

# Imperialism



# What is imperialism?

- The extension of a nation's power over other lands

# Why imperialism?

## ➤ Three reasons countries became imperialist:

- Economic interests- countries needed to expand their interests into other countries for investment
- Military needs- need military bases where ships could refuel make repairs
- Ideology- countries thought it was their right to spread their countries ideas to others, thought their culture was superior to others

# US becomes an imperialist nation

- US became involved in Hawaii for its sugar plantations
  - US took over Hawaii's government so it could have cheap sugar coming to the US
  - US annexed Hawaii in 1898

# The Open Door Policy gives the United States an equal footing in China.

- European powers gained **spheres of influence** in China.
- The United States feared it would be shut out of the valuable China trade.
- Secretary of State John Hay proposed the Open Door Policy, giving all nations equal trading rights in China.
- Increased foreign presence in China led to the Boxer Rebellion.
- Western nations cooperated to quell the rebellion and continue exploitation of Chinese trade.

# The Spanish-American War



# Simmering Unrest in Cuba

- Cubans launched a series of revolts against Spain beginning in 1868
- **José Martí** moved to the US, a Cuban leader, to try and get sympathy from US citizens
- Martí returned to Cuba to participate in a revolt in February 1895 but was killed, becoming a hero instantly.
- The Spanish General used ruthless tactics to suppress the revolt, further angering Cubans and swaying American sentiment to the side of the rebels.

# Americans Get War Fever

- Newspapers reported the uprising with dramatic headlines and articles.
- A letter written by the Spanish minister to the U.S., Enrique Dupuy de Lome, which ridiculed President McKinley, was published by the *New York Journal*.
- The battleship USS *Maine* blew up in Havana harbor, killing 260 American sailors.
- Although there was no proof, the explosion was blamed on a Spanish mine, galvanizing U.S. support for war with Spain.



# The Course of the War

## The Philippines

- Future President Theodore Roosevelt sent Commodore **George Dewey** orders to prepare for war against Spain.
- Dewey engaged the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.
- Steel- and iron-hulled U.S. ships helped to defeat the Spaniards.
- Filipino rebels, led by **Emilio Aguinaldo**, had already been fighting Spain.
- Surrounded by Dewey (at sea) and Aguinaldo (on land), Spanish forces surrendered.

## Cuba

- U.S. War Department was unprepared for war in Cuba.
- American strategy was to control the port city of Santiago.
- Theodore Roosevelt's **Rough Riders** helped gain control of the city at the **Battle of San Juan Hill**.
- The U.S. Navy sank the entire Spanish fleet off the coast of Cuba.

# U.S. victory over Spain elevated the American position in the world.

- Spain gave up all claims to Cuba.
- The United States gained territory in Puerto Rico and Guam.
- Spain turned over the Philippines for \$20 million.
- Territorial gains strengthened the military and economic position of the United States.

# Annexing the Philippines

## For Annexation

- Believed the United States had a duty to spread its values overseas.
- Philippines had economic and strategic value that should not fall into the hands of other countries.

## Against Annexation

- Believed annexation would violate the ideal of self-government
- Did not want oppression to occur; The United States should not export racism and violence
- Some Americans believed annexation would increase immigration to the United States.

# The Philippines

- The U.S. Senate narrowly approved annexation of the Philippines in February 1899.
- Fighting broke out in the Philippines. Filipino independence fighters battled U.S. soldiers for three years.
- Filipino voters did have a voice in government. They were able to elect members to the lower house of their legislature. They could elect members of both houses in 1916.
- On July 4, 1946, the United States finally granted full independence to the Philippines.

# Roosevelt and Latin America



# The United States in Cuba

- The US set up a military government in Cuba.
- U.S.-appointed Governor of Cuba Leonard Wood oversaw the drafting of a new Cuban Constitution in 1901.
  - U.S. forced Cuba to include the **Platt Amendment**. This limited Cuba's ability to sign treaties with other nations and gave the U.S. the right to intervene in Cuban affairs and set up military bases.
    - ⑩ This led to the establishment of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.
    - ⑩ Amendment also made Cuba a U.S. protectorate – a country under the control and protection of another country

# The United States in Puerto Rico

- The US set up a military government on this island.
- Governed Puerto Rico as a territory.
- **Foraker Act** of 1900 established that the U.S. would appoint a governor and upper house of legislature. Puerto Rican voters elected the lower house.
- A 1917 law granted Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship and ability to elect all legislative representatives.
- In 1952, Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth, with power over most of its domestic affairs. The U.S. still controls interstate trade, immigration, and military affairs.

# Preparing for the Panama Canal

## ➤ U.S. Interest

- The United States bought the rights to build the canal from the French in 1902.

## ➤ Panama's Revolution

- Panama was a part of the Republic of Colombia. Revolutionaries were plotting to break free of Colombian rule. President Theodore Roosevelt supported the revolution and quickly recognized the new government, the Republic of Panama. A new treaty with the government gave the United States complete control of the 10-mile-wide Canal Zone.



# Building the Panama Canal

- American work began in May 1904.
- Harsh working conditions, material shortages, malaria, and the yellow fever hampered construction.
- President Roosevelt appointed John F. Stevens as chief engineer and architect. Dr. William C. Gorgas focused on sanitation and health concerns.
  - By draining standing water and encouraging spiders, ants, and lizards to breed, malaria was almost eliminated by 1913.
- August 1914 the SS *Ancon* became the first ship to pass through the canal.

# The Roosevelt Corollary

## Background

- The Monroe Doctrine, proclaimed in 1823, declared the Western Hemisphere off-limits to European nations.
- After the Spanish-American War, presidents backed up the Monroe Doctrine with military strength.
- In 1904, the Dominican Republic could not pay back European lenders. To prevent Europeans from using force to collect the debt, Roosevelt issued the Roosevelt Corollary.

## The Roosevelt Corollary

- The United States pledged to use force to prevent European countries from seizing Dominican territory.
- The United States took control of collecting Dominican customs duties.
- The Corollary was issued without seeking approval from any Latin American nation.
- The Roosevelt Corollary succeeded in bringing more stability to the region.

# U.S. Diplomacy

- President William H. Taft promoted advancing U.S. interests in other countries through **dollar diplomacy**, a policy of promoting American economic interests in other countries and using that economic power to achieve American goals.
- By 1914, Americans had bought out European loans, resulting in an American investment of more than \$1.6 billion in Latin America.