

“...
cartoc
prose.
journa
capsul
evisce
well-d

A rousin
United S

A Ca
F

of
With ar
Gu

The pow
form and
Here ap
the leadi
vide a v
policy fr
pendence

From
reported
move for
early as
States as

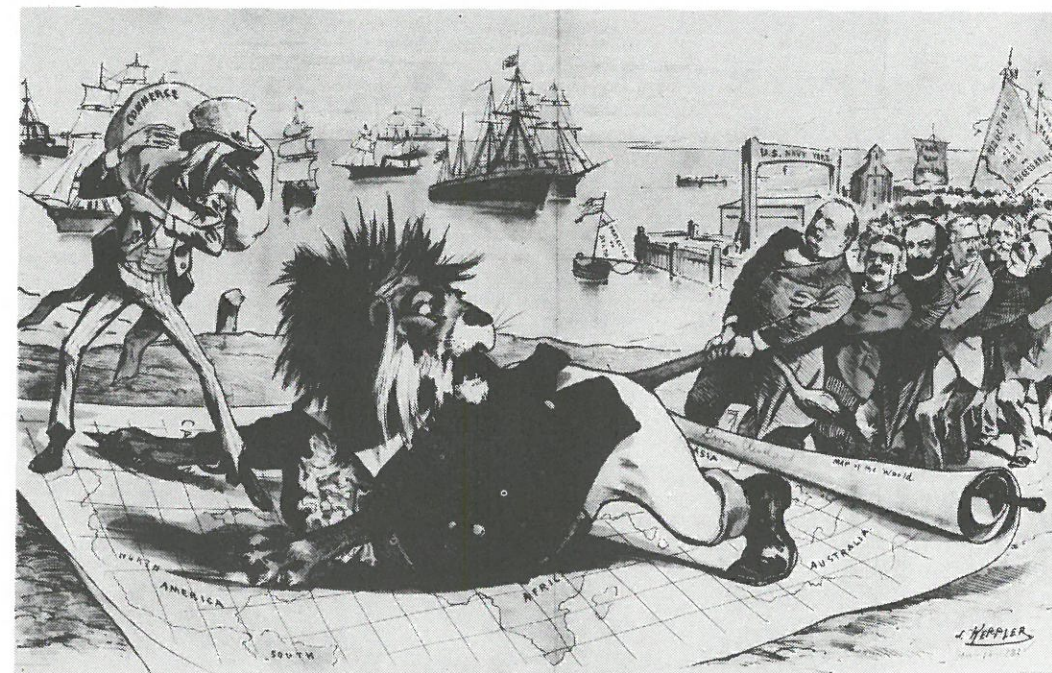
WIL

use the Democrats of putting
country. Britain was the leading

ed that they were advocating not
that high protective tariffs
American consumer. The
an necessary for goods which were

imported in British bottoms. It was high time to break Britain's hold on the
world's commerce.

At Last!



Joseph Keppler. *Puck*, 1888.

The charges and countercharges ignited a blaze of Anglophobia. Republicans warned Americans that a vote for Cleveland was a vote for England. Such accusations did not help Anglo-American relations. But the country was so consumed with domestic politics that it took little note of England's indignation. For several months the office of British ambassador to Washington was vacant.

By 1890 the era of postwar reconstruction was nearing its end. The last desirable free land was disappearing. And the curtain was about to rise on a new chapter in our nation's history.

Remember the Maine?

Having subdued a continent, America's tremendous energy and expansive drive sought new outlets. Americans had a growing sense of national consciousness and of power. Didn't Darwin say, in effect, that the world belonged to the strongest and fittest? To be a world power, the country needed a navy, and the navy, to be effective, required bases. Washington began to look for targets of opportunity.

American imperialism had a number of previews before the main event. In 1889 the United States joined Britain and Germany in establishing a protectorate over Samoa. Four years later, Americans backed a rebellion against Hawaii's Queen Liliuokalani. Only one day after the uprising the American minister hoisted the Stars and Stripes over Honolulu. The outgoing Republican President Benjamin Harrison hastily sent a treaty of annexation to the Senate. But before the Senate could act, Harrison's successor, Grover Cleveland, who was an archfoe of imperialism, withdrew it.

Cleveland managed to keep the imperialists on a short leash. But by the end of his term in 1897 America was again feeling its muscle and raring to go. The country had recovered from the financial Panic of '93, and prosperity was going to its head. The new generation of Americans, moreover, was unscarred by war. The country had not fought a war since 1865; it had not fought a foreign war since the war with Mexico in 1848.

The United States did not have to look very hard or far to satisfy its expansionist appetite. The Cubans had been restive under Spanish misrule and had mounted a full-scale revolt in 1895. The Filipinos were also unhappy under Spanish rule, and they, too, had rebelled.