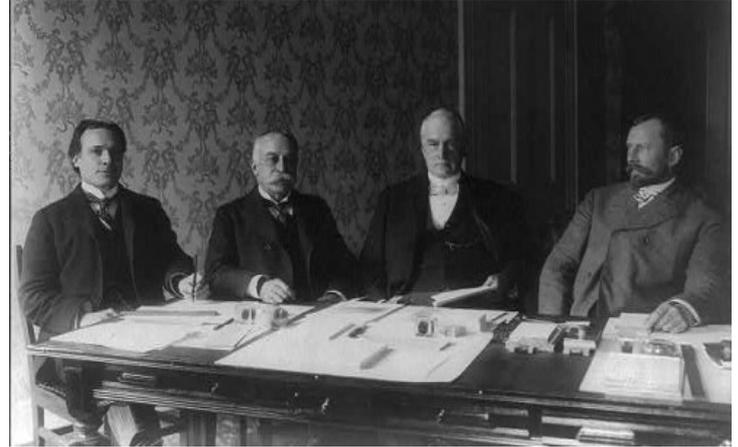


# Forgotten Pasts: Cornell's Third President Jacob Gould Schurman

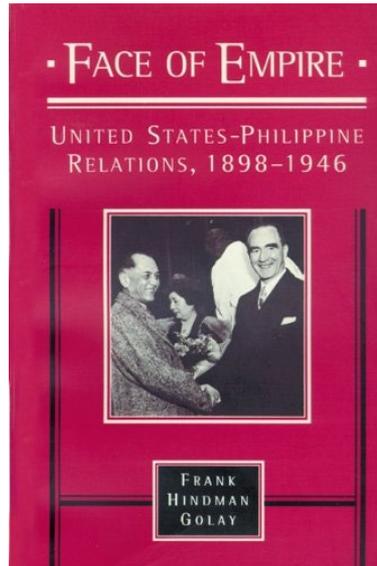


# Former Cornell President Jacob Gould Schurman

- the Chairman of the **Schurman Commission**, appointed by President William McKinley in 1899 to decide the structure of **American imperial rule in the Philippines after the brutal American conquest**
- "the **United States cannot withdraw**. ... We are there and duty binds us to remain. The **Filipinos are wholly unprepared for independence** ... there being no Philippine nation, but only a collection of different peoples"
- Rudyard Kipling's **White Man's Burden**, in which Filipinos would be "taught to govern themselves as Americans or Englishmen govern themselves"



# Former Cornell President Jacob Gould Schurman



- Called Muslim Filipinos are “heathens”, declared that America “must first eliminate the Mohammedan”
- Viewed all Filipinos as inferior, writing that “even educated Filipinos do not possess our conception of civil liberty or of official responsibility”

# Outcomes and Lasting Impacts

- **20,000 Filipinos were directly killed** in the subsequent American war of conquest; 200k died of famine and disease. After war in 1902, the Philippines was ruled as a colony, with its **resources and people exploited** for America's benefit → **US Imperialism and tutelage** sustained
- **1946 Bell Trade Act, Subic Bay Naval Base, Clark Air Naval Base, Visiting Forces Agreement** all used to this day as a tool for the US government to **control and subject the people of the Philippines**, even after the granting of "independence"



# Current State of the Philippines today



- United States' donations of over 6 million COVID-19 vaccines motivated Pres. Duterte to extend the two nations' Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), a pact that he has repeatedly threatened to scrap
- "We did a give and take. We thank them and I made a concession." - Pres. Duterte (August 2021)
- **Why must the Philippines feel pressured to extend US imperialism and imperialist legislation to obtain COVID-19 Vaccines?**

# Cornell's Endorsement of Schurman

- **None** of Cornell's biographical information on Schurman on official websites makes any reference to his viewpoint and comments on Filipinos
- There is no reference or explanation of **Schurman's role in Filipino colonization and genocide on the premises of Schurman Hall**
- Cornell has **never officially apologized** for Schurman's role in the imperialist conquest of the Philippines by America



Schurman's impact has not only affected the Filipinos at the time of his **imperial rule**. The words and actions of Schurman have and are **currently** harming and killing countless lives belonging to **Muslim, Indigenous, Filipino, Filipino-American communities.**

What does it mean to enroll thousands of **students belonging to marginalized communities** at a **university that has ignored its oppressive histories**? What does it mean to supposedly **uphold students of color** while also upholding an individual that **caused direct terror on Indigenous and Muslim communities in the Philippines**? **What does inclusion mean to Cornell?**

# Summary of Demands

- Formally **apologize** for **President Schurman's role in American imperialism** in the PH
- Establish corrective measures by **dedicating a memorial in Schurman Hall** to the countless Filipino lives lost under American rule and imperialist conquest,
- **Rename Schurman Hall,**
- **Expand all Ethnic Studies departments/programs** by increasing efforts, funding, and allowing them all as majors to make these histories available to all students,
- **Address the history of military exploitation** and the **continued military involvement** of Filipino people and students in the US and abroad,
- **Condemn the VFA**