

IMPERIALISM

Unit 11a Review Guide

1: ORIGINS OF IMPERIALISM

American leaders sought to expand and become an imperial nation for a variety of reasons, but most significantly to have access to natural resources and markets. There were some critics of imperialism.

2: SPANISH-AMERICAN & PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WARS

The United States fought a war with Spain that was about Cuban independence, but led to the acquisition of former Spanish territories such as Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

3: ASIA & LATIN AMERICA

Americans wanted access to markets in China and influence in Latin American. Leaders were willing to use overt military power and economic influence to get their way.



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11a-1: ORIGINS OF IMPERIALISM

BIG IDEA: American leaders sought to expand and become an imperial nation for a variety of reasons, but most significantly to have access to natural resources and markets. There were some critics of imperialism.

Americans have believed for a long time that we are exceptional in the world. This idea has led American leaders to involve ourselves in other countries. Sometimes we think we can fix problems or can teach other people the best way to live or run their government. This idea might go as far back as the Pilgrims who believed that their success as a colony in the 1600s was because they had a special covenant with God.

The most common reason Americans took control of distant lands was to make money. Sometimes they were looking for raw materials. Sometimes they wanted to have access to markets with people who would buy American-made goods.

Sometimes imperialism was motivated by religion. Christian missionaries in the United States travelled abroad to spread their beliefs. Usually they looked down on the beliefs and traditions of the people they met. Hawaii is one example where this was true.

Other Americans (and Europeans) believed that their culture was superior to all others, and it was their responsibility to share their way of life with the lesser people of the world. This idea was nicknamed the White Man's Burden. Clearly, it is based on racism.

An important reason politicians became interested in taking control of territory was to provide ports for the navy to stop and refuel their ships. The author Alfred Mahan argued that great nations need colonies and navies to protect trade. Theodore Roosevelt believed in this idea. Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines all had good harbors.

The United States began taking control of territory outside of the contiguous 48 states in 1867 when we purchased Alaska. Later in the 1890s we took control of more territory by annexing Hawaii and Samoa. The European nations also were involved in imperialism at this time in both Asian and Africa.

Not all Americans liked imperialism. Some believed it was bad to take land that belonged to other people. Some thought it was too expensive. Still others did not like the thought of foreign people moving to the United States after their homes became American territories.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

City Upon a Hill
Social Darwinism
White Man's Burden
American Exceptionalism



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Alfred T. Mahan
Queen Liliuokalani
American Anti-Imperialism League



EVENTS

Seward's Folly
Annexation of Hawaii



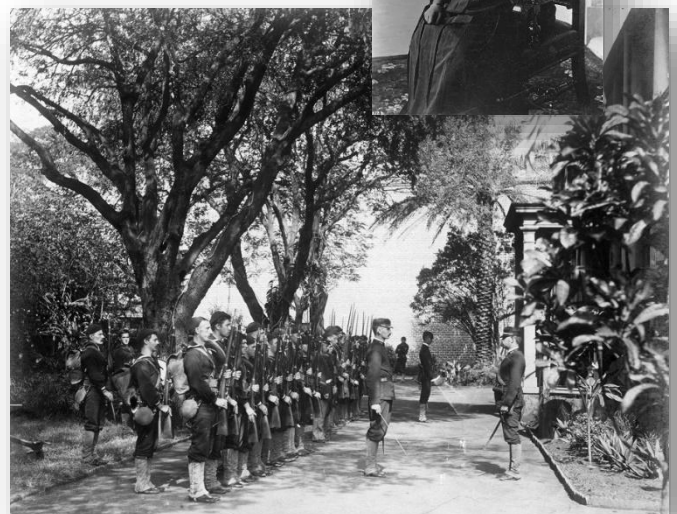
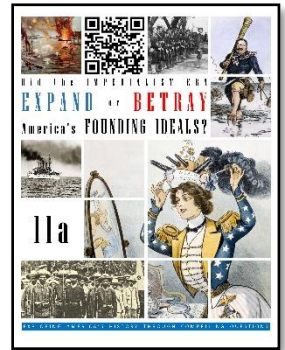
BOOKS

The Influence of Seapower upon History



LOCATIONS

Contiguous United States
Pearl Harbor
American Samoa



11a-2: THE SPANISH-AMERICAN & PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WARS

BIG IDEA: The United States fought a war with Spain that was about Cuban independence, but led to the acquisition of former Spanish territories such as Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

The United States went to war with Spain in 1898 because of Cuba. Cuba was one of the last Spanish colonies in the Americas. Cubans wanted independence, and some people in the United States were sympathetic to the Cuban cause.

At the time, newspapers were competing with each other to sell more copies. Writers and publishers exaggerated stories and used bold, sensational headlines. A popular topic was Spanish cruelty toward Cubans. After reading such stories, many Americans wanted the United States to intervene in Cuba.

The USS Maine, an American battleship, exploded while visiting Havana, Cuba. It is still unclear why the explosion happened, but Americans blamed the Spanish and demanded war.

As part of the declaration of war, Congress passed a law stating that it would not make Cuba an American colony.

The Spanish-American War was a lopsided victory for the United States. American ships destroyed the Spanish fleet in the Philippines and American troops overran the Spanish troops in Cuba. Theodore Roosevelt became a national hero while leading his men in battle in Cuba.

True to their promise, the United States allowed Cuba to become independent, but passed a law saying that they would intervene if there were problems in Cuba. In this way, Cuba was always mostly, but not entirely independent.

As a result of the war, the United States took control of the Spanish territories of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

The Filipinos had also been fighting for independence when the war broke out. Filipino leaders thought that the war would lead to independence the same that it had for Cuba. However, after defeating the Spanish, the Americans stayed. The Filipino freedom fighters began a rebellion against American rule. A bloody conflict resulted.

In the end, Americans captured Emilio Aguinaldo, the leader of the Filipino resistance and the rebellion ended. The Filipinos agreed to a deal in which the Americans maintained control of the country but allowed the Filipinos to make many of their own decisions. The United States kept the Philippines as a colony for about 50 years.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Remember the Maine
Splendid Little War



PEOPLE & GROUPS

José Martí
George Dewey
Rough Riders
Smoked Yankees
William Howard Taft
Emilio Aguinaldo
Mark Twain



TREATIES & LAWS

Teller Amendment
Jones Act
Treaty of Manila
Treaty of Paris of 1898
Platt Amendment



SHIPS

USS Maine



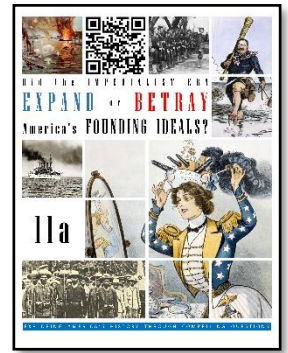
LOCATIONS

Cuba
Havana
Puerto Rico
Guam
Philippines



EVENTS

Explosion of the USS Maine
Spanish-American War
Battle of Manila
Philippine-American War



11a-3: ASIA & LATIN AMERICA

BIG IDEA: Americans wanted access to markets in China and influence in Latin American. Leaders were willing to use overt military power and economic influence to get their way.

European powers had been interested in having control in China for many years. There were important markets with lots of customers in China. Instead of taking full control and making China a colony, Europeans carved up China into zones. These spheres of influence were places where only businesses from one country could operate. The British controlled Shanghai, for example.

The United States did not like this arrangement. American leaders declared an Open Door Policy. They said that Europeans had to let American companies do business anywhere they wanted.

Some leaders in China objected to the control Europeans and Americans had in their country. In one case, a group called the Boxers launched a rebellion and the Europeans and American had to send 2,000 soldiers to defeat them.

During the early 1900s, three American presidents dealt with issues related to imperialism. The first was Theodore Roosevelt. His approach was nicknamed the Big Stick. He believed that he could use American military power (usually the navy) to intimidate less powerful nations. One example was when he sent the navy to Panama to support the Panamanian Revolution and secure the right to build the Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal was a major undertaking that was initiated by Theodore Roosevelt. The canal connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and allows the United States to quickly shift its warships from one ocean to the other. It also serves as an important trade route.

Roosevelt expanded the Monroe Doctrine. President Monroe had declared that the Western Hemisphere was off limits to European nations. Roosevelt added his own Corollary in which he declared that the United States would intervene in Latin American nations when there were problems. The United States has done this multiple times. This American policy has not been particularly popular south of the border.

Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to negotiate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

President Taft followed Dollar Diplomacy. He wanted to use American economic power to influence other nations. This led to the development of the so-called banana republics. One notable example was Honduras where the American United Fruit Company manipulated the government in order to pay lower taxes.

President Wilson believed in Moral Diplomacy. He wanted people to decide on their own government. However, his idealism did not extend to American territories. When Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa attacked an American town, Wilson sent the army into Mexico to try to catch him.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Spheres of Influence
Banana Republic



PEOPLE & GROUPS

John Hay
Dr. Walter Reed
Pancho Villa



POLICIES

Open Door Policy
Big Stick Diplomacy
Roosevelt Corollary
Good Neighbor Policy
Dollar Diplomacy
Moral Diplomacy



LOCATIONS

Panama Canal



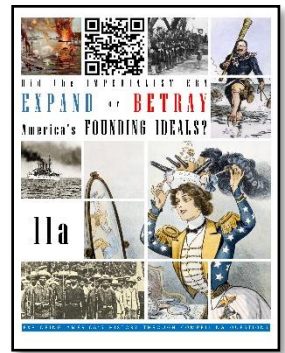
EVENTS

Boxer Rebellion
Russo-Japanese War
Great White Fleet



COMPANIES

United Fruit Company



ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY



KEY CONCEPTS

American Exceptionalism: The idea that the United States is unique in the world, usually in the sense that the United States is better than all other nations due to our history and form of government.

City Upon a Hill: An image borrowed from the Bible by Puritan minister John Winthrop to describe the United States as a model society that the rest of the world should look up to as an example.

Social Darwinism: The idea that people, businesses and nations operate by Charles Darwin's survival of the fittest principle. That is, successful nations are successful because they are inherently better than others. At the turn of the century, White culture was seen as superior to others because Europeans and the United States were imperial nations and had defeated the people of their colonies.

White Man's Burden: The idea that White Americans and Europeans had an obligation to teach the people of the rest of the world how to be civilized.

Spheres of Influence: Nickname for the regions of China that were controlled by the various European nations. Within these zones, only one European power was permitted to carry out trade.

Banana Republic: A small nation dominated by foreign businesses. This nickname was used especially for Central American nations dominated by fruit growers based in the United States.



LOCATIONS

Pearl Harbor: Naval base on Oahu in Hawaii. The United States annexed Hawaii in part to gain control over this important coaling station.

Cuba: Island nation just south of Florida that was a Spanish colony until the United States secured its independence in the Spanish-American War.

Philippines: Island nation in Asia won by the United States from Spain in the Spanish-American War. It was granted independence in 1946.

Panama Canal: Canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It was an important success of President Theodore Roosevelt.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Alfred T. Mahan: Author of the book "The Influence of Seapower upon History."

American Anti-Imperialist League: Organization of Americans opposed to imperialism.

Rough Riders: Nickname for Theodore Roosevelt's cavalry regiment in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

Smoked Yankees: Nickname for African-American troops during the Spanish-American War.

William Howard Taft: American governor of the Philippines after the Spanish-American War and later president of the United States.

Mark Twain: American author of such books as Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn and famous anti-imperialist.

John Hay: American Secretary of State who introduced the Open Door Policy.



EVENTS

Annexation of Hawaii: June 14, 1900 resolution by Congress that made Hawaii a territory of the United States.

Explosion of the USS Maine: Event that caused the United States to declare war on Spain in 1898.

Spanish-American War: 1898 conflict with Spain in which the United States won control of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines, and also won independence for Cuba.

Philippine-American War: Conflict between the American army and Philippine independence fighters after the Spanish-American War.

Boxer Rebellion: 1899-1901 conflict between Chinese nationalists and Europeans, Japanese and Americans over control of China.

Great White Fleet: American fleet of battleships that sailed around the world between 1907 and 1909 to demonstrate American military might.



BOOKS

The Influence of Seapower upon History: Book by Alfred T. Mahan in which he argued that great nations have colonies and navies to protect trade with those colonies. This book inspired Theodore Roosevelt and led to the acquisition of overseas colonies such as Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam and Samoa.



TREATIES, POLICIES & LAWS

Teller Amendment: Amendment to the declaration of war against Spain in 1898 that stated that the United States would not annex Cuba.

Treaty of Paris of 1898: Treaty that ended the Spanish-American War and granted the United States control of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

Platt Amendment: Law passed in 1903 in which the United States claimed the right to intervene in Cuban affairs, to maintain a naval base at Guantanamo, and limited the freedom of Cuba to make treaties without American consent.

Open Door Policy: American policy at the turn of the century that stated that all of China would be open to trade, essentially ignoring the European spheres of influence.

Big Stick Diplomacy: Theodore Roosevelt's approach to foreign policy. He emphasized the threat of military force as a way to force other nations to accept American positions.

Roosevelt Corollary: Theodore Roosevelt's addition to the Monroe Doctrine in which he stated that the United States would act as policeman for the Americas.

Dollar Diplomacy: President Taft's approach to foreign policy. He emphasized the use of American financial power rather than the threat of military force.

Moral Diplomacy: President Wilson's approach to foreign policy. He emphasized the use of American power to promote democracy and self-rule.