

Title: The American Anti-Imperialist League: Fighting Imperialism through Rhetorical Appeal
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The American Anti-Imperialist League was founded in November of 1899 after the annexation of the Philippines by the United States. The organization formed with the intent to protect the ideals and values described in American historical documents such as the Declaration of Independence, Washington's Farewell Address, and the Monroe Doctrine. These values included inalienable rights, power derived from the consent of the governed, and non-interventionist policies in world affairs (Harrington 211). Anti-imperialists argued that the destruction of these core American values through imperialist policies would threaten the foundation of the government at home. In order to try and stop the government from pursuing such policies, the anti-imperialists sought to convince the public through appeal to emotion, logic, and ethics. Appeals to emotion focused on fear mongering and feelings of patriotism; appeals to logic focused on using the experiences of European imperialist countries as a warning for the future of the United States history; and appeals to ethics focused on the morality of US actions in the Philippines. These appeals make three distinct types of arguments: one that criticized the abandonment of American values, another that highlighted the lack of morality in the actions of the United States in the Philippines, and a third that warned of the dangers of imperialism's effects on the United States (Anti-Imperialist League Leaflets no. 11, 12, 13, 16, 17; Blount 9; Harrington 224; Swift 40-41).

Works Cited

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