

American Imperialism

Chapter 27

- imperialism
 - ❖ stronger nations extend economic, political, or military control over weaker nations
 - ❖ “colonies”

Manifest Destiny: “Old v. New”



CAUSES

End of the Frontier

- Beliefs
 - “expand or explode”
 - run out of resources
 - labor violence
 - need for overseas markets



International Competition

- need to be a world power



Expansionists

- Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan
 - *The Influence of Sea Power upon History (1890)*
 - control of the sea was key to world dominance
 - need for large navy, defensive bases (Hawaii)



- Josiah Strong
 - *Our Country (1885)*
 - superiority of Anglo-Saxon civilization
 - spread religion and democracy



- Theodore Roosevelt/Henry Cabot Lodge
 - strong nation domination part of natural law
 - “take over or be taken over”

Pan-Americanism

- “Big Sister” policy w/ Latin America
 - Purpose
 - open markets



Samoa Crisis (1889)

- near fight b/t U.S. and German navies



VENEZUELAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE (1895)

- British v. Venezuelans
 - Brits in violation of Monroe Doctrine
 - Brits deny legality of doctrine
 - If Brits refuse to accept doctrine, we go to war



- Results
 - British have no urge to fight...settle
 - Latin Americans happy we've got their back

HAWAII

Origins

- McKinley Tariff (1890)
 - raised tariffs against Hawaiian sugar
 - American planters want annexation
 - to remove tariffs



- Queen Liliuokalani
 - Hawaiians should control Hawaii



Events

- white planters revolt
 - led by Sanford B. Dole (1893)
 - assisted by American troops



Result

- Hawaii declared Republic (1894)
- annexation abandoned for now
- first imperialistic debate in U.S. history



SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

U.S. and Cuba



Why would the U.S. care about Cuba?

ORIGINS

- Spanish misrule
- Wilson-Gorman Tariff (1894)
 - hurt U.S. sugar owners



- Cuba was a colony of Spain

- 1895
 - Jose Marti- led revolt in 1895
 - poet and journalist in N.Y.
 - destroyed American sugar plantations
 - *Cuba Libre!*



Reconcentration

- Valeriano “Butcher” Weyler – concentration camps



- criticized McKinley – “weak”, “bidder for the admiration of the crowd”



De Lome- Spanish ambassador to the U.S.

Explosion of Battleship Maine (1898)

- 266 killed
- Spanish investigation – accident
- American version – submarine mine



Yellow Journalism

- sensational headlines to attract readers – Pulitzer, Hearst
- “Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain!”



EVENTS

Teller Amendment

- once U.S. had overthrown Spanish misrule, Cuba would be given freedom



- biggest problem...disease



- Rough Riders
 - Teddy Roosevelt
 - San Juan Hill



RESULTS

Treaty of Paris (1898)

- Components
 - Cuba freed from Spain
 - U.S. receives Guam
 - U.S. gains Puerto Rico



THE IMPERIALISM DEBATE

The Philippines Question

- Expansionist Arguments
 - stepping stone to Asia
 - missionary zeal
 - access to Phil. markets



- Isolationist Arguments
 - need to work on issues at home
 - foreign workers = lower wages
 - relocation of factories
 - higher taxes, mongrelization



- Results
 - Philippines annexed on Feb. 6, 1899



IMPERIALISM ISSUES

Insular Cases

- Reason
 - which constitutional rights applied to newly won territories
- Results
 - some rights fundamental, some procedural
 - Congress must determine which is which
 - “Constitution does not follow the flag”

Platt Amendment

- Purpose:
 - ensure U.S. influence in Cuba
- Provisions:
 - U.S. intervention (treaties, restore order)
 - free trade
 - naval bases (Guantanamo)

ELECTION OF 1900



McKinley Assassination (1901)

- by anarchist Leon Czolgosz
- Roosevelt becomes youngest Pres. in history



PANAMA CANAL

Legal Challenges

- Clayton – Bulwer Treaty (1850)
 - no exclusive control over isthmian canal
- Hay – Pauncefote Treaty (1901)
 - gave U.S. right to build canal, Colombia rejects

Creation of Panama (1903)

- by “gunboat diplomacy”
 - keep Colombian troops from getting involved in Panama Revolution
- Hay – Bunau – Varilla Treaty
 - U.S. pays \$40 million to build canal

Controversy

- Europeans
 - see U.S. as hypocrites
- Latin America
 - tired of American power plays

Roosevelt Corollary

- U.S. would intervene in Latin America on behalf of Europe
 - “no one messes with them but us”



ASIA

- spheres of influence



- American reactions
 - churches- worried about missionaries
 - business- losing money



- for fair competition for all nations in China



Russo-Japanese War (1904)

- Treaty of Portsmouth
 - Results
 - souring of U.S./Russia relations
 - robbed of military victory
 - souring of U.S./Japanese relations
 - blamed over war payments from Russia

U.S. Japanese Relations

- Root-Takahira Agreement (1908)
 - respect each others territorial possessions
- Lansing – Ishii Agreement (1917)
 - acknowledgement of Japan's "special interests" in China