

**Abstract:**

This bachelor thesis *Manifest destiny and its influence on American imperialism in the late 19th century and early 20th century*, is on the foreign policy of the United States during Progressivism, an era in which the country was going through crucial internal changes. The study focuses on Presidents William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft and Woodrow Wilson. McKinley administration was included in the research since he launched the American-Spanish war and that was the beginning of a greater American involvement abroad. The work does not only analyze an impact of manifest destiny on the foreign policy of that time, it also deals with the internal crisis because it is seen as one reason why American politicians abandoned the policy of isolationism. Another important influence in American imperialism was racism. The Americans considered some nations as children who need to be raised. This issue is included in the study as well.

The goal of this work is to answer the question whether manifest destiny had a greater influence on expansion than desire to find new markets for American products. Indeed, many historians believe that the economic reasons led to the colonialism rather than the ideals of spreading democracy in the world. The study also researches the development of Manifest Destiny in this historical epoch. In addition, the work deals with growing power of the United States before World War I and tries to find a reason why the United States refused to be a member of the League of Nations, even though the country was the main creator of the organization.