



1898

UNITED STATES

MANILA LADRONES GROLINAS

HAWAII  
SAMOA IS.

EAST PORT MAINE

PORTO RICO

U S. 1898

# AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

1865-1914

Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

When?

1. between Civil War and WWI

What?

1. reflected nation of expansionists and imperialists
  - a. cultural, economic, etc.

Who?

1. Germany, England, Japan, US

Why?

1. Economic

- a. Foreign trade

- 1) increase agricultural and manufacturing exports increase = reversed unfavorable balance of trade (first time since 1874)

- 2) protect our trading interests

- b. New markets

- 1) government should help American entrepreneurs by using US power

- c. "Safety Valve"

- 1) need foreign commerce when US market is poor (overproduction)

2. Ideologically and Culturally

- a. American Exceptionalism/Manifest Destiny

- 1) American possess special qualities—should be spread throughout the world

b. Racism

1) other races are not capable of self-government—we need to help them out

c. Social Darwinism

1) best race will win

d. Obsession with Masculinity

e. Missionary/Civilizing Impulse

1) benefiting the people that are subjugated—giving them “liberty” and “prosperity”

## US Ambitions Abroad: 1860-1880

1. American empire grew slowly over time

a. William H. Seward and his vision of empire

1) come together naturally

2) Areas: Virgin Islands – 1867 attempted to buy them from Denmark

Samana Bay Naval Base – to procure a base in Dominican Republic (fails)

Intervention with Mexico – got Napoleon III to abandon puppet regime in Mexico using Monroe Doctrine 1866

Alaska – bought from Russia in 1867

Worldwide Communication – built transatlantic cable to link Europe and American telegraph networks, extended to Latin America  
Cyrus Field-Financier

2. Other Trends under Seward and Fish (successor)
  - a. Anglo-American Rapprochement – Great Britain and America grow closer
    - 1) Alabama claims: US demanded reparations for ships GB built during Civil War
      - a) British tribunal decided on amount to be paid
  - b. Open Sea Sealing
  - c. Samoa – 1878 US gained rights to a coaling station in Pago Pago. Germany and GB want in and US says “stay out” – Resolution: 1889 three-part protectorate American Samoa – West Samoa(Germany) – GB gets islands
  - d. Sino-American Problems – China upset with US missionaries and business leaders, riots against Chinese in US, suspension of Chinese immigration
  - e. Increasing influence in Latin America – Pan American Conferences held to develop better relations with Latin American countries; but viewed at promoting US corporation
3. New Navy Deal
  - a. ***The Influence of Seal Power upon History*** – 1890, Captain Alfred T. Mahan
  - b. Premise: Get a huge navy and lots of bases to protect our foreign trade

## Crises in the 1890's

1. Expansionism expanded (lol) due to economic depression and the belief the western frontier was closed
  - a. Hawaii – Late 1880's
    - 1) owned by American elite – economy subordinated to US through duty-free sugar exports
    - 2) 1887 – foreigners given right to vote
    - 3) 1890 – McKinley Tariff got rid of duty-free sugar = press for annexation
    - 4) Queen Lili-uokalani resisted and Annexation Club took over by force 1893 (Dole)
    - 5) President Cleveland stopped annexation process, but McKinley gets through under Newlands Resolution in 1898. Hawaiians given citizenship in 1900; statehood in 1959
  - b. Venezuela – 1895
    - 1) V asks US for help with border dispute with GB
    - 2) US, using Monroe Doctrine, tells GB to stay out of Latin America
    - 3) 1898 Anglo-American board divided territory without consulting Venezuela
  - c. Cuba
    - 1) Cuba battles for independence from Spain
    - 2) 1895 – US sides with Cuba mainly because of US economic interests, not based on how Cubans were treated by Spain

- 3) yellow journalists feed on war fever and sinking of US Maine blamed on the Spanish as well as the stolen DeLome Letter that criticized McKinley
  - a) McKinley sent Spain ultimatum and Spain made concessions, but US used force anyway
  - b) April 19, 1897 – Congress declared war and could use force to remove Spain
  - c) Teller Amendment claimed US not interested in annexation, but US did not recognize the rebel government

## The Spanish-American-Cuban-Filipino War (SACFW) and its Aftermath

1. Cubans wanted independence – US did not want Spanish to reduce our interests
  - a. Teddy Roosevelt and “Rough Riders” support Cuban independence
1. US Interests
  - a. humanitarian concerns (not our priority)
  - b. US business and commerce concerns
  - c. imperialistic drives
  - d. Social Gospel – saving others
  - e. Sensationalism
3. Timeline of events
  - a. Spanish fleet destroyed in Dewey in Philippines
  - b. US blockade of Cuban ports hurt Spain
  - c. US attacked Puerto Rico
  - d. Armistice signed August 12, 1898

- e. Peace terms worked out in Paris
  - 1) Cuba independent, cession of Philippines, PR and Guam to US
  - 2) US make payment (\$20 million) – little opposition
- f. Anti-imperialists
  - 1) Mark Twain, Bryan, Jane Addams, Carnegie
  - 2) self-determination, peaceful acquisition of markets
  - 3) potential costs of maintaining an empire
  - 4) unions worry about influx of new immigrants
- g. Anti-Imperialist League – 1898
  - a) unsuccessful – domestic policy divisions between parties, US already annexed the islands
  - b) Insular Cases (1898) – Constitutional rights do not extend to territories
- 4) Imperialist Response
  - a) patriotic and economic arguments – Henry Cabot Lodge
  - b) US would appear cowardly if Filipinos resisted and we did not respond
- h. Philippine Rebellion – 1899 – Emilio Aguinaldo
  - 1) declared Philippines a republic
  - 2) end 1906 – coast clear for “Americanization” of the area
    - a) US subjugated the Philippine economy
    - b) US passed a sedition act
    - c) US vaguely promised independence once a “stable” government was established (Jones Act, 1916)
    - d) rule ended following WWII.

## American Involvement in Asia

1. 1895: Sino-Japanese War
  - a. Japanese won
  - b. increased obsession with carving up China into spheres of influences
  - c. US does not agree and wants to protect US commerce and missionaries
  
2. Open Door Policy
  - a. supported by US – equal trade opportunity
  - b. most powers do not like, even after Boxer Rebellion (US helps put down)
  - c. became major part of US foreign policy as instrument for opening, then dominating markets
  
3. New Power – Japan
  - a. Particularly after Russo-Japanese War
  - b. Taft-Katsura Agreement – Japanese hegemony over Korea in return for US Philippines
  - c. Root-Takahira Agreement (Japan Manchuria for US Open Door)
  - d. Taft used Dollar Diplomacy to stop Japanese
    - 1) used private funds for investment to further diplomatic goals
      - a) built railroad in China – ineffective due to poor treatment of Japanese citizens in the US (segregation, discrimination, restrictions on immigration)
    - 2) Japan insisted on taking over China
    - 3) WWI starts – US could not do anything



## Latin America Redux

1. US continued to assert itself throughout Latin American after SACFW
2. “Pacification” section of Teller Amendment used to justify US control-US stays until 1902
3. US imposed Platt Amendment (1903-1904) on Cuba – all treaties go through US first – US granted right to intervene to preserve independence and domestic order
  - a) troops returned intermittently which gave Cuba no independence at all
4. Puerto Rico
  - a) taken under the Treaty of Paris (SACFW)
  - b) disillusioned with new rulers – US obnoxious and condescending
5. Panama
  - a) Suez Canal inspired building of Panama Canal – US businessmen, politicians, diplomats, and navy all want
  - b) Clayton-Bulwer Treaty (1850) provided joint control with GB
  - c) GB pulled out Hay-Pauncefote Treaty (1901)
  - d) Canal built when TR incited a rebellion with Columbia to form Panama in 1903
  - e) Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty (1903) Panama gave US a canal zone – to be completed in 1914
  - f) Columbia gets money because US screwed it over
6. Roosevelt Corollary added to Monroe Doctrine – 1904
  - a) warned Latin America to stabilize politics and finances
  - b) US became the “international police power” in the western hemisphere
  - c) US frequently intervene up to 1917

7. US-Mexico Relations
  - a. up to 1910, dictator Diaz recruited US investors
  - b. end of Diaz's rule = revolutionaries want to end Mexico's economic dependence on US
8. Last point
  - a. US stayed out of European entanglements
  - b. Europe stayed out of Latin America