

Chapter 22 Outline - The Quest for Empire, 1865–1914

- I. Introduction

Between 1865 and 1914, America grew increasingly expansionist. As expansion became imperialism, the United States became involved in crises and wars around the world.

- II. Imperial Dreams

- A. Foreign Policy Elite

An elite group of Americans shaped foreign policy. This foreign policy elite contended that selling, buying, and investing in foreign marketplaces were important to the United States.

- B. Foreign Trade Expansion

Foreign trade proved important in the post–Civil War economic growth. Agriculture accounted for most exports, but businessmen also sought foreign markets.

- C. Race Thinking and the Male Ethos

Supporters of expansion used theories on race as a justification. U.S. leaders used gendered language to place weaker nations in the low ranks of the hierarchy of power, thus justifying U.S. hegemony.

The stereotypical manner in which foreigners were portrayed in popular magazines, school textbooks, and world’s fairs reflected an ethnocentric American attitude.

Race thinking was also present in attitudes toward immigrants. Anti-Chinese riots in the American West and Congress’ suspension of Chinese immigration caused a deterioration of relations with China.

West Coast Americans exhibited anti-Asian bias in a number of ways.

- D. The “Civilizing” Impulse

When they intervened in other lands, Americans justified it on the grounds that the United States offered these societies the blessings of liberty and prosperity.

Missionaries contributed to American expansionism by spreading American religion, and influence, abroad.

- III. Ambitions and Strategies

- A. Seward’s Quest for Empire

William Seward believed that the nation would eventually establish an empire as the result of a natural process of gravitation toward the United States. To accelerate this process he favored U.S. trade expansion, a Central American canal, a transcontinental American railroad, and improved communications systems.

- B. International Communications

In 1866, a transatlantic cable linked the United States to Europe. This innovation made effective international communications a primary goal of American diplomacy.

American diplomats found that they could enter negotiations with European diplomats on a roughly equal basis.

Improved relations between America and England began with the Washington Treaty of 1871, and other events revealed a rapprochement between the powers.

Meeting in Berlin in 1889, Britain, Germany, and the United States agreed to a three-part protectorate over Samoa. In 1899, the three powers partitioned Samoa, with the United States receiving Pago Pago.

- C. Alfred T. Mahan and Navalism

Alfred T. Mahan's *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History* convinced expansionists of the need for a modern navy.

- IV. Crises in the 1890s: Hawai'i, Venezuela, and Cuba

- A. Annexation of Hawai'i

Americans overthrew Queen Lili'uokalani and asked for annexation to the United States in 1893. Annexation was delayed, but McKinley maneuvered it through Congress in 1898.

- B. Venezuelan Boundary Dispute

A border dispute between Venezuela and British Guiana led the United States to declare its right to intervene. The British accepted the American position to keep the United States friendly in light of an expansive Germany.

- C. Revolution in Cuba

The United States had extensive economic interests in Cuba, and cultural ties existed because nearly 100,000 Cubans had migrated to the United States. When a revolution against Spanish rule broke out in Cuba in 1895, rebel leader José Martí obtained funds, supplies, and support in the United States.

- D. Sinking of the *Maine*

To protect American interests in Cuba, McKinley ordered the *U.S.S. Maine* to Havana. In February 1898, the ship blew up, killing 266 sailors.

- E. McKinley's Ultimatum and War Decision

McKinley asked for a declaration of war in order to advance the cause of humanity and to protect American interests. Congress concurred on

April 19, 1898.

- V. The Spanish-American War and the Debate over Empire

- A. Motives for War

Complex political, economic, social, and military motives led to war.

Of the 263,000 men who served in the war, most never left the United States. Thousands of black troops were assigned to segregated units and continued to have to deal with racism and Jim Crow.

- B. Dewey in the Philippines

The first fighting took place in May when Admiral Dewey's squadron destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila.

- C. Treaty of Paris

In December 1898, American and Spanish negotiators agreed on terms that granted Cuban independence. America gained the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

- D. Anti-Imperialist Arguments

Many critics denounced imperialism as counter to American principles. Others argued that the nation could expand its markets without subjugating other countries. Labor leaders feared that imperialism was bad for American workers.

- E. Imperialist Arguments

Imperialists successfully answered their critics by appealing to patriotism, destiny, and commerce.

- VI. Asian Encounters: War in the Philippines, Diplomacy in China

- A. Philippine Insurrection and Pacification

Emilio Aguinaldo declared an independent Philippines in 1899, starting the Philippine Insurrection that lasted until 1902.

- B. China and the Open Door Policy

Secretary of State John Hay issued the Open Door Note in 1899, asking all nations to guarantee free trade in China. Following the Boxer Rebellion, Hay issued a second note promising to protect the integrity of China.

- VII. TR's World

- A. Presidential Authority

As President, Roosevelt attempted to centralize foreign policy in the White House.

America's economic interests and political influence expanded in Latin America. Some American companies gained considerable political power in Latin America.

- B. Cuba and the Platt Amendment

The Platt Amendment required American approval of all Cuban treaties and assumed for the United States the right to intervene in Cuba.

The condescending attitude of the U.S. military governor to Puerto Rico caused many Puerto Ricans to become disillusioned concerning U.S. tutelage.

- C. Panama Canal

After settling prior agreements with Britain and supporting a revolution against Colombia, the United States signed a treaty with

Panama to build a canal.

- D. Roosevelt Corollary

To prevent European intervention in Latin America, Theodore Roosevelt announced a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine that led to American intervention in the region.

- E. U.S.–Mexican Relations

Porfirio Diaz invited U.S. investment in Mexico, but revolutionaries reversed the trend.

- F. Peacemaking in East Asia

As the Japanese became the dominant power in Asia, tensions between the United States and Japan increased—especially regarding China.

However, to protect the Philippines and to sustain the Open Door policy, the United States gradually made concessions to Japan.

- G. Dollar Diplomacy

President Taft used dollar diplomacy to counter Japanese advances in Asia.

- H. Anglo-American Rapprochement

Rivalry with Germany caused Britain to seek friendship with the United States. British-American trade and U.S. investment in Britain also helped secure ties between the two countries.