WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

- Imperialism
  - The quest to build up a territorial empire
- Policy of strong nations dominating weaker countries
  - Political, military, economic and/or cultural control
Throughout most of the 1800s, the US was not interested in territorial expansion overseas.

- Expansion within the country
- Imperial rule did not fit US principles
- The US did not welcome people with different cultures, languages, and religions (Nativism)
ALASKA

• The exception to the rule!

• 1867- Secretary of State William Seward bought Alaska from Russia
  • Paid $7.2 billion (2 cents per acre)
  • Called “Seward’s Folly,” many saw the purchase as a waste
  • Turned out to be rich in natural resources
    • Timber, Minerals, Oil
REASONS FOR US IMPERIALISM

• European Imperialism
  • In the late 1800s, European powers claimed 10 million miles of territory in Africa and Asia
  • Many in the US were scared they may no longer have access to worldwide markets and raw materials
  • European Imperialism creates Competition

• Foreign Trade
  • The American economy became dependent on buying and selling goods worldwide
REASONS FOR US IMPERIALISM

• Social Darwinism
  • Survival of the Fittest
  • Countries that did not compete with the best were doomed to fail

• Sea Power
  • “The Influence of Sea Power Upon History” written by Alfred Thayer Mahan
  • Argued that power depended on control of the world’s seas
  • “Whoever rules the waves rules the world”
THE WHITE MAN’S BURDEN

• The belief that the US had a special mission to uplift “backward” people around the world

• The US’ responsibility to educate and help everyone else
JINGOISM AND START OF IMPERIALISM

- In the 1890s, many Americans became pro-Imperialism
- Americans developed extreme nationalism to fuel global interests
- The US began to get involved in global conflicts because of extreme nationalism and their growing military
  - Jingoism
HAWAII

• America’s first Imperial interest
• 1820-1890: Americans moved to Hawaii to begin fruit plantations
• 1891- Queen Liliuokalani tried to reduce the number of Americans living in Hawaii
• 1893- US Military overthrew the Queen and took 1.75 million acres of land
• 1898- Hawaii was officially Annexed
• 1959- Hawaii becomes a state in 1959
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

The Spanish-American War
ORIGINS OF THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

- In 1894, a tariff restricted sugar imported to the US from Cuba
- Cuba was a Spanish Colony
- Nationalists began a revolt against the Spanish colonizers
  - The Spanish put Cubans in prisons to put down the rebellion
- Many Americans sympathized with the Cubans, partly because of the Press
THE USS MAINE AND YELLOW JOURNALISM

- The US had many businessmen invested in Cuba
- The US sent the USS Maine to rescue US Citizens from Cuba
- February 15, 1898, the Maine blew up
  - The US blamed the Spanish
  - The American people were angry and wanted war with the Spanish
  - President McKinley asks Congress to go to War
- Importance of Yellow Journalism
  - Exaggerated or misleading news to attract readers
  - “Remember the Maine, to hell with Spain”
THE TELLER AMENDMENT

• Congress agreed to go to war against Spain AFTER adopting the Teller Amendment
• Made it clear that the US did not have imperialist goals towards Cuba
THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

- The US Navy blockaded Cuban ports
- US soldiers poorly trained and supplied, but outnumbered and surrounded the Spanish
- The Battle of San Juan Hill
  - Rough Riders: Volunteers of cowboys, organized by Teddy Roosevelt
  - Two African American cavalries
  - Charged up the hill to win major battle
THE END OF THE WAR

- Called a “splendid little war”
  - Lasted only 10 weeks
  - Few American Deaths
  - 1898 Treaty of Paris ends the war

- The Spanish gave up Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines
THE PLATT AMENDMENT

• After the US won the Spanish-American war, they passed the Platt Amendment
  • Cuba was independent
  • Gave the US the right to intervene in Cuba to protect “life, property, and individual liberties”
• The US had influence over Cuba
  • Could intervene
  • Cuba couldn’t sign treaty without US approval
  • US could use land for military bases- Guantanamo Bay
THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN WAR

- The US won the Philippines from Spain in the S-A War
- Filipinos did not want new rulers, they wanted independence
- Filipinos fought back against the US
AMERICAN ATROCITIES

• To stop the Filipino uprisings, the American military fought back
  • Forcibly burned villages
  • Imprisoned and killed civilians
  • Used torture tactics on suspected fighters
PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

• Death Toll
  • 4000 American Soldiers
  • 20,000 Filipino Fighters
  • 200,000 Filipino Civilians

• Americans won the war

• Filipinos will receive Independence in 1946
QUICK CLASS SURVEY: AGREE OR DISAGREE

1. It is justifiable for the United States to use military force to protect U.S. financial interests.
2. It is justifiable to go to war to defend an ally of the United States.
3. It is acceptable for the United States to promote Christianity in other nations.
4. Diplomacy is the only acceptable foreign policy.
5. It is acceptable to go to war to remove dictatorships and promote democracy.
6. It is the U.S. responsibility to be the “policemen” of the world.
7. President Washington was correct – the United States should avoid foreign entanglements.
8. It might not be politically correct, but the United States really is a superior nation.
9. The United States must maintain a superior military force for national security.
10. A wealthy nation like the United States should offer economic or military aid when a weaker nation requests it.
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

The Politics of Imperialism
TEDDY ROOSEVELT’S BIG STICK DIPLOMACY

- Teddy Roosevelt becomes President
  - Promotes a strong military to achieve US goals
- Big Stick Diplomacy
  - Active Foreign policy with a strong navy
  - “Speak softly and carry a big stick, you will go far”
  - Peaceful negotiation with a strong military to back it up
THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY

- Monroe Doctrine
  - European powers should not try to take over Central or South America, that was the US’ world sphere

- 1904 - Roosevelt announces the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
  - The US would be the “policeman” of the Caribbean and Central America
Puerto Rico remained under US control after the Spanish-American War

Civil government established in Puerto Rico

1917: President Wilson signs law giving Puerto Ricans citizenship, their own government and a Bill of Rights
THE PANAMA CANAL

- One of Roosevelt’s objectives was to build a canal in Panama to help save U.S. ships time and money.
- Panama belonged to Colombia, who refused Roosevelt’s offer.
- Roosevelt encouraged Panama to break free of Colombia.
  - 1903 - Won independence from Colombia, began to build the Canal.
  - 1914 - Panama Canal finished and Controlled by US, who paid $10 million.
- Connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTlndhU8-DA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTlndhU8-DA)
DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

- After Roosevelt, William Howard Taft became President
- Taft preferred Dollar Diplomacy > Big Stick diplomacy
  - Wanted to increase American investments in businesses and banks in Central America and the Caribbean
- Substitute “dollars for bullets”
MORAL DIPLOMACY

• After Taft, Wilson became president in 1912

• “Moral Diplomacy”
  • US would not use force
  • US would work to promote human rights, and only use military force when absolutely necessary

• As a result, American imperialism decreased
  • Isolationism
THE US IN MEXICO

• Wilson supported Venustiano Carranza, hoping for reform, then changes mind to support Pancho Villa
  • Revolutionary/Rebel

• Wilson changes mind AGAIN, going back to Carranza
  • Villa kills 18 Americans in New Mexico
  • Wilson sends 10,000 troops to Mexico to chase Pancho Villa

• Only stops when WWI breaks out
ANTI-IMPERIALISM

• Not all Americans supported imperialism

• Many argued the US had no right to force American culture upon others

• The Anti-Imperialist League formed in 1899 to fight American annexation of the Philippines
THE US AS A WORLD POWER

• By the 20th Century, the US was becoming a world power
  • Industrial Revolution had made the US an economic power
  • America had the world’s third largest navy
  • America annexed new territories in the Caribbean and Asia
  • America saw itself as equal to European nations
  • America used its influence to build the Panama Canal, “protect” Latin America, and trade with Asia
INTERVENTIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

- To enforce order and protect economic interests, the US intervened in the Caribbean and Central America about twenty times in the next 25 years
  - Cuba
  - Dominican Republic
  - Haiti
  - Mexico
  - Nicaragua
  - Panama
- Each intervention put into power dictator who supported American interests
EARLY IMPERIALISM IN THE PACIFIC

• 1853: Commodore Matthew Perry negotiated a treaty to open trade with Japan

• 1867: US took over Midway Islands
By the 1890s, European powers carved China into spheres of influence so only they had rights to trade with China
- Japan also took over parts of China

In 1899, The US declared the “Open Door Policy”
- Out of fear they may be stopped from trading with China
- Stated that all countries should have equal trading rights in China
Many Chinese began to resent growing foreign influence.

One group, the “Boxers” started to rebel, trying to drive out all foreigners from China.

Hundreds of foreigners were killed by angry mobs during the Boxer Rebellion.

- Eventually crushed by an international police force.
- Europeans stayed in China to trade.
- But Chinese nationalists continued to fight against this.
THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

• 1904-1905: Russo-Japanese War
  • Teddy Roosevelt convinced the two countries to sign a peace treaty
    • He won a Nobel Prize!
  • America’s growing role in world affairs
THE GREAT WHITE FLEET

- Roosevelt wanted to build up the US navy to protect US interests in Asia
- Got Congress to support building a new force of ships, the “Great White Fleet”
- In 1907, 16 white battleships sent on a “goodwill cruise” around the world
- Showed America’s increased military power to the world