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Chapter 10 America Claims an Empire

Global competition prompts the United States to expand its influence and territory, engage in conflicts around the globe, and build the Panama Canal.

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America Claims an Empire

- Section 1: Imperialism and America**
- Section 2: The Spanish-American War**
- Section 3: Acquiring New Lands**
- Section 4: America as a World Power**

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Section 1: Imperialism and America

Beginning in 1867 and continuing through the century, global competition causes the United States to expand.

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Section 1: Imperialism and America

American Expansionism

Global Competition

- **Imperialism**—policy of extending control over weaker nations
- In 1800s, Europeans divide up most of Africa, compete for China
- Japan joins race for China; U.S. decides to expand overseas

Desire for Military Strength

- Admiral **Alfred T. Mahan** urges U.S. to build up navy to compete
- U.S. builds modern battleships, becomes third largest naval power

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***Continued* American Expansionism**

Thirst for New Markets

- U.S. farms, factories produce more than Americans can consume
- U.S. needs raw materials, new markets for goods

- Foreign trade: solution to overproduction, unemployment, depression

Belief in Cultural Superiority

- Some combine Social Darwinism, belief in superiority of Anglo-Saxons
- Argue U.S. has duty to Christianize, civilize “inferior peoples”

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The United States Acquires Alaska

Early Expansion

- **William Seward**—Secretary of State under Lincoln, Johnson
- 1867, arranges purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million
 - has trouble convincing House to fund purchase
 - Alaska called “Seward’s Icebox,” “Seward’s Folly”
- Alaska rich in timber, minerals, oil

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The United States Takes Hawaii

The Cry for Annexation

- Since 1790s, U.S. merchants stop in Hawaii on way to China, India
- 1820s, Yankee missionaries found schools, churches on islands
- Mid-1800s, American-owned sugar plantations 75% of islands’ wealth
- 1887, U.S. pressures Hawaii to allow naval base at **Pearl Harbor**
 - becomes refueling station
- 1890 McKinley Tariff eliminates duty-free status of Hawaiian sugar
- Planters call for U.S. to annex islands so will not have to pay duty

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Continued **The United States Takes Hawaii**

The End of a Monarchy

- 1887, businessmen force King Kalakaua to limit vote to landowners
- **Queen Liliuokalani** tries to remove landowning requirement
- With help of marines, business groups overthrow queen
- Set up government headed by **Sanford B. Dole**
- President Cleveland cannot make Dole surrender power to queen
 - recognizes Republic of Hawaii
- Under President McKinley, Congress proclaims Hawaii U.S. territory

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Section 2: The Spanish-American War

In 1898, the United States goes to war to help Cuba win its independence from Spain.

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Section 2: The Spanish-American War

Cubans Rebel Against Spain

American Interest in Cuba

- U.S. long interested in Cuba; wants to buy Cuba from Spain
- During 1868–1878 war for independence, American sympathies with Cuba
- 1886 abolition of slavery leads to U.S. investment in sugar cane

The Second War for Independence

- **José Martí**—poet, journalist—launches second revolution in 1895
- Guerrilla campaign destroys American-owned sugar mills, plantations
- U. S. public opinion split:
 - business wants to support Spain
 - others favor Cuban cause

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War Fever Escalates

Spain Takes Action

- 1896, General **Valeriano Weyler** sent to Cuba to restore order
- Puts about 300,000 Cubans in concentration camps

Headline Wars

- Newspapers exploit Weyler's actions in circulation war
- **Yellow journalism**—sensational writing used to lure, enrage readers

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Continued War Fever Escalates

The de Lôme Letter

- Headlines increase American sympathy for independent Cuba
- McKinley wants to avoid war, tries diplomacy to resolve crisis
- Private letter by Spanish minister Enrique Dupuy de Lôme published
 - calls McKinley weak, swayed by public
- Spain apologizes, de Lôme resigns; American public angry

The U.S.S. Maine Explodes

- **U.S.S. Maine** sent to pick up U.S. citizens, protect U.S. property
- Ship blows up in Havana harbor; newspapers blame Spain

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War with Spain Erupts

The U.S. Declares War

- Spain agrees to most U.S. demands, public opinion still favors war
- U.S. declares war April 1898

The War in the Philippines

- First battle with Spain occurs in Spanish colony of the Philippines
- Commodore **George Dewey** destroys Spanish fleet in Manila harbor
- Filipinos, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, support Dewey
- August 1898, Spanish troops in Manila surrender to U.S.

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Continued War with Spain Erupts

The War in the Caribbean

- U.S. blockades Cuba; Spanish fleet in Santiago de Cuba harbor
- Unlike navy, U.S. army has small professional force, many volunteers
- volunteers ill-prepared, ill-supplied

Rough Riders

- **Rough Riders**—Leonard Wood, Theodore Roosevelt lead volunteer cavalry
- Roosevelt declared hero of attack on strategic **San Juan Hill**
- Spanish fleet tries to escape blockade, is destroyed in naval battle
- U.S. troops invade Puerto Rico soon after

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Continued War with Spain Erupts

Treaty of Paris

- Spain, U.S. sign armistice August 1898; meet in Paris to make treaty
- Spain frees Cuba; hands Guam, Puerto Rico to U.S.; sells Philippines

Debate over the Treaty

- **Treaty of Paris** touches off great debate over imperialism
- McKinley tries to justify annexation of Philippines on moral grounds
- Opponents give political, moral, economic arguments against

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Section 3: Acquiring New Lands

In the early 1900s, the United States engages in conflicts in Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines

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Section 3: Acquiring New Lands

Ruling Puerto Rico

Military Rule

- During Spanish-American War, General Nelson A. Miles occupies island
- Puerto Rico under military control
- People split on independence, statehood, self-government under U.S.

Return to Civil Government

- PR strategic as post in Caribbean, for protection of future canal
- 1900, **Foraker Act** sets up civil government
 - president appoints governor, upper house
- 1917, Puerto Ricans made U.S. citizens; elect both houses

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Cuba and the United States

American Soldiers

- U.S. recognizes Cuban independence from Spain
- Teller Amendment says U.S. has no intention of taking over Cuba
- After war U.S. occupies Cuba; has same officials in office as Spain
 - Cuban protestors imprisoned or exiled
- American military government helps rebuild the country

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***Continued* Cuba and the United States**

Platt Amendment

- U.S. makes Cuba add **Platt Amendment** to its 1901 constitution
- Platt Amendment does not allow Cuba to go into debt; also stipulates
 - no treaties that let foreign power control land
 - U.S. has right to intervene
 - U.S. can buy, lease land for navy
- **Protectorate**—country whose affairs partly controlled by stronger one

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***Continued* Cuba and the United States**

Protecting American Business Interests

- U.S. wants strong political presence to protect American businesses
- Some object to colonial entanglements, do not think colonies needed
- U.S. state department continues to push for control of Latin America

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Filipinos Rebel

Philippine-American War

- Filipinos outraged at Treaty of Paris call for annexation
- 1899, **Emilio Aguinaldo** leads fight for independence against U.S.
- U.S. forces Filipinos to live in designated zones in poor conditions
 - white U.S. soldiers see Filipinos as inferior
 - black troops troubled at spreading prejudice
- 20,000 Filipinos die in fight for independence

Aftermath of the War

- U.S. president appoints governor who appoints upper house
 - people elect lower house
- July 4, 1946, Philippines become independent

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Foreign Influence in China

U.S. Interest in China

- U.S. sees China as vast potential market, investment opportunity
- France, Britain, Japan, Russia have settlements, spheres of influence

John Hay's Open Door Notes

- U.S. Secretary of State **John Hay** issues **Open Door notes**
- Notes ask imperialist nations to share trading rights with U.S.
- Other powers reluctantly agree

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***Continued* Foreign Influence in China**

The Boxer Rebellion in China

- Europeans dominate most large Chinese cities

- Chinese form secret societies, including Boxers, to expel foreigners
- Boxers kill hundreds of foreigners, Chinese converts to Christianity
- U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Japan put down **Boxer Rebellion**

Protecting American Rights

- Hay issues new Open Door notes saying U. S. will keep trade open
- Open Door policy reflects beliefs about U.S. economy:
 - growth depends on exports
 - U.S. has right to keep markets open
 - closing of area threatens U.S. survival

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The Impact of U.S. Territorial Gains

The Anti-Imperialist League

- McKinley's reelection confirms most Americans favor imperialism
- Anti-Imperialist League has prominent people from different fields
- For various reasons, agree wrong to rule others without their consent

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Section 4: America as a World Power

The Russo-Japanese War, the Panama Canal, and the Mexican Revolution add to America's military and economic power.

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Section 4: America as a World Power

Teddy Roosevelt and the World

Roosevelt the Peacemaker

- Roosevelt does not want Europeans to control world economy, politics
- 1904, Japan, Russia dispute control of Korea
- Roosevelt negotiates Treaty of Portsmouth:
 - Japan gets Manchuria, Korea
 - Roosevelt wins Nobel Peace Prize
- U.S., Japan continue diplomatic talks
 - pledge to respect each other's possessions

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***Continued* Teddy Roosevelt and the World**

Panama Canal

- U.S. wants canal to cut travel time of commercial, military ships
- U.S. buys French company's route through Panama
- Negotiates with Colombia to build **Panama Canal**; talks break down
- French company agent helps organize Panamanian rebellion
 - U.S. gives military aid
- U.S., Panama sign treaty; U.S. pays \$10 million for Canal Zone

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***Continued* Teddy Roosevelt and the World**

Constructing the Canal

- Construction of canal is one of world's greatest engineering feats
 - fight diseases, geographic obstacles
 - at height, 43,400 workers employed

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***Continued* Teddy Roosevelt and the World**

The Roosevelt Corollary

- Roosevelt fears European intervention if Latin America defaults
- Reminds Europeans of Monroe Doctrine, demands they stay out
- **Roosevelt Corollary**—U. S. to use force to protect economic interests

Dollar Diplomacy

- Early 1900s, U.S. exercises police power on several occasions
- **Dollar diplomacy**—U.S. guarantees foreign loans by U.S. business

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Woodrow Wilson's Missionary Diplomacy

The Mexican Revolution

- Missionary diplomacy—U.S. has moral responsibility:
 - will not recognize regimes that are oppressive, undemocratic
- Under dictator Porfirio Díaz, much U.S. investment in Mexico
- 1911, peasants, workers led by Francisco Madero overthrow Díaz
- General Victoriano Huerta takes over government; Madero is murdered
- Wilson refuses to recognize Huerta's government

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***Continued* Woodrow Wilson's Missionary Diplomacy**

Intervention in Mexico

- Huerta's officers arrest U.S. sailors, quickly release them
- Wilson orders Marines to occupy Veracruz
- Argentina, Brazil, Chile mediate to avoid war
- Huerta regime falls; nationalist Venustiano Carranza new president

Rebellion in Mexico

- **Francisco "Pancho" Villa, Emiliano Zapata** oppose Carranza
 - Zapata wants land reform
 - Villa a fierce nationalist
- Wilson recognizes Carranza's government; Villa threatens reprisals
 - Villa's men kill Americans

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Continued Woodrow Wilson's Missionary Diplomacy

Chasing Villa

- Brig. Gen. **John J. Pershing** leads force to capture Villa
- Carranza demands withdrawal of U.S. troops; Wilson at first refuses
- U.S. faces war in Europe, wants peace on southern border
 - Wilson orders Pershing home
- Mexico adopts new constitution:
 - government controls oil, minerals
 - restricts foreign investors
- 1920, Alvaro Obregón new president; ends civil war, starts reforms