The United States Looks Overseas
1853 - 1915
In 1893, American sugar planters in the Kingdom of Hawaii thought they could make more money if Hawaii were an American state. So they staged a revolt and took control of the government. You are the U.S. president and now the sugar planters want you to take control of Hawaii. Would you take control of another country to protect the interests of American business?
Terms and People

- **Matthew C. Perry** – Commodore of the Navy who led a squadron of U.S. warships to Japan to open trade with the nation
- **isolationism** – policy of avoiding involvement in other countries’ affairs
- **imperialism** – building empires by imposing political and economic control over peoples around the world
- **Frederick Jackson Turner** – historian who argued that the western frontier defined American history
- **Liliuokalani** – Queen of Hawaii who advocated for Hawaiian independence
- **sphere of influence** – areas where another nation has economic and political control
Until the late 1800s, Americans sought to expand the size of the nation by expanding to the Pacific. U.S. foreign policy differed from that of many European nations.

**America**

The U.S. generally pursued a policy of **isolationism**. It did not get involved in other nations’ affairs.

**European Nations**

Many nations undertook a policy of **imperialism**. They wanted to expand into new territories.
For over 200 years, Japan’s rulers had kept their country closed to foreigners. In 1854, Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Japan with a squadron of warships. Under the threat of this naval force, Japan reluctantly agreed to allow American ships access to its ports.
In 1867, Secretary of State William Seward arranged for the purchase of Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million. Newspapers and the public criticized the expensive deal, calling Alaska a “Polar Bear Garden.” Even so, the purchase of the resource-rich territory turned out to be a great bargain.
In the late 1800s, America was gripped by a new spirit of expansionism.

Supporters made several arguments about the benefits of expansionism.

- Promote economic growth
- Spread American values
CAUSES OF U.S. EXPANSIONISM

CAUSES

- Economic  Desire for new markets and raw materials
- Military  Desire for naval bases and coaling stations
- Ideological  Desire to bring Christianity, western-style culture, and democracy to other peoples

United States expansionism
U.S. expansionists expressed interest in many Pacific Island chains, including Samoa.

Three nations fought for Samoa.

In 1899, the U.S. and Germany divided Samoa.

The people of Samoa had no say in the matter.
Why Hawaii?

Hawaii stood at the center of the major Pacific trade routes.
In 1891, wealthy American planters dominated Hawaii’s economy. **Queen Liliuokalani advocated for Hawaiian independence and tried to limit their power.** The planters staged a revolt with the help of U.S. Marines. They overthrew the Queen, set up their own government, and asked to be annexed by the United States in 1893.

President Cleveland didn’t like the planters’ actions and refused to approve their request. Hawaii was eventually annexed in 1898.
By the late 1890s European nations and Japan were establishing **trading settlements**, or **spheres of influence**, along the Chinese coast. US leaders wanted equal access to Chinese markets, products, and resources. In 1899, Secretary of State John Hay called for an **Open Door Policy** that **would allow all nations to trade with China**.
Imperialism in Asia

Sphere of Influence:
- Russian
- British
- Japanese
- French
- German
- United States

Date of U.S. Acquisition: 1867

Area of U.S. Protestant Missionary Activity

U.S. Expansion

U.S. Influence

Imperialism in Asia
The **Boxer Rebellion** was a violent, anti-foreign uprising that broke out in 1900 in reaction to years of foreign interference with Chinese affairs.
In 1900, the U.S. helped end the Boxer Rebellion in China.

- The Boxers opposed foreigners in China.

- They staged a violent rebellion in 1900.

The U.S. and other powers sent troops to end the rebellion.
President Cleveland was almost literally a cradle robber. He married the daughter of his law partner, at whose birth he was present. When his partner died, Cleveland became the girl's (Frances Folsom) legal guardian. Several years later they got married at the White House. Cleveland is the only president to be married in the White House. Frances was 21 and he was 49. They had a child named Ruth - the namesake of the candy bar Baby Ruth.
Terms and People

- **reconcentration** – the forced movement of large numbers of people into detention camps for military or political reasons

- **José Martí** – Cuban poet and advocate for Cuban independence

- **William Randolph Hearst** – newspaper owner who ran sensational stories about Cuba in the *New York Journal*

- **Emilio Aguinaldo** – leader of Filipino rebels who helped the U.S. seize Manila and later fought the U.S. for Filipino independence

- **protectorate** – an independent country whose policies are controlled by an outside power
Cuba lies 90 miles off the coast of Florida. It had been ruled by Spain since 1492.

In 1895, Cubans rose up against Spain’s harsh rule.

Spain forced many Cubans into detention camps, a process called *reconcentration*.

200,000 Cubans died in camps due to lack of food and poor sanitation.

**Many Americans wanted to protect America’s $50 million investment in Cuba** - including sugar and rice plantations, railroads, and iron mines.
Many Americans were sympathetic to the Cuban rebels.

- Cuban poet **José Martí** led Cuban exiles in urging the U.S. to help the rebels.
- **William Randolph Hearst** ran sensational stories about Cuba in the *New York Journal*.

**President Cleveland**, and later **President McKinley**, tried to maintain neutrality.

When fighting broke out in Havana in 1898, President McKinley sent in the battleship **Maine**.
Yellow Journalism is a style of journalism that exaggerates and sensationalizes the news in order to sell more newspapers. The news stories are also often biased or one-sided.
William Randolph Hearst was the newspaper owner who ran sensational stories about Cuba in the New York Journal.
The Destruction of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, (1898)
The first military actions of the Spanish-American War happened in the Pacific theater. In the early morning hours of May 1, 1898, Commodore Dewey launched a surprise attack on the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, destroying most of the Spanish ships.
About 380 Spanish sailors and soldiers died in the Battle of Manila Bay. Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo then helped U.S. troops seize Manila.
The Spanish-American War in the Caribbean theater.

The war’s focus next shifted to Cuba. Americans were ill-prepared but eager to fight.
Theodore Roosevelt and Rough Riders attack the Spanish position on San Juan Hill (1898), Frederic Remington
Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders participated in the attack on San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898.
Two days after the capture of San Juan Hill, American ships destroyed Spain’s fleet as it tried to escape from Santiago Harbor. By the end of July, US forces took the island of Puerto Rico. Finally, on August 12, 1898, Spain signed a truce. In the final peace treaty, Spain agreed to give up its colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the island of Guam. The United States now had an overseas empire.
The Spanish American War lasted only four months, but it marked America’s entry into world affairs. The war also helped boost the political career of Theodore Roosevelt.
Americans were divided over the treaty with Spain.

**Against the Treaty**

- Taking colonies violates the right to self-government and raises the risk of war.

**For the Treaty**

- The treaty gives the U.S. important bases. We have a duty to spread democracy.

The Senate ratified the treaty of February 6, 1899.
After the war, Filipinos who fought alongside the Americans against Spain wanted independence. But President McKinley decided to make the Philippines a U.S. colony. The bitterly disappointed Filipinos began to fight against their new colonial rulers. American troops were sent to put down the resistance.

The United States was also reluctant to grant Cuba or Puerto Rico complete independence. The U.S. forced Cuba to add the Platt Amendment to its constitution. It gave the U.S. the right to intervene in Cuban affairs at anytime there was a threat.

U.S. treatment of Spain’s former colonies disappointed many people in the United States. The Anti-Imperialist League believed that America should not deny other people the right to govern themselves. Several well-known Americans including Andrew Carnegie, Mark Twain, and Jane Addams joined the League.
The U.S. replaced Spain as the leading Caribbean power.

Cuba did not gain true independence.

In 1902, the Platt Amendment gave the U.S. power to intervene in Cuban affairs.

Cuba became a U.S. protectorate.

One Cuban wrote that Cuba was “as free as a dog on a leash.”
The U.S. faced different challenges in Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

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<th>Puerto Rico</th>
<th>The Philippines</th>
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<td>The Foraker Act of 1900 gave Puerto Ricans limited rule.</td>
<td><strong>Emilio Aguinaldo</strong> led a fight for independence, but was captured in 1901.</td>
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If you joined the military during the Spanish-American War to fight to “free Cuba from Spanish rule”, how would you react if you were transferred to the Philippines to stop a rebellion by Filipinos protesting American rule?
Terms and People

- **Isthmus** – a narrow strip of land joining two larger areas of land
- **William C. Gorgas** – American expert on tropical diseases who helped reduce outbreaks of yellow fever and malaria in Panama
- **Corollary** – a logical extension of a doctrine or proposition
- **Dollar Diplomacy** – a policy based on the idea that economic ties were the best way to expand American influence
- **Francisco Villa** – Mexican rebel general pursued unsuccessfully by the U.S. in 1916
After the Spanish-American War, the U.S. wanted a faster route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. President Roosevelt wanted to solve the problem by building a canal in Panama. The trip around South America was 14,000 miles and took 2 months.
The Isthmus of Panama was an ideal location for the canal. Panama was a province of Columbia.

Roosevelt offered Columbia $10 million plus $250,000 yearly rent.

Columbia’s government refused. They wanted more money.

Roosevelt told the Panamanian people the U.S. would support Panama if it claimed independence.

The Panamanians rebelled in 1903. The U.S. military provided support and recognized Panama’s independence.
Regarded as one of the great engineering feats of the time, the Panama Canal reduced shipping costs by cutting more than 7,000 miles off the voyage from New York City to San Francisco. The canal extended United States naval power by allowing the American fleet to move freely between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
The Panama Canal opened on **August 15, 1914**. The Atlantic and the Pacific were joined.
In 1977, the U.S. signed a treaty that transferred ownership of the canal to Panama on December 31, 1999.
United States businesses bought large amounts of land in Latin America for farming and mining. Cheap foods and raw materials such as bananas, coffee, & copper could be shipped to the U.S. and sold for big profits.

During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt made it clear to the world that the United States would remain the dominant power in the Western Hemisphere. He summed up his policy toward the region with an African saying: “Speak softly, but carry a big stick.” He made sure that everyone knew that the United States would use military force if its interests were threatened. He also reminded European nations about the Monroe Doctrine.
President **Theodore Roosevelt**'s assertive approach to Latin America and the Caribbean has often been characterized as the "**Big Stick,**" and his policy came to be know as the **Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.** This policy would not only prevent European intervention in Latin America, **it also authorized the United States to act as a “policeman” in the region.**
Dollar Diplomacy

William Howard Taft expanded on the Roosevelt Corollary by urging American businesses to invest in Latin America and promising to use military action if anything threatened those investments. This policy was called Dollar Diplomacy. In 1912, Taft sent the Marines to Nicaragua to “restore order”.

Woodrow Wilson also intervened in Latin America. When a revolution in Mexico began to threaten U.S. interests Wilson sent the Navy and when a revolutionary named Francisco “Pancho” Villa raided New Mexico he sent troops across the border. U.S. troops were not successful in finding Pancho Villa.
What did Teddy Roosevelt mean when he described his foreign policy approach as “Speak softly, but carry a big stick”? Would such an approach work today? Explain.