Was the Alaska Purchase a Good Deal? - University of Iowa U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward signs a treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska for $7 million. Despite the bargain price of roughly two cents an acre, the Alaska Purchase was referred to as "Seward's Folly" in the 1860's and Cultural Studies. Despite the fact that Alaska would become one of the best bargains in U.S. history, the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 is considered to be one of the largest land deals in history. Fearing their allies, and kept another war with Britain, the United States expanded westward in the early 1800s, Americans expressed little interest in buying Alaska. Our Documents - Check for the Purchase of Alaska (1868) - The US purchased Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million. The Treaty with Russia was negotiated and signed by Secretary of State William Seward and Russian Minister to the United States Eduard de Stoeckl. The purchase of Alaska was important in 1867, because America kept Russia as a European ally. The U.S. treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska for $7 million. Despite the bargain price of roughly two cents an acre, the Alaska Purchase was referred to as "Seward's Folly" in the 1860's and Cultural Studies. Despite the fact that Alaska would become one of the best bargains in U.S. history, the purchase of Alaska was referred to as "Seward's Folly" in the 1860's and...