**OPCVL Source Analysis Practice**

**Directions:**

1. Read the source below. *The primary source is in the yellow box, the text above is context and background information to help you further understand the text.*
2. Fill out the OPCVL chart by answering all of the guiding questions.

**Kipling’s Hymn to Imperialism**

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| *In February 1899, British novelist and poet Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem entitled “The White Man’s Burden: The United States and The Philippine Islands.” In this poem, Kipling urged the U.S. to take up the “burden” of empire, as had Britain and other European nations. Published in the February, 1899 issue of McClure’s Magazine, the poem coincided with the beginning of the Philippine-American War and U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty that placed Puerto Rico, Guam, Cuba, and the Philippines under American control. Theodore Roosevelt, soon to become vice-president and then president, copied the poem and sent it to his friend, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, commenting that it was “rather poor poetry, but good sense from the expansion point of view.” The notion of the “White Man’s burden” became a euphemism for imperialism.* |

Take up the White Man's burden--   
Send forth the best ye breed--   
Go bind 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--   
The savage wars of peace--   
Fill full the mouth of Famine   
And bid the sickness cease;   
And when your goal is nearest   
The end for others sought,   
Watch sloth and heathen Folly   
Bring all your hopes to nought.   
   
Take up the White Man's burden--   
No tawdry rule of kings,   
But toil of serf and sweeper--   
The tale of common things.   
The ports ye shall not enter,   
The roads ye shall not tread,   
Go mark them with your living,   
And mark them with your dead.

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!) toward the light:--   
"Why brought he us from bondage,   
Our loved Egyptian night?"   
   
Take up the White Man's burden--   
Ye dare not stoop to less--   
Nor call too loud on Freedom   
To cloke your weariness;   
By all ye cry or whisper,   
By all ye leave or do,   
The silent, sullen peoples   
Shall weigh your gods and you.   
   
Take up the White Man's burden--   
Have done with childish days--   
The lightly proferred 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: The United States & The Philippine Islands, 1899.” Rudyard Kipling’s Verse: Definitive Edition (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1929).

**OPCVL Chart**

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|  | **Values** | **Limitations** |
| **Origins**  ***Focus on the author, nothing about what is written*** | 1. Is this source a primary source or a secondary source? 2. Who is the author? 3. When was this source created / published? *(date of creation can be a different day from date of publication for some sources)* 4. Where (location) was this source created? If it is not known, can you infer where it was created?   Discuss the values of this source’s origins *(all of the information answered in questions 1-4 above)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the origins provide insight and perspectives for historians to understand African imperialism?  *\*Remember a bias/one-source does have its values* | Discuss the limitations of this source’s origins *(all of the information answered in questions 1-4 on the right)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? Is the author bias? If so, how do you know that the author is bias? |
| **Purpose**  ***Focus on why the author write the words that he/she did*** | 1. Why was this source written? Why do you think the author is writing this? 2. Who is the author’s target audience? 3. What format was this source written in? Newspaper? Journal/diary entry? Published book? Official government document?   Discuss the values of this source’s purpose *(all of the information in questions 1-3 above)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the purpose (focus on the why the author wrote the words) provide insight for historians to understand the motives for African imperialism? | Discuss the limitations of this source’s purpose *(all of the information in questions1-5 on the right)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? What bias does the message of this source have? What information is missing, not true and/or exaggerated? |
| **Content**  ***Focus on the words written, nothing about the author*** | 1. What is the literally message of the source? What is the source saying on the surface/at first glance? 2. Is there a hidden message to this source? If so, what is the hidden/ulterior message? 3. What information or examples does the author use to support their point?   Discuss the values of this source’s content (all of the information in questions 1-3 above) to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the content (focus on the words written) provide insight for historians to understand the motives for Africa imperialism? | Discuss the limitations of this source’s content (all of the information in questions 1-3 on the right) to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? Is there information missing from the content? Are their inaccurate information being presented in the content? Is there exaggerated truths/information being presented in the content? |