

3. How does Rhodes propose to advance Anglo-Saxon world domination?
4. What role would the native peoples in new colonies play once Anglo-Saxon rule was established?
5. The confession was written for posterity and was not published until after Rhodes's death. What sort of impression do you think Rhodes wanted to create with this document?

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RUDYARD KIPLING

“The White Man’s Burden”

(1899)

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was one of the most celebrated authors of the era. Born in India the son of a civil servant, he was involved from the beginning with the British Empire. His parents sent him to England to attend boarding school, where he was lonely and unhappy. As soon as he could, he returned to India to write novels and stories, including *The Jungle Book* (1894–95) and *Kim* (1901). He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907. Kipling’s patriotism was placed in the service of the state during World War I, though the battlefield death of his only son deeply affected him.

Kipling’s work stresses imperial themes; “The White Man’s Burden” (1899) is a succinct summary of his view on the duties of empire. It was actually addressed to Americans after their victory in the Spanish-American War.

THE WHITE MAN’S BURDEN

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 hope 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 make 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 ye 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 cloak 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 proffered 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!

QUESTIONS

1. What is the "White Man's Burden"? What are the responsibilities of the imperialist toward his subjects?
2. How do colonial subjects repay their masters, according to Kipling?
3. What assumptions does Kipling make about other peoples?
4. Compare Kipling's view of race with that of Rhodes. Are they alike or different?