

with PRIMARY SOURCES



**Directions**: Use the documents and your knowledge of history to answer the questions that follow.

**Document A:** The following is an excerpt from sworn testimony given before the U.S. Senate by Corporal Richard O'Brien in 1902. O'Brien was called to testify in a Senate investigation of alleged war crimes committed by American soldiers in the Philippine-American War.

"The first thing we saw was a boy ... and the first sergeant shot at the boy. Everybody fired at him. That brought the people in the houses out . . . [and] the town was fired on ... Two old men came out, hand in hand ... they had a white flag, they were shot down. At the other end of the town we heard screams, and there was a woman there; she was burned up, and in her arms was a baby, and on the floor was another child ... The fighting was continued until everybody had fled or everybody was killed ... There was not a shot fired on the part of the Filipinos."

**Document B:** The following is an excerpt from a letter to the editor of the *Kansas City Journal* by Colonel Frederick Funston on April 22, 1899. Funston, who was a war hero for his extensive service in the Philippine-American War, wrote and spoke often about the Philippine-American War in order to increase public support for American involvement in the conflict.

"I am afraid that some people at home will lie awake [at] night worrying about the ethics of this war, thinking that our enemy is fighting for the right to self-government ... [The Filipinos] have a certain number of educated leaders – educated, however, about the same way a parrot is. They are, as a rule, an illiterate, semi-savage people who are waging war not against tyranny, but against Anglo-Saxon order and decency . . . I, for one, hope that Uncle Sam will apply the chastening rod good, hard and plenty, and lay it on until they come in to the reservation and promise to be good 'Injuns."

**Question 1:** Many Americans opposed the war in the Philippines. How does Document A provide evidence of this?





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**Question 2:** How does Document B also provide evidence that many Americans opposed the war in the Philippines?