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RRQ: Kishlansky document collection “Thoughts on Empire”

Document one, J.A. Hobson *Imperialism*

1. In *Imperialism* J.A. Hobson claims that imperialism is not motivated “by the interests of the nation as a whole, but by those of certain classes, who impose the policy upon the nation for their own advantage.” What group do you think Hobson was talking about? Why?
2. Why does J.A. Hobson argue that imperialism is dangerous and a detriment to British nationalism?

Document two: Cecil Rhodes, *Confession of Faith*

1. How did Rhodes justify imperialism? Why was it the duty of the Anglo Saxon race to subdue “inferior” populations?
2. Rhodes’ confession was written for posterity and was not published until after his death. What sort of impression do you think Rhodes wanted to create with this document?

Document four: Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden”

1. Do you think Kipling was a proponent of imperialism? Why or why not?

1. How does Kipling’s position differ from that of Rhodes? How is it similar?

Document five: George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant”

1. What does the Orwell’s writing tell us about the nature of imperialism?
2. How does Orwell’s experience in Burma fit with the views of Rhodes and Kipling?