Chapter 21: An Emerging World Power
1877-1914

Upon completion of Chapter 21 you should be able to:

- Explain how economic incentives affected Americans’ interest in overseas expansion.
- Evaluate & discuss the causes and consequences of the Spanish-American War.
- Explain & assess President Wilson’s attempts to reconcile America’s foreign policy with the nation’s political ideals.
- Describe the emergence of an American foreign policy between 1877 & 1914.
Section 1: The Roots of Expansion

Why did the United States lapse into diplomatic isolation from 1865-1877?

- Lacked a clear purpose in world affairs
- Internal expansion and improvements consumed the nation’s interest & resources.
- Geographic isolation
- Not concerned with the greatest European rivalries of the period: Franco-German continental rivalry & Anglo-German naval race
- Monroe Doctrine guided U.S. policy in the Caribbean & was the dominant power in the Western hemisphere. Pan-Americanism.

Why did Hawaii arouse American expansionistic interest?

- American evangelicals had been proselytizing since the 1840s
Section 1: The Roots of Expansion contd.

- Sugar
- Naval Base
- 1890 McKinley Tariff blocked an open market to the American mainland & sugar planters plotted to seize the Hawaiian govt.
- 1894: American planters overthrew Queen Liliuokalani & asked the U.S. for annexation. Congress refused and a sham Republic of Hawaii was declared
- 1897: President Cleveland refused again to annex Hawaii. The islands are not officially annexed until 1898.
Section 1: The Roots of Expansion contd.

What were the economic sources of expansionism?

- By the 1880s the U.S. economy was the greatest on Earth. America’s enormously productive economy.
- The acquisition of foreign markets became an obsession
- America was still heavily dependent on foreign capital, loans, & investments. An aggressive trade policy would off set this.
- Secretary of State James G. Blaine questioned, “Shall trade follow the flag, or the flag follow trade.”
- Some sought to redirect domestic economic, political, & social disputes onto the international scene.
- With Canada & Europe, normal channels of diplomacy and trade worked. With “less developed” regions such as Asia & Latin America, more aggressive measure were taken to open markets.
How did the U.S. create an expansionist foreign policy?

- Captain Alfred T. Mahan, *The Influence of Seapower Upon History.*
- Key to imperial power was control of the seas. Mahan advocated regarding the oceans not as barriers, but as “great highways over which men pass in all directions.”
- U.S. should acquire coaling stations around the globe, a canal that connected the Atlantic and Pacific, and a large two ocean navy.
- Mahan envisioned American imperialism as economic based, a consensual imperium
- A young Theodore Roosevelt became a disciple of Mahan.
How did the Venezuela Crisis mark the United State’s entrance onto the world stage as a ‘great power?’

- Border dispute between Venezuela & British Guiana.
- European powers were carving up Asia & Africa into colonies and spheres of influence, what would prevent them from doing the same in South & Central America?
- President Cleveland ordered Secretary of State Olney to send a letter to London demanding that the British enter arbitration, or face the consequences. An application of the Monroe Doctrine.

“The U.S. is practically sovereign upon this continent, and its fiat is law upon the subjects to which it confines its interposition.”

- Britain agreed, and the U.S. forced Europe to accept it as an equal, & to “accept its commanding position and to take its place among the Powers of the earth.”
What was the ideology of expansionism?

- Social Darwinism

- Brooks Adams book *The Law of Civilization & Decay*. “Not to advance is to recede!”

- A widespread belief in the superiority of the “Anglo-Saxon race.” John Fiske, and American philosopher stated, “The work which the English race began when it colonized North America is destined to go on until every land on the Earth’s surface that is not already the seat of an old civilization shall become English its its language, in its religion, in its political habits, and to a predominant extent in the blood of its people.”

- Theodore Roosevelt’s book, *The Winning of the West*. To TR, what happened to “backward peoples” mattered little because their conquest was for the benefit of mankind.

- Frederick Jackson Turner’s landmark essay *The Significance of the Frontier in American History* linked the closing of the frontier with American overseas expansion.
McKinley’s View on Isolationism

“Isolation is no longer possible or desirable. God and man have linked the nations together. No nation can longer be indifferent to any other.
Roosevelt’s Motto

“Speak softly and carry a big stick.”
What did John Hay offer to Colombia for the rights to build a canal through the isthmus of Panama?

He offered Colombia $10 million and $250,000 for a yearly rent for the right to build a canal through Panama and control a small strip of land on each side.
What caused a revolution in Panama against Colombia?

- Roosevelt’s reaction to Colombia’s refusal to approve the Panama Canal. He let it be known that he would not mind if Panama revolted, and on November 3, 1903, they did.

- Panama signs a treaty for the canal.
Open Door Policy

American Influence in China
What countries forced China to lease ports?

- Russia
- Germany
- France
- Great Britain
What is a sphere of influence?

An area in China where trade was controlled by a foreign power.
What is the Open Door Policy?

John Hay’s proposal that China be left open for equal trading opportunities for all foreign countries.
China never wanted foreigners anymore than foreigners wanted Chinamen, and on this question I am with the Boxers every time. The Boxer is a patriot. He loves his country better than he does the countries of other people. I wish him success. The Boxer believes in driving us out of his country. I am a Boxer too, for I believe in driving him out of our country.

Mark Twain; Berkeley Lyceum, New York, November 23, 1900
The present situation is becoming daily more difficult. The various Powers cast upon us looks of tiger-like voracity, hustling each other to be first to seize our innermost territories. . . . Should the strong enemies become aggressive and press us to consent to things we can never accept, we have no alternative but to rely upon the justice of our cause. . . . If our . . . hundreds of millions of inhabitants . . . would prove their loyalty to their emperor and love of their country, what is there to fear from any invader? Let us not think about making peace.
Boxer Rebellion

A secret society, known as the Fists of Righteous Harmony, attracted thousands of followers. Foreigners called members of this society "Boxers" because they practiced martial arts. The Boxers also believed that they had a magical power, and that foreign bullets could not harm them. Millions of "spirit soldiers," they said, would soon rise from the dead and join their cause.
In the early months of 1900, thousands of Boxers roamed the countryside. They attacked Christian missions, slaughtering foreign missionaries and Chinese converts. Then they moved toward the cities, attracting more and more followers as they came. Nervous foreign ministers insisted that the Chinese government stop the Boxers. From inside the Forbidden City, the empress told the diplomats that her troops would soon crush the "rebellion." Meanwhile, she did nothing as the Boxers entered the capital.