

Imperialism

A. Transition from Isolationism to Expansionism

1. America had a tradition of *isolationism* (policy of national isolation by abstaining from international political & economic relations) that dated back to George Washington's Farewell Address
 - a. Washington's Address warned against entangling international alliances
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - b. Despite this tradition, several favored *imperialism* (policy by which strong nations extend their political, military, & economic control over weaker territories) as a means to expand American influence
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - c. The U.S. began pursuing a more expansionist foreign policy after the Civil War, with Sec. of State William H. Seward's acquisition of Alaska & the Midway Islands
2. **Capt. Alfred T. Mahan** was very influential during the late 1800s & argued for increased U.S. naval strength
 - a. Mahan argued that the U.S. needed a strong navy to protect its economic interests in foreign markets
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - b. Mahan contended that to protect U.S. economic & strategic security, overseas naval bases were necessary
3. Some looked toward the Hawaiian Islands as a good acquisition due to its good strategic location, missionary efforts to convert Hawaiians to Christianity, & Hawaiian sugar crops

- a. In the 1820s, New England missionaries who came to convert Hawaiians began settling & started to raise sugar crops
 - (1)
 - (2)

- b. When the Hawaiian king Kalakaua refused to give up Pearl Harbor, in July 1887, 400 U.S. businesspeople, planters, & traders forced Kalakaua at gunpoint to sign a new constitution that gave voting rights solely to wealthy landowners, & renewed the U.S. treaty & granted the U.S. Pearl Harbor
 - (1)

 - (2)

- c. President Cleveland withdrew this treaty, in part, due to the opposition to annexation by most native Hawaiians, but American sentiment for annexation remained strong
- 4. In 1895, Japan seized vast Chinese territories after defeating China, which resulted in several European countries carving out *spheres of influence* (regions where a country has exclusive rights over mines, railroads, & trade) in China
 - a. In 1899, fearing the U.S. might be forced out of the Chinese trade, Sec. of State John Hay called for an *Open Door Policy*
 - (1)

 - (2)
 - b. Hay's *Open Door Policy* helped China maintain control of its own territory & ensured U.S. trading interests
- 5. After the onset of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt feared this war might hurt U.S. interests in Asia
 - a. Roosevelt feared a Russian victory might result in the U.S. being cut off from trade with Manchuria & a Japanese victory might threaten free trade in Asia
 - (1)

 - (2)

 - b. Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts here

B. The Spanish-American War – the *Little Splendid War*

1. In 1896, Spain sent Gen. Valeriano Weyler to Cuba to put down a revolt, but being unable to tell the civilians from the rebels, Weyler ordered Cuban men, women, & children into ***reconstruction camps***, where 200,000 Cubans died of illness & starvation
 - a. While many Americans were sympathetic to the Cubans & their struggle for independence, rival newspaper owners William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer sparked public anger using ***yellow journalism***
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - b. On Feb. 15, 1898, the Battleship ***USS Maine***, which was anchored off Havana, Cuba exploded killing about 260 crew members
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - c. On April 25, 1898, President McKinley declared war on Spain after they did not immediately respond to his demand to grant Cuba its independence
 - (1)
 - (2)
2. Before war broke out, Asst. Sec. of Navy Theodore Roosevelt secretly ordered our Pacific squadron to sail to the Philippines if war broke out
 - a. Commodore George Dewey infiltrated the Manila Bay of the Philippines on May 1 & quickly destroyed the Spanish fleet there
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - b. By the time the occupation army arrived, Aguinaldo's forces controlled all of the Philippines with the exception of the city of Manila
3. 17,000 troops set sail from Tampa to Cuba in the middle of June 1898
 - a. These U.S. troops proved to be very ill-equipped for fighting in Cuba
 - (1)

(2)

b. Despite how unprepared the U.S. was for this war, the Spanish were even more inept

(1)

(2)

c. Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt led a cavalry unit of about 1,000 soldiers (known as the *Rough Riders*) toward Spanish forces on San Juan Hill

(1)

(2)

4. After gaining these heights, the Spanish navy made a desperate attempt to escape from Santiago's harbor

a. In the resulting battle on July 3, the U.S. Navy sunk all Spanish vessels causing 474 Spanish casualties, while the U.S. lost no ships with only 1 death & 1 casualty

(1)

(2)

b. The war cost only about 3,000 American lives, which were mostly due to disease & food poisoning

(1)

(2)

C. The Growing American Empire

1. Due in part to the huge lag in time it took the army of occupation to reach the Philippines from California during the war, the idea of annexing Hawaii gained popularity

a.

b.

2. Upon President McKinley's decision to "educate, civilize, & Christianize" the Philippines, the Filipinos led by *Emilio Aguinaldo* revolted against the U.S.

a. Fighting began in February 1899 & did not end for 3 years

(1)

(2)

- b. While in control over the Philippines, the U.S. had English replace Spanish as the common language & U.S. businesses quickly grew, but resentment against the U.S. diminished when President Theodore Roosevelt appointed William H. Taft as the first civilian governor of the Philippines
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - c. In 1907, Filipinos were granted an elective legislature, & in 1915, the Philippines was given the promise of future independence
 - 3. After the war, McKinley set up military governments to restore order in Cuba & Puerto Rico & to protect U.S. investments
 - a. Gen. Leonard Wood became military governor of Cuba, which authorized construction of schools & a sanitation system
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - b. According to the *Teller Amendment*, the U.S. was to immediately withdraw from Cuba once order was restored, but the U.S. wanted to protect its interests, so in 1901, Congress agreed to remove U.S. troops from Cuba only if the ***Platt Amendment*** was made a part of the Cuban Constitution
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - 4. In Puerto Rico after a brief period of military rule, citizens were gradually allowed a degree of self-government & gained territorial status in 1917
- D. Latin American Foreign Policies
- 1. In 1895, President Cleveland used the *Monroe Doctrine* as a means to further U.S. influence in Latin America
 - a. Part of the *Monroe Doctrine* declared that the U.S. would consider any foreign challenge to the ***sovereignty*** (power to govern without external control) of existing American nations an unfriendly act against the U.S.
 - (1)
 - (2)

(2)

- c. President Taft favored “substituting dollars for bullets” to ensure stability & order in Latin America (known as *Dollar Diplomacy*) by replacing European loans with American loans

(1)

(2)

- d. President Wilson embraced “*Moral Diplomacy*” where the U.S. would not seek further territorial acquisitions, but would work to promote “human rights, national integrity, & opportunity,” but no unlike his predecessors he sent military forces to several countries to put down rebellions & establish constitutional governments (sent troops to Haiti & to Mexico to try to hunt down Pancho Villa)