The White Man’s Burden

I. Justifying Racial Violence
II. The World of Jim Crow
III. “Assimilating” Lands and Peoples
IV. Dreams of a White Hawai‘i
V. “Benevolent Assimilation” in the Philippines
Race fueled and justified violence. Violence produced and justified racial divides.

“Objective” scientists and social reformers also produced racial divides and justified racial violence.

Racial Darwinism
Frederick Hoffman, *Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro* (1896)
Disfranchisement Laws

Literacy or “Understanding” Test (“satisfactory to the registrar”)

Poll Tax/Property Qualifications

Grandfather Clause (eligibility based on voting status or ancestor’s status on January 1, 1867)
Civil Rights Act (1875)
Prohibited racial segregation in public facilities (streetcars, hotels, theaters).

Civil Rights Cases (1883)
Federal authority extended only to state governments, not to private citizens or private corporations.
Women’s National Indian Association

Indian Rights Association

Reformist organizations that sought to “civilize” and “assimilate” Indigenous peoples.
Dawes Act (1887)
End collective (tribal) ownership of land through individual allotments (160 acres to family heads, 80 acres to single adults, 40 acres to dependent children).

Leftover lands (80 million of 138 million acres) deemed “surplus.”

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Forced Assimilation
Effects of the Dawes Act

Lands legally controlled by Indigenous peoples

1887: 138 million acres
1900: 78 million acres
1930s: 48 million acres
Haole (white foreigners)

James Cook
Great Mahele (1848)
Privatization of land (30,000 acres to commoners, 1.5 million acres to chiefs/government, 1 million acres to the king).

Reciprocity Treaty (1876)
Sugar from Hawai‘i could be exported to the United States without a tariff.
Sugar Plantations in Hawai‘i
Political System in Hawaiʻi

• Property and education restrictions on voting rights.

• Foreigners of European and American origins eligible to vote, not foreigners from Asia.
Queen Liliʻuokalani
Sanford Dole
(haole coup d’état in 1893)
Racist arguments for and against the annexation of the Republic of Hawaiʻi (1894-1898)

Key argument for annexation: Protect and preserve Hawaiʻi for white people.
Theodore Roosevelt
Spanish-American War (1898)
Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States.
Cuban independence, with a provision on U.S. intervention.

Philippine-American War (1899-1902)
Filipinos contest U.S. claims over the Philippines.
“niggers,” “savages,” “goo-goos” (later to become “gooks”)
“The White Man’s Burden (Apologies to Kipling)”
“Uncle Sam (to Filipino): Which hand will you take?”
“Uncle Sam (to Filipinos)--You can take your choice--I have plenty of both!”