

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY UP TO THE 1880S'

ISOLATIONISM – a foreign policy that stresses national self-sufficiency and a freedom from foreign alliances.

WHY?

- **GW's farewell address**

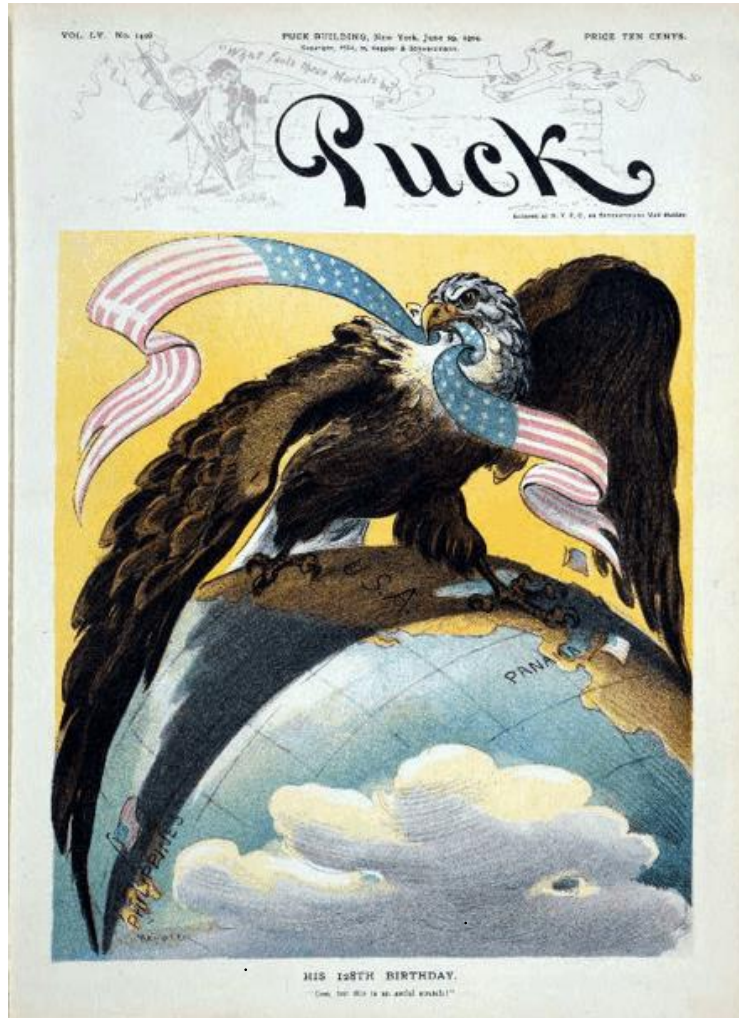
“The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities”.

-September 19, 1796-

- **“Exploration & colonization” of the West**
- **Monroe Doctrine**
- **Great Britain's sympathies toward the Confederacy**
- **France's planned invasion of Texas during the Civil War**

ISOLATIONISM⇒⇒⇒ IMPERIALISM

IMPERIALISM – the domination of one nation over the political, economic and cultural affairs of another.



THE “**P.E.R.M.S.**” OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

Political – *Manifest Destiny* is now extended beyond our borders to include the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean.

- America also wanted to prove to the world that they are a world power

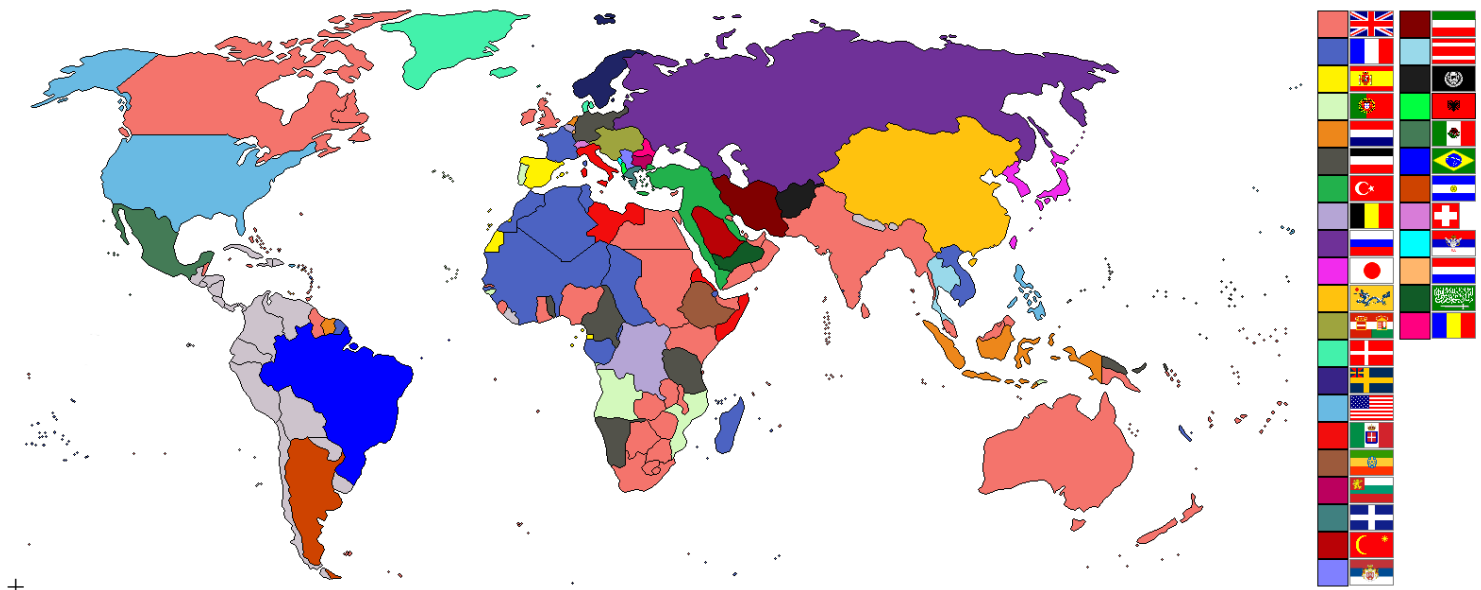
Economic - Raw Materials & New Markets

Religious – *The White Man's Burden* or the belief that it was the duty of the Americans and Europeans to bring culture and religion to the “savages” of Asia and Africa.

Military – A. T. Mahan's The Influence of Sea Power Upon History - the establishment of naval bases through out the Pacific.

Social - *Social Darwinism* or survival of the fittest applied to race, religions, cultures and nations.

Why did America expand into the Pacific instead of Africa & Asia?



AMERICA'S CONQUESTS



JAPAN (1853)

President Millard Fillmore ordered Commodore Matthew Perry to Japan to establish trading avenues and agree to help ship wrecked sailors. This is America's first use of *Gunboat Diplomacy* or the use of the navy to enforce your foreign policy.

Which PERMS?

ALASKA (1867)

William Seward purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million (2 cents/acre). Seward was originally criticized and Alaska was labeled “Seward’s Folly” and “Seward’s Icebox”

Results – Increased U.S. by 20%
Discoveries of gold, silver and oil
Pacific Naval Bases

Which PERMS?

HAWAII (1893)

Queen Lilioukalani was overthrown in a revolution sponsored by American settlers led by Sanford B. Dole in a corporate sponsored war. America annexes Hawaii in 1898, after the outbreak of the Spanish American War.

Results – U.S. gains a naval base and territory in the middle of the Pacific.

Which PERMS?



CHINA

China was “carved up” by the European powers (France, Britain, Germany, Russia) and Japan into *Spheres of Influence* or an area which a foreign nation had special trading privileges and made laws for its own citizens.



WHO IS MISSING?

THE OPEN DOOR NOTE (POLICY) – China was opened up to any nation that wanted to trade in any city.

THE BOXER REBELLION – As a result of foreign domination and exploitation the Boxers organized a rebellion against European Christian missionaries and businessmen. The Boxer Rebellion is quickly crushed by the armies of US, FR, GB, GER, RUS and Japan.

RESULT – THE SECOND OPEN DOOR NOTE was passed by the U.S., which guaranteed

- equal trade rights for all
- a free and independent China
- protected US business interests in China



Which Perms?

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Background – In 1868, a Cuban nationalist revolt against Spain starts. By 1896, the Cuban rebels control most of the countryside. In order to stop the revolution, Gen. Valerio Weyler is sent to Cuba and places the Cuban peasants in concentration camps.

RESULTS

Over 100,000 die → Revolution spreads
→ American sympathy for Cuban Rebels



January 1898 – The U.S.S. Maine is sent to Havana Harbor

February 15, 1898 – The U.S.S. Maine explodes. 266 Sailors die.

**WHO DID IT?
MOTIVES?
DOES IT MAKE SENSE?**

Possible suspects

Spain

Just an accident

Cuban Rebels

U.S. Government

SPAIN IS BLAMED! → War fever spreads! “Remember the Maine!”

Yellow Journalism – The exaggeration and sensationalizing of facts, even the telling of lies to sell newspapers.



The best-known editors involved with Yellow Journalism were William Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer.

“You furnish the pictures. I’ll furnish the war”

-William Hearst-

President McKinley (a Civil War veteran) wants to avoid a war, but the American public is filled with war fever; the Congress and the newspapers (yellow journalism) pressure McKinley into war.

Congress also passes the Teller Amendment → "The U.S. has no intention of taking Cuba as a colony"

Why would Congress pass the Teller Amendment?

U.S. public war objectives → Liberate Cuba from Spanish tyranny

Teddy Roosevelt "The Man" organizes the Rough Riders.



THE WAR BEGINS!

Battle of Manila Bay (Philippines) (May 1, 1898)

Commodore Perry sinks the Spanish Pacific fleet in Manila Bay, and occupies the city of Manila

Battle of San Juan Hill (Cuba) (July 1, 1898)

TR “The Man” leads the Rough Riders up San Juan Hill forcing the Spanish Fleet to leave the safety of Santiago Harbor.

Battle of Santiago Harbor (Cuba) (July 3, 1898)

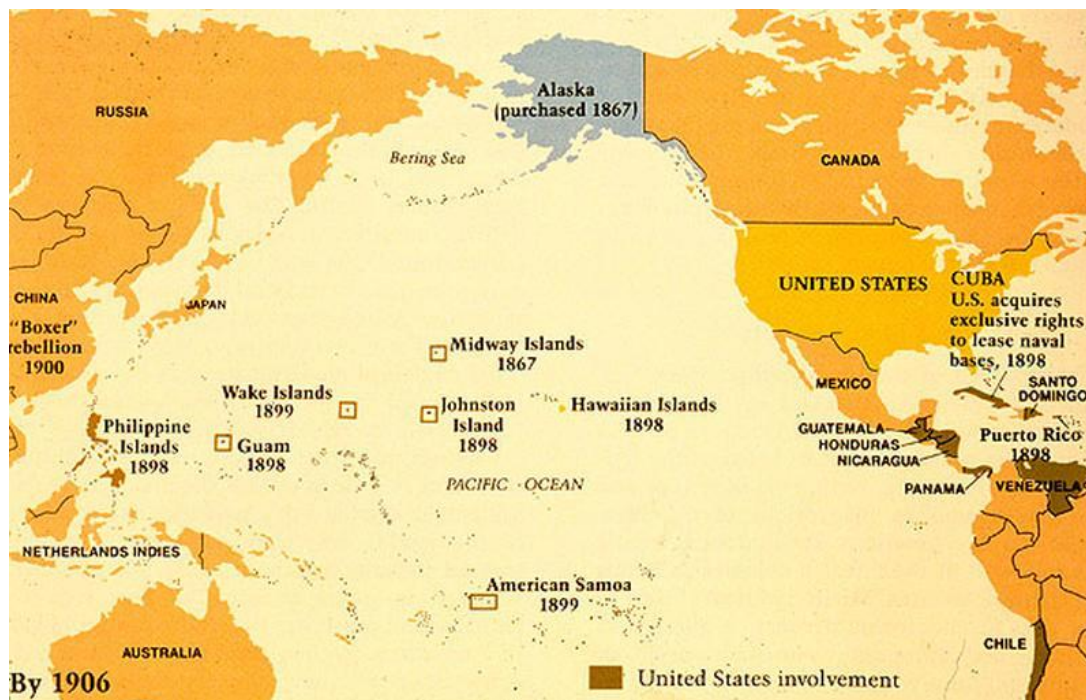
The Spanish Caribbean fleet is sunk, shortly after, the war ends.

Treaty of Paris

Spain agrees to leave Cuba and Puerto Rico

U.S. gains Puerto Rico, Wake, Guam & the Philippines

Spain receives \$21,000,000



“The splendid little war”

-John Hay (US Secretary of State)-

WHY DID WE PAY SPAIN \$21,000,000 IF WE WON THE WAR?

Which PERMS?

THE PANAMA CANAL

BACKGROUND

- In the 1880's France attempted to build a canal in Central America but failed due to malaria.
- The USS Oregon stationed in San Diego arrived the day before the Battle of Santiago Bay after having to sail around South America.

WHY BUILD IT?

National Defense
Increase Trade



TR “The Man” Gets Involved

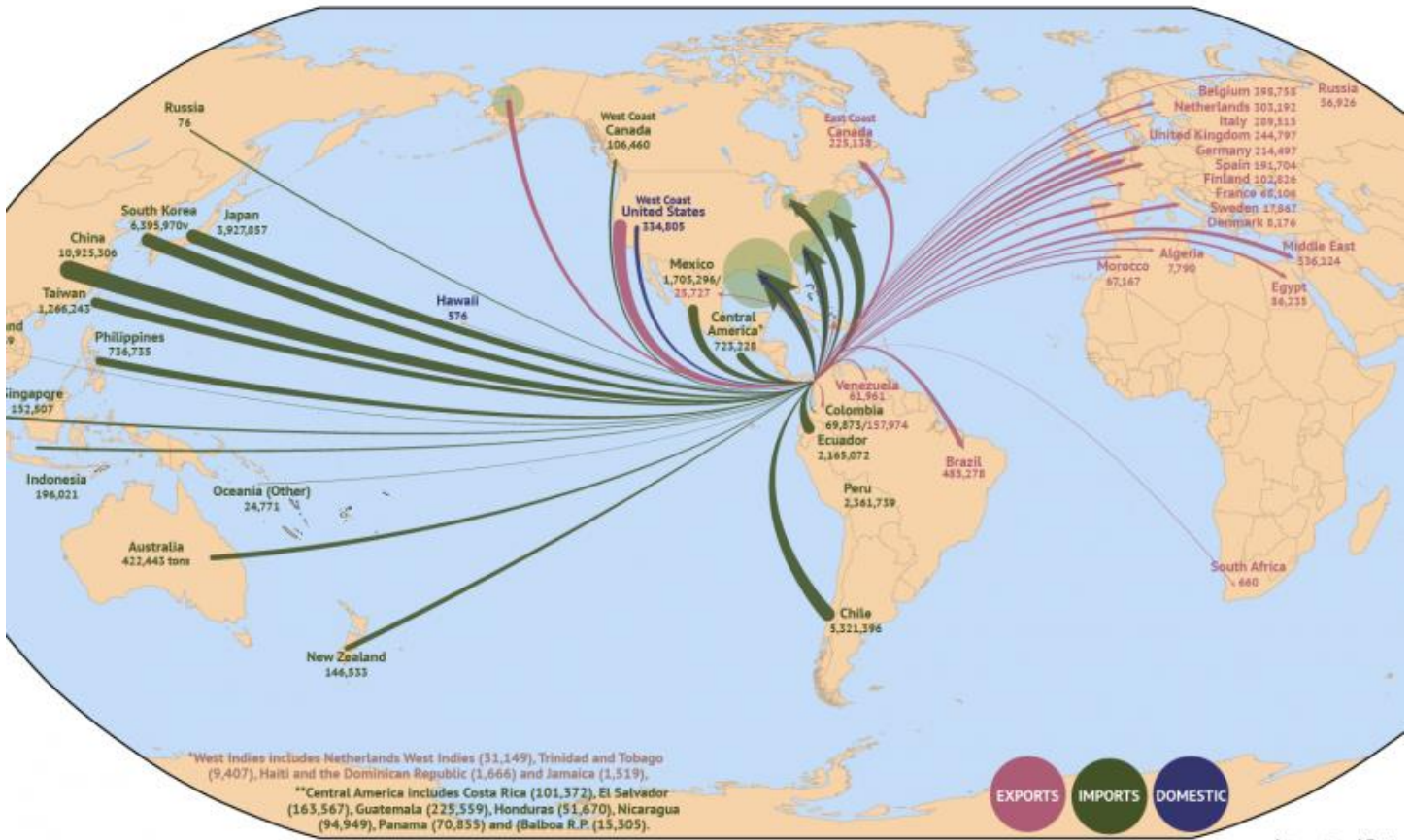
The U.S. offers Colombia \$10,000,000 and a rental fee of \$250,000/year to build the canal in Panama (which at the time was part of Colombia). Colombia rejects offer.

TR encourages and U.S. corporations fund the Panamanian Revolution against Colombia (corporate sponsored war). TR immediately aids the Panamanian rebels by sending the USS Nashville (gunboat diplomacy) to turn away the Colombian Army.

The Panama Canal is finished in 1914. The US gives back the canal to Panama on January 1, 2000.

Which PERMS?

U.S. TRADE ROUTED THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL



THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY

BACKGROUND

The Monroe Doctrine (1823)

- The western hemisphere is closed to further colonization
- The U.S. promises to stay out of European affairs
- Any attack on an independent nation in South or Central America will be considered an attack on the U.S.

In the early 1900's many Caribbean nations were defaulting on their loans from European nations and some were going to be occupied until their debts were paid in full.

TR "The Man" sees European intervention in the western hemisphere as a threat to national security; in turn TR passes the *Roosevelt Corollary* or a restatement of the Monroe Doctrine.



Which PERMS?

THE BIG STICK POLICY

TR's "The Man" foreign policy. Based on an old African proverb

"Speak softly and carry a big stick"

What do you think this means?

What was TR's Big Stick?



DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

Taft's Latin American foreign policy. Taft would encourage U.S. corporations to invest in Latin America in order to expand American influence.

Result – American economic domination of Latin America. It did increase the production from Latin America, but unfortunately it created thousands of landless peasants who became dependant on the new plantation system of Latin America.

Which PERMS?

Positives of Imperialism? **Negatives of Imperialism?**

Was it all worth it?