Imperialism - Becoming a World Power
Imperialism- What is It?

- Imperialism: is the economic and political domination of a strong nation over other weaker nations
- European nations were looking to establish colonies or protectorates
  - Protectorates: imperial power allows local leaders to stay in control
    - Protectorates take the “advice” of the Strong Nation
Causes of Imperialism

- Historically Debated Topic
  - Religion
    - McKinley’s decision
  - White Man’s Burden/Racism
    - Kind of like Manifest Destiny
    - Taking Over = Favor
  - Superiority of Democracy
  - “Manliness”
- New Markets
One Theory… Desire for New Markets

- Industrial/Agricultural revolution brings a huge increase in productivity
- US needs several things to keep expanding
  - Raw materials for factories
  - New markets for products
- Imperialism was seen as the solution to overproduction and unemployment
The Need to Protect New Markets Led to a Larger Military

- Naval strength the key determinant of success in acquiring and keeping colonies/protectorates in late 1800s
- Modern steel-ship Navy
  - Alfred Mahan: *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*
    - Importance of isthmus canal
- Acquisition of coaling stations
- Larger military tends to create a more aggressive foreign policy
Imperialist Actions

- Alaska
- Hawaii
- Spanish-American War
  - Cuba
  - Phillipines
Perry and the Navy Open Japan For Business…

- Japan was a closed society...not allowing any communication or trade with the outside world
  - President Fillmore forced Japan to trade with the US by sending the Commodore Mathew Perry and the Navy into Tokyo Bay
    - Japanese were impressed/scared of American technology
      - Japan agreed to let US trade with them
      - Japan decided to **reshape their society** to one that was based on both eastern and western philosophies
Seward’s Icebox

- In 1867, Secretary of State, William Seward arranges for the United States to buy Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million
  - Many thought this was crazy
- One of the Greatest Moves…
  - 1959 Alaska becomes a state
  - Land rich in timber, minerals, and OIL!!!!
    - **ALL for 2 cents an acre!!!!!**
Annexation of Hawaii

- Hawaii was an independent nation
  - Allowed United States to have military base in Pearl Harbor
  - But… by the mid 1800’s most of the businesses were owned by Americans (Sugar Plantations)
- Cry for Annexation
  - Businesses are American
  - Many immigrants (Japanese)
  - Native Population decreasing (disease)
Wealthy business owners with the help of US Marines overthrow the government of Hawaii

- Mr. Dole
- Created the Republic of Hawaii in 1894
  - Which was annexed by the United States on August 12, 1898

Hawaii became a state in 1959
Main Causes for the Spanish-American War

- Cuban Independence
- Protect US investments in Cuba
- Yellow Journalism
- USS Maine

**Bottom Line**: many Americans want a war
  - Spain is the easiest target
    - A corrupt weakened European colonial power
Cuba Libre!!

- Cubans rebel against Spain
  - Spain is holding on to last of few colonies
    - Cubans revolting
  - United States has an interest in acquiring Cuba
    - Offered to buy it in the past
      - “rather see Cuba sink into the ocean”
  - Revolt in 1895 led by Jose Marti
    - Poet and journalist
- War destroys lots of American businesses
  - US has large business interests in Cuba (Sugar)
    - Cuba produced 1/3 of world’s sugar
  - American public opinion is split
    - Businessmen want the war to stop
    - Most other Americans support the fight for liberty
Cuba Libre!!

- Spain Responds
  - **General Valeriano Weyler** is sent to restore order
    - Puts much of the population into concentration camps, so that they will not assist the rebels
      - Thousands die in the camps
    - Yellow Journalism….
Yellow Journalism

- **Yellow Journalism**
  - William Randolph Hearst v. Joseph Pulitzer
    - (New York Journal) (New York World)
      - Have a war over who can sell the most newspapers
      - Exaggerate accounts of the war
        - Leads to American sympathy for the rebels, and a greater cry for American intervention
        - “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war”
  - The **De Lome Letter**
Last Straw... Remember the Maine!!

- USS Maine blew up in Havana Harbor (Cuba) killing 260 men, on Feb. 15 1898
  - Yellow Journalism....
    - Pulitzer- “The warship Maine was split in two by an enemy’s secret infernal machine.”
    - Hearst- Offers a reward of $50,000 for the capture of the Spaniards who committed the act
  - War is now inevitable
War Begins in the Philippines…

- US gave Spain an ultimatum
  - Spain agreed to most, but the ultimatum is a formality, the US is going to war
- April 11, 1898 McKinley asked Congress to declare war, and on April 20, 1898 war was declared on Spain
- War was a 2 front war
  - Pacific Theater
  - Cuba
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt anticipated war
  - Ordered American fleet in Pacific, led by Commodore Dewey, to prepare for war
  - Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila when war was declared
- Philippines under US control
War in the Caribbean
The War is On…

- US has a strong navy
- US, however, has a weak army supplemented by an even weaker/unorganized volunteer force
  - 125,000 volunteers
  - Poorly supplied
  - Commanded by Civil War veterans
    - “We got them damn Yankees on the run”
American forces landed in Cuba in June 1898
- 17,000 troops
  - 4 African-American Regiments
    - Buffalo Soldiers
  - Rough Riders - Volunteer Calvary Regiment
    - Led by the Theodore Roosevelt
July 1, 1898

- Biggest Day of the War
  - Kettle Hill
    - Taken by Rough Riders and Buffalo Soldiers
  - San Juan Hill
    - Theodore Roosevelt was declared the hero of San Juan Hill, and gained fame for his role in the taking of this hill
End of the War...

- Treaty of Paris
  - Ended 16 weeks of fighting
  - Secretary of State John Hay called it a “splendid little war”
  - Spain gave Guam in the Pacific and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean to the US, and sold the Philippines to the US for $20 million
    - Spain freed Cuba
Analyze This Cartoon:
What is it saying about Imperialism?? How could it be adjusted for today???
Results of the Spanish-American War

- Cuban Independence
  - Cubans are free, but…
  - **Platt Amendment**: gave the US the right to intervene in Cuban affairs at any time
  - Cuba gave us Guantanamo Bay Naval Base

- Filipino Resistance
  - After the war the US decided that the Philippines would not be granted independence…
    - They became a colony
    - Emilio Aguinaldo leads resistance against American troops
    - Thousands of American troops and Filipinos are killed in the fighting

- Anti-Imperialistic League: the US should not deprive others of freedom…
  - Included prominent Americans like Mark Twain & Andrew Carnegie
TR Wields His Big Stick

- US began to assert itself and become more involved in world affairs
  - US is becoming more involved in Latin America and the world
    - US did not want European nations intervening in the western hemisphere
- TR amended the Monroe Doctrine
  - The Roosevelt Corollary
    - America declared itself an international police power, and could intervene
      - Intervened dozens of times in the Caribbean and Latin/South America
        - US became known as the “Bad Neighbor”
US Exerting Power in Asia

- China is economically controlled by European powers
  - **Spheres of Influence**: areas where foreign powers claimed economic privileges
  - **Open Door Policy**: US proposed that no one single country have a monopoly of trade with China
Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)

- War between imperial powers
  - Russia declares war on Japan
    - Both were competing for Korea
  - Japan shocks the world by beating Russia
Russo-Japanese War...

- Japan wants to end the war, why...
  - Achieved their goals, now they can only lose
  - Ask TR to mediate a peace
    - Japan and Russia meet in NH
  - Peace treaty in 1905
  - TR is awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906
    - US gains prestige
The World Cruise of the Great White Fleet

- To impress Japan (& the rest of the world) TR decided to send the entire battleship fleet to the west coast & then around the world
Benefits of a Canal
- Save about 9,000 miles
- Commercial
- Militarily

Early History
- 1850, US and Britain agree for the need of a canal
- French efforts had failed in Panama
- 1901, Britain gave the US exclusive rights to build the canal with the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty
Canal...

- Congress had to choose between two possible routes, Nicaragua & Panama
- The final vote was in favor of the Panama route
  - Treaty with Columbia since Panama was part of that country
The Panama Canal

- A treaty to lease the US a 6-mile-wide strip for $10,000,000 & an annual payment of $250,000
  - Columbian Senate rejected it
    - TR was furious!
- Panamanians revolted for independence from Columbia Nov. 3, 1903
- US Navy prevented Columbian troops from crossing the isthmus to quell the uprising
  - US quickly recognizes Panama
Panama,—A New Sister Republic

THE NEWS REACHES BOGOTA—From the Herald (New York)
Panama Quickly Signs a Treaty

- Sells US the rights to the canal
  - $10,000,000 lump sum
  - $250,000 annually
- Panama got control of the Panama Canal on December 31, 1999
Constructing the Canal…

- Greatest engineering project ever
- Workers fought
  - Hot temp.
  - Mudslides
  - Disease
  - Dangerous Working Conditions
- At the height of construction some 45,000 are employed
- During the construction 5,600 workers died
- Cost the US $380,000,000