

Chapter 10 – America Claims an Empire

Imperialism and America

- *Imperialism* - Stronger nations extend their economic, political, or military control over weaker territories.
- 19th Century, American imperialism, North America
- Manifest Destiny

European Imperialism

- For centuries Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, and Spain sought colonies for *raw materials* and *markets*
- Only two countries left independent in Africa by 1900!
- “Sun never sets on the British Empire”

Asian Imperialism

- Japan hoped military strength would bolster their industrialization
- Sought Chinese markets, competed with Europe

American Imperialism

Three main factors, in addition to *Manifest Destiny*, fueled imperialism:

1. Desire for military strength
2. Thirst for new markets
3. Belief in cultural superiority (racial superiority of Anglo-Saxon)

Desire For Military Strength

- Admiral Alfred T. Mahan – president of Naval War College – R. I. Wrote *The Influence of Sea Power upon History 1660-1783*
 1. Develop modern fleet
 2. Naval bases in Caribbean
 3. Panama Canal
 4. Acquire Hawaii and other Pacific islands

Thirst For New Market

- New technology → more produced than Americans could consume
- Foreign trade = solution to overproduction
- Albert J. Beveridge – Indiana senator & staunch imperialist
 1. Trade
 2. Trading posts
- By 1900 America achieved *balance of trade* and became a leading economic power

Belief in Cultural (Anglo-Saxon) Superiority

- Social Darwinism: free markets → survival of the fittest
- Superiority of Anglo-Saxons

- Responsibility of spreading Christianity/civilization to “inferior” beings
- Ethnocentric

Anti-Imperialism

- Threat to American/Anglo-Saxon heritage
- Morally and practically fallible
- No U.S. Constitutional protections
- Maintaining military too costly

The United States Takes Hawaii

Hawaiian Islands were always important, will always be important for merchants.

Hawaii's Economy

- American-owned sugar plantations imported Japanese workers
- Foreigners outnumbered natives 3 to 1
- White planters profited from close ties to U.S., duty-free sugar
- Forced King Kalakaua to grant voting rights to wealthy land owners only
- 1887 – Pearl Harbor
- McKinley Tariff of 1890 provoked crisis by eliminating duty-free sugar

Queen Is Deposed

- Queen Liliuokalani takes over proposes new constitution stripping wealthy landowners of their monopoly on voting
- U.S. Ambassador John L. Stevens organized a rebellion
- Marines came to “protect American lives and property”
- Queen Lil imprisoned
- Sanford B. Dole (Dole fruit) made president

Republic of Hawaii

- President Cleveland restored Queen (Dole refused)
- 1897 – McKinley (who favored annexation) made Hawaii and American territory without Hawaiian’s vote

The Spanish-American War

The Spanish-American War

Cubans Rebel Against Spain

- Spain was losing its grip on the few colonies it had left around the globe.
- American interest in Cuba revolved around proximity and capitalism – especially the sugar industry.
- Revolution was sparked in 1895 by Jose Marti, who organized Cuban resistance against Spain using guerilla war and property destruction (baited Americans) as his main tactics.

War Fever Escalates

General Valeriano Weyler – the “butcher” arrives from Spain to clean house...utilizing concentration camps to herd together dissidents.

Headline Wars

- Yellow Journalism – William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer
- “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war”

The De Lome Letter

- Enrique Dupuy de Lome, Spanish Minister to the U.S.
- Private letter stolen from the mail and published in New York Journal – criticized McKinley – calling him “weak”

The U.S.S. Maine Explodes

- McKinley ordered ship to Cuba to bring home Americans in danger.
- February 15, 1898 the ship blew up in the harbor of Havana – 260 killed.
- Yellow journalism leads the charge against Spain – accused them of blowing up the ship – Americans outraged and call for war!

War With Spain Erupts

Sinking of the Maine was the “straw that broke the camels back” ... and even though the Spanish government appeased American demands, the American public demanded war.

- April 20th, the U.S. declared war on Spain.

The War in the Philippines

- Americans surprisingly invaded the Philippines first.
- Commodore George Dewey took the capital with the support of the Filipinos and Spain surrendered within two months.

The War in the Caribbean

- Admiral Sampson’s blockade sealed up Spanish fleet

- 125,000 volunteer army, wool uniforms, untrained

Rough Riders

- Volunteer cavalry led by Teddy Roosevelt (resigned as Asst. Sec. Navy) and Leonard Wood.
- Famous charge at Kettle Hill by Rough Riders and two African American regiments.
- Spanish fleet tried to escape, but Americans destroyed them.
- America invaded Puerto Rico immediately following.

Treaty of Paris

- August 12, U.S. and Spain signed armistice and agreed to:
 1. Free Cuba
 2. Guam, Puerto Rico, & West Indies gained by U.S.
 3. Philippines sold to U.S. for \$20 million.

Debate Over the Treaty

- Imperialism – good or bad for America?
- McKinley's "take them all and Christianize them" snafu
- Political, moral, and economic arguments for both sides

Acquiring New Lands

U.S. Involvement in Puerto Rico

*Some Puerto Ricans want independence, some U.S. statehood, and some U.S. protectorate status.

Americans in Puerto Rico

- Commanding Officer General Miles assured Puerto Ricans that Americans were bringing all wonderful parts of U.S.
- General Henry (Military Governor) treated them like children
 1. Limited alcoholic beverages, tobacco, limited freedom of press and tried to Americanize them by teaching them English

Puerto Rican Attitudes Toward Independence

- Many PR's welcomed U.S. intervention until Gen. Henry's tactics
- "Yankee Peril" was also eminent after derogatory treatment by military (acted with heir of superiority)
- Some thought PR should have choice – independence or statehood

Citizenship For Puerto Rican's

- U.S. was NOT going to give up PR because of strategic reasons
- *Foraker Act*
 1. Denied U.S. Citizenship
 2. Gave U.S. President authority to appoint Governor and Upper House members of parliament
 3. PR's could elect Lower House members of parliament
- *Insular Cases*
 1. U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution did NOT automatically apply to people in territories.
- In 1917, Congress extended citizenship rights to PR's, as well as the right to elect BOTH houses of their legislature.

Cuba Becomes A Protectorate

**Teller Amendment* was part of war resolution against with Spain

- U.S. did NOT intend to annex or control Cuba
- Four years after war, U.S. still there, however
- Good/bad results: food/clothes/schools/sanitation/medical feats ... but, there was also political fraud and martial law.

Platt Amendment

1. Cuba Forbidden to make treaties giving up sovereignty
2. U.S. could intervene to preserve independence & maintain order
3. Cuba could NOT go into debt

4. U.S. could buy/lease land on the island for naval and coaling stations

*U.S. Army would not withdraw until *Platt* accepted

**Ratified in 1903, Cuba became U.S. protectorate

Protecting American Business Interests

- Economic interests #1 goal
- Sugar, tobacco, mining, public utilities
- U.S. government in/out of Cuba several times over 30 yr. period
- Guantanamo Bay

Filipinos Rebel

*Filipinos far more set on independence and outraged by U.S. audacity

Philippine-American War

- January 1899 – Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippines an independent republic and drafted constitution
- February – Aguinaldo leads armed revolt
- U.S. took over colonial role left by Spain, including same tactics
 1. Concentration camps rampant with poor sanitation, starvation, and disease. (Hypocrisy? Cuba)
- War of skin color – Some U.S. AA soldiers joined Filipino side
- Three year war, 20,000 Rebels died, 4000 U.S. died, \$400 million

Aftermath Of The War

- U.S. sets up government exactly like Cuban (Gov/Upper House)
- Governor William Howard Taft 1901-1904
 1. Set up schools, hospitals, & improved sanitation
 2. *Thomasites* – American college grads who came over on the U.S.S. Thomas to improve education by conducting classes and training teachers.
- Philippines became independent on July 4, 1946.

China and the Open Door Policy

*Imperialists saw the Philippines as the gateway to China

*Once again, American businessman convince the American government to get involved for their sake, this time in China → MARKETS

John Hay's Open Door Notes

- European aggression forced the U.S. to evaluate it's interests
 1. Open access to China's coastal ports
 2. Elimination of special privileges for any trading nations

3. Maintenance of China's independence

Rebellion in China

- Boxer's Rebellion (1900) – Chinese nationals united to eliminate “foreign devils” from spreading Western culture and “infecting” Eastern culture. Hundreds of missionaries and other foreigners were killed before the united powers (BFGJ & US) defeated them.
- John Hay's second series of Open Door Notes - U.S. would “safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese Empire.”
 1. Reflected 3 American beliefs
 1. U.S. economy depended on EXPORTS
 2. U.S. had right to INTERVENE to keep markets OPEN
 3. Closing an area to U.S. ideas threatened U.S. SURVIVAL

The Impact of U.S. Territorial Gains

*McKinley's winning the 1900 election indicates people favored *imperialism*
Justifying U.S. Imperialism (Economics/Militarism)

Opposing Imperialism

- Anti-Imperialist League – Grover Cleveland, Andrew Carnegie, Jane Addams, Mark Twain.

America as a World Power

Teddy Roosevelt and the World

*McKinley's death propelled TR to presidency in 1901

Russo-Japanese War

- Disagreements over Korean territory propelled two into conflict
- Japan attacked Russia in February, 1904 – destroying both Russia's fleet (original and replacement)
- Japan won, securing Korea and some of Manchuria

Roosevelt The Peacemaker

- Japan's ventures nearly bankrupted them, so they asked TR to intervene to help mediate conflict – Portsmouth, NH 1905
- Japan wanted \$/Sakhalin Island, got ½ Sakhalin Island, & Russia's Manchurian/Korean interests.
- TR given 1906 Nobel Peace Prize

Relations With Japan

- Very diplomatic and respectful of each other
- Great White Fleet

Panama Canal

- Needed for commercial/military efficiency
- Two routes considered – Nicaragua or Columbia
- U.S. chose Columbia (it's province, Panama) but couldn't agree \$
- U.S. helped organize rebellion/supported with war ships
- Post-Panamanian Independence, U.S. signed treaty with Panama - \$10 million up front, plus annual \$250,000 rent.

Constructing The Canal

- One of the greatest engineering feats ever, 1904-1914.
- Cost the U.S. \$380 million.
- Employed 10's of thousands of workers, 5,600 of which died.

The Roosevelt Corollary

- "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."
- European powers must not intervene in Western Hemisphere
- America may be forced to exercise "police power" on occasion

Dollar Diplomacy

- Nicaragua – propping up of Diaz government, marine presence
- Using the U.S. government to guarantee loans made to foreign countries by American business people.

Woodrow Wilson's Missionary Diplomacy

- Gave Roosevelt Corollary a moral tone ...
- U.S. had a moral responsibility to deny recognition to any Latin American government it viewed as oppressive, undemocratic, or hostile to U.S. interests.

The Mexican Revolution

- In 1911, under the leadership of Francisco Madero, Mexican peasants overthrew Porfirio Diaz, their military dictator of 30 years (who was very friendly to U.S. interests, but not his people).
- After two years, Madero proved ineffective, and General Huerta took over. Within days Madero was murdered.
- Wilson refused to recognize "a government of butchers"

Intervention in Mexico

- Wilson used Huerta's arrest of American sailors as a jumping-off point to intervene in Mexico.
- Marines occupied Vera Cruz, an important Mexican port.
- Argentina, Brazil, and Chile tried to intermeditate to no avail.
- Huerta regime collapsed – Carranza became president in 1915.
- Wilson immediately recognized Carranza government.

Rebellion in Mexico

- Francisco "Pancho" Villa was opposed to Carranza government and actually loved America.
- Unfortunately for Villa, Wilson supported Carranza.
- Carranza invited American engineers to operate mines in Mexico, but Villa took them off trains and shot them.
- Villa then invaded New Mexico two months later, killing 17.

Pershing Pursues Villa

- The American public was outraged and wanted revenge.
- Wilson ordered General John J. Pershing to take 15,000 troops into Mexico to capture Villa dead or alive.
- It took too long – Americans and Mexicans were upset and nearly went to war.
- World War I was knocking on the door, so Wilson called off the dogs.