

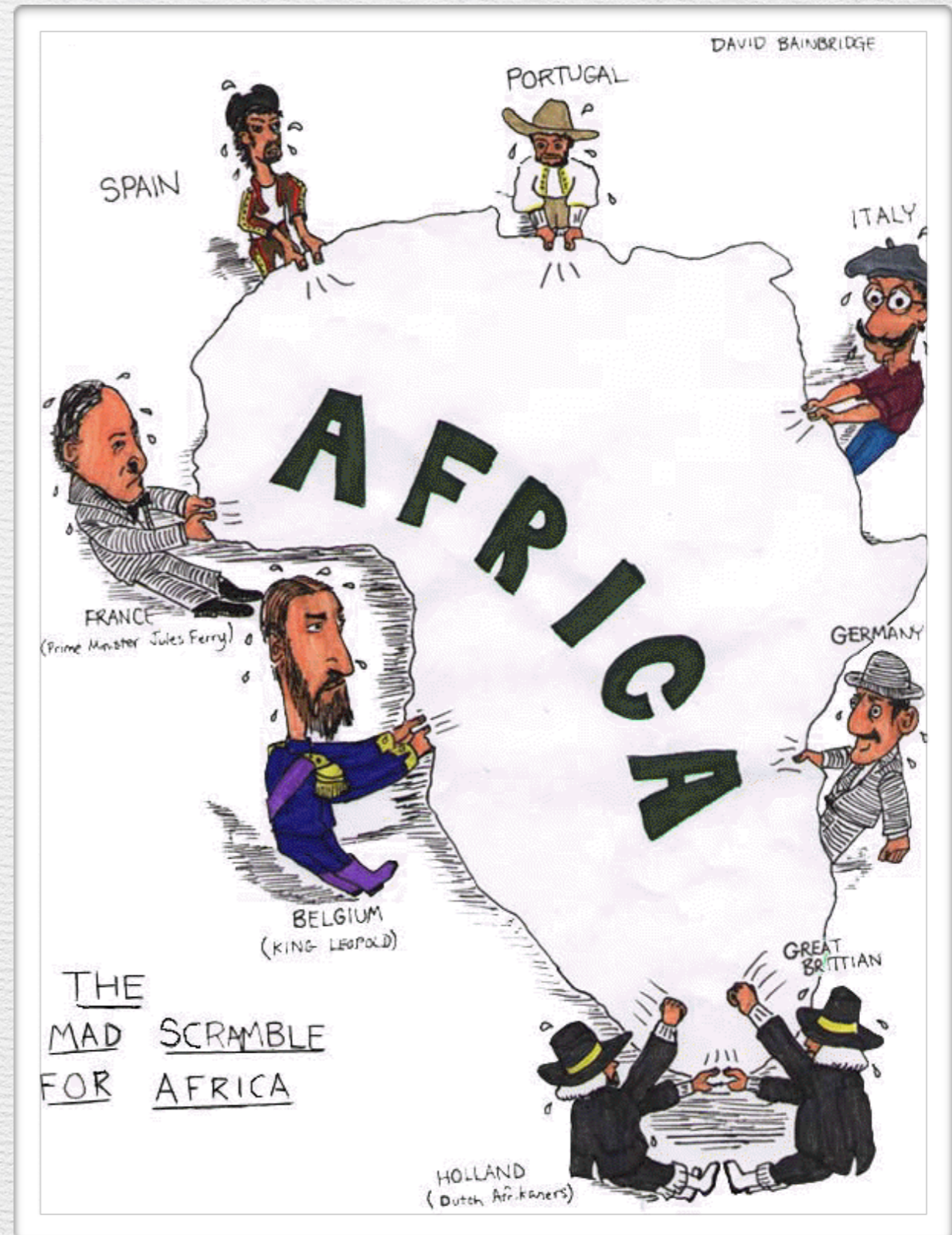
America Claims an Empire

Imperialism and America

Why did the United States
begin imperializing?

Motivation #1: Global Competition

- In 1800s, Europeans divide up most of Africa, compete for China
- Japan joins race for China; U.S. decides to expand overseas because they want to be seen as a “world power” & “legitimate competitor”



Motivation #2: Military Strength



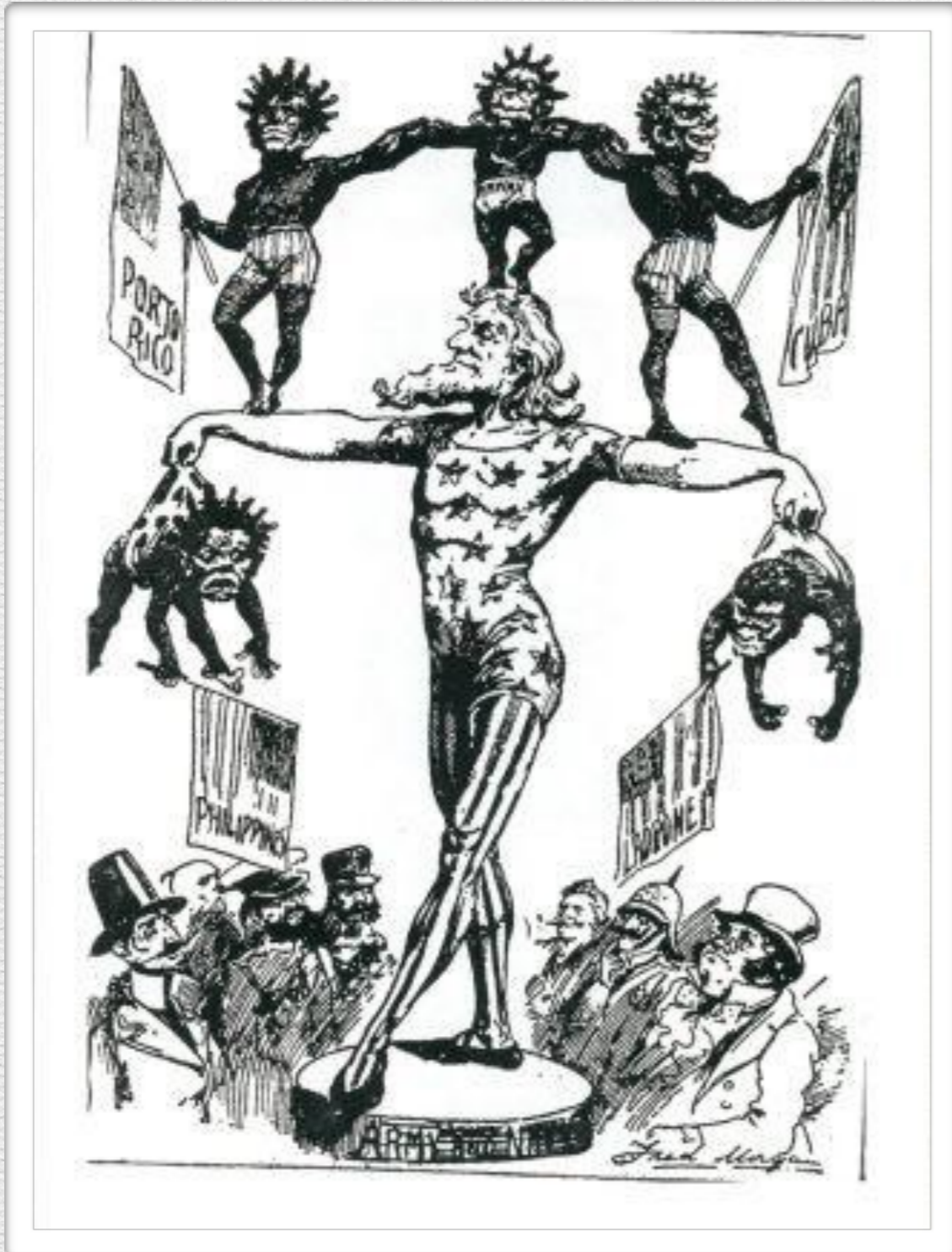
- Admiral Alfred T. Mahan urges U.S. to build up navy to compete
- U.S. builds modern battleships, becomes third largest naval power

Motivation #3: Thirst for New Markets

- U.S. farms, factories produce more than Americans can consume
- U.S. needs raw materials, new markets for goods
- Foreign trade: solution to overproduction, unemployment, depression



Motivation #4: Belief in Cultural Superiority



- Some combine Social Darwinism, belief in superiority of Anglo-Saxons
- Argue U.S. has duty to Christianize, civilize “inferior people”