

Imperialism Seminar

Imperialism Discussion Questions

1. Is it ethical for governments to implement policies that benefit their own people at the expense of other people?
2. Is it appropriate for governments to spend public funds to further private interests? What does Hobson argue about this? Do you agree with Hobson's analysis that Imperialism only furthers the interests of the wealthy of a society at the expense of the masses?
3. To what extent should the military be used by a nation to advance and protect its economic interests around the globe?
4. Describe Rhodes' views of Imperialism. How do they compare with those of Hobson?
5. Discuss/Analyze more generally the view's expressed in Rhodes' "Confession of Faith".
6. Is the notion of "might makes right" a reasonable basis for international relations? If so, why? If not, what is a realistic alternative?
7. How does Orwell's "Shooting An Elephant" portray Imperialism?
8. How do Orwell's views compare with Hobson? Do you agree with both? Neither?

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