

Theme: Landmarks in British History

Text: Michael Savage: Iraq war is "white man's burden" (excerpt from the March 20 2006 broadcast of Talk Radio Network's Savage Nation; <http://mediamatters.org/items/200603220010>)

SAVAGE: Tell me if this doesn't apply to the United States in Iraq:

5	Take up the White Man's burden -- 10 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; [...]
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15 The alternative to imperialism or colonialism of these fanatics is a thousand years of darkness. The reverse is also true; in other words, it's either our colonialism or Muslim imperialism. I mean, you've got to make a choice here. You know, when you say that "America is a colonialist or imperialist nation," as the idiots in college are saying -- if you say that in a vacuum, it sounds like we're a bad nation and bad people, but you have to counter it with the fact that you have Muslim expansionism and Islamic imperialism -- in other words, a religious

20 imperialism that is fighting us right now, so you have to decide which side you're on. Do you want to live in a thousand years of Islamic rule? Do you want to live with a sword hanging over your head? Do you want your wife or your girlfriend or your daughter to walk around in a black costume with her face covered? Is that what you want? Do you [want] clitorectomies performed in hospitals because they don't want a woman to have any

25 pleasure? Do you want every other religion outlawed? Do you want the churches and the synagogues closed or blown up? Because that's what you're arguing for if you are saying we are an imperialist nation. So, if I have to make a choice between American imperialism and Muslim imperialism, I'll tell you which side I'm on. [330]

Annotations: 14 these [Muslim] fanatics [will bring] a thousand years of darkness 17 idiots in college – liberals 23 clitorectomy – female circumcision

Assignments: 1) Go through the lines of *White Man's Burden* as quoted above and say (in concrete detail) how they translate into the situation of Americans in Iraq from Michael Savage's point of view. 2) Take a closer look at the second part of the transcript (ll. 14 ff) to analyse how Savage tries to convince his listeners that his understanding of Kipling's lines is right. 3) Comment on Savage's use of Kipling's poem.

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