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
   American Samoa – West Samoa (Germany) – GB gets islands
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 Spaid mad concessions, but US used force anyway
   b) April 19, 1897 – Congress declared free 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 protest 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
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 = revolutionaires 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