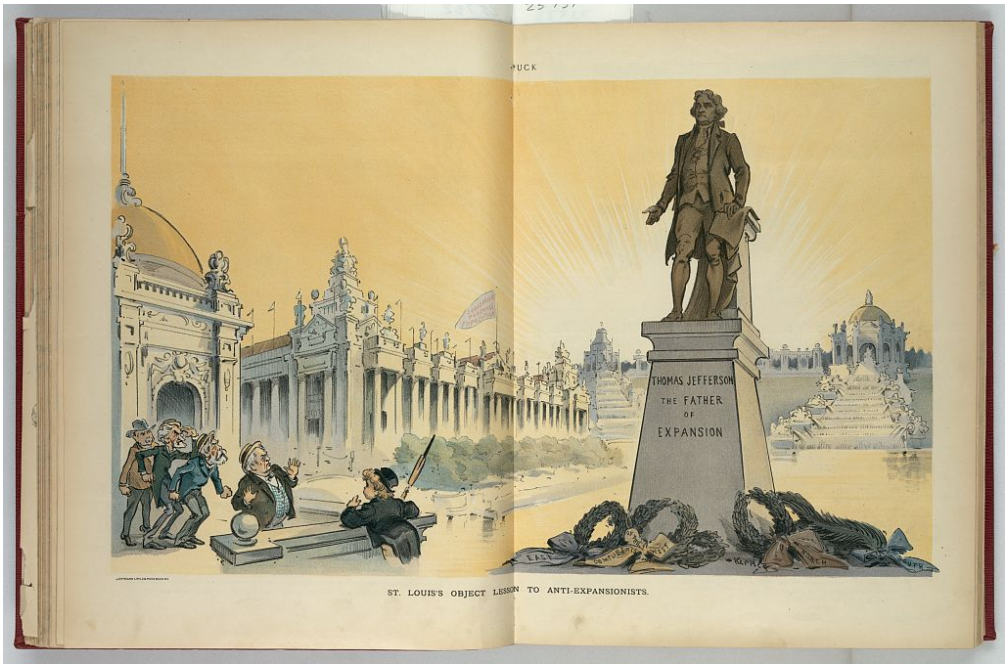
Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- cph 3b06724 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b06724

ST. LOUIS'S OBJECT LESSON TO ANTI-EXPANSIONISTS / KEPPLER.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2010652256/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Illustration shows a statue of Thomas Jefferson labeled "Thomas Jefferson The Father of Expansion" at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis, Missouri, with Puck directing the attention of George F. Hoar and other anti-expansionists Edward Atkinson, Carl Schurz, and Charles F. Adams who look on in disbelief.

Created / Published

- N.Y. : J. Ottmann Lith. Co., Puck Bldg., 1903 April 15.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1900-1910
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1900-1910
- Chromolithographs--Color--1900-1910

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Illus. in: Puck, v. 53, no. 1363 (1903 April 15), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1903 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 25733 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.25733

IF THEY'LL ONLY BE GOOD / EHRHART.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2010651302/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Illustration shows Uncle Sam standing at center, gesturing to the left toward American soldiers boarding ships to return to America after defeating the Spanish in the Philippines, and gesturing to the right toward a group of matronly women, one labeled "Daughters of the Revolution", who have just arrived to educate the peoples of the Philippines.

Created / Published

- N.Y. : J. Ottmann Lith. Co., Puck Bldg., 1900 January 31.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Uncle Sam You have seen what my sons can do in war - now see what my daughters can do in peace.
- - Illus. in: Puck, v. 46, no. 1195 (1900 January 31), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1900 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

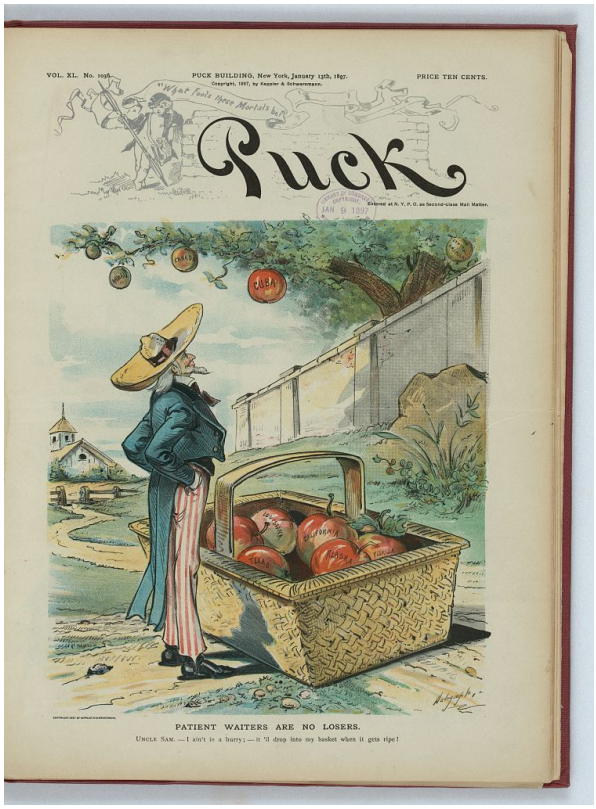
Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
  http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 25391 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.25391

PATIENT WAITERS ARE NO LOSERS / DALRYMPLE.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2012648452/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Print shows Uncle Sam wearing a sombrero, standing beneath an apple tree where the apples are labeled "Hawaii, Canada, Cuba, [and] Central America", with a large basket to catch the apples when they fall; apples labeled "Louisiana, Texas, California, Alaska, [and] Florida" are already in the basket.

Created / Published

- N.Y. : Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, 1897 January 13.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1890-1900
- Magazine covers--1890-1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1890-1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1890-1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Uncle Sam I ain't in a hurry; - it'll drop into my basket when it gets ripe!

- - Illus. from Puck, v. 40, no. 1036, (1897 January 13), cover.
- - Copyright 1897 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 28872 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.28872

HIS FORESIGHT / J.S. PUGHE.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2010651471/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Illustration shows Uncle Sam as a large rooster standing among several small free-ranging chicks labeled "Argentine Republic, Guatemala, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Salvador, Peru, [and] Hayti [sic]"; confined to a "European Coop" labeled "Monroe Doctrine" are five roosters labeled "Russia, England, France, Germany, [and] Italy."

Created / Published

- N.Y. : J. Ottmann Lith. Co., Puck Bldg., 1901 October 9.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1900-1910
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1900-1910
- Chromolithographs--Color--1900-1910

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Europe-- You're not the only rooster in South America! Uncle Sam-- I was aware of that when I cooped you up!
- - Illus. in: Puck, v. 50, no. 1284 (1901 October 9), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1901 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA dcu http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 25571 https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.25571
- cph 3a41627 https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a41627

UNCLE SAM'S PICNIC / DALRYMPLE.



Reference Link: http://www.loc.gov/item/2012647475/

Reference Note:

Summary

- Print shows Uncle Sam helping four little girls labeled "Philippines, Ladrones, Porto [i.e. Puerto] Rico, [and] Cuba" onto a wagon filled with many other young children, including "Hawaii"; two horses harnessed to the wagon are labeled "Liberty" and "Union". An old man, wearing a hat labeled "Monroe Doctrine", is sitting on a log nearby and asks Sam if the wagon isn't getting too full.

Created / Published

- N.Y. : Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, 1898 September 28.

Genre

- Periodical illustrations--1890-1900
- Cartoons (Commentary)--1890-1900
- Chromolithographs--Color--1890-1900

Notes

- - Title from item.
- - Caption: Old Party Ain't ye takin' too many in, Sam? / Uncle Sam No, Gran'pa; I reckon this team will be strong enough for them all!
- - Illus. from Puck, v. 44, no. 1125, (1898 September 28), centerfold.
- - Copyright 1898 by Keppler & Schwarzmann.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
  http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Digital Id

- ppmsca 28634 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.28634