

American Personalities: Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty



Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty—for over a century, these two characters have personified the United States and popular conception of the nation's ideals. Answer these questions about the roles these characters have played, including soldier, tyrant, police officer, financier, judge, deity, and champion of the oppressed.

1. What characters have political cartoonists used to represent the English counterparts to Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty?

- The British Lion and Queen Mab.
- King Arthur and Titania.
- John Bull and Britannia.
- Prince Albert and Queen Victoria.



2. This version of Uncle Sam appeared in a *Denver Evening Post* cartoon in November 1898. Uncle Sam is usually drawn as a skinny character. Why is he fat here?

- He has not been exercising, and instead has indulged in corruption and scandal.
- He has just finished consuming overseas territories, such as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.
- He has recently made a lot of money from war profiteering and war-related corporate-government corruption.
- He has spent too much time indulging in the pleasures of peace and prosperity.

3. When did political cartoonists draw Uncle Sam as a self-appointed global policeman?

- During the Vietnam War.
- Just after World War II.
- Before the U.S. entered World War I.
- During the "Imperialist" phase of U.S. foreign affairs, beginning prior to the Spanish-American War.

4. When Uncle Sam first appeared, he was drawn to resemble:

- An old gentleman in knee breeches.
- A yeoman farmer.
- A politician.
- A Revolutionary War soldier.

5. When Columbia first appeared, she most closely resembled:

- The goddess of liberty, Libertas.
- Minerva, the Roman goddess of war.
- A Native American princess.
- Martha Washington.

Sources:

Have Your Answers Ready, 1917, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Collection, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3g08370> (accessed November 12, 2009).

James Baillie, Uncle Sam and his servants" (New York: 1844), Prints and Photographs Collection, Library of Congress, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a53150> (accessed November 12, 2009).

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>