

Chapter 20, The Imperial Republic

With a heritage of expansionism, the United States looked for new outlets of imperialism after the possibilities in North America were fulfilled. With the so-called new Manifest Destiny, the US joined European nations in expanding westward.

Stirrings of Imperialism

For 20 years after the Civil War, there was little expansionism, but by 1890, the United States was again interested in expanding its horizons.

- I. The New Manifest Destiny
 - A. Kindling Expansion
 1. Belief that whites should “help” other races “beneath” them like Indians
 2. “Closing of the frontier” scare for resources
 3. The depression and social movements argued for more aggressive foreign policy
 - B. Increasing Importance of Trade—as trade increased, we looked for even more markets
 - C. Europeans were already dividing up Africa, US wanted to get involved; applying social Darwinism yet again to world affairs
 - D. John Fiske, *Harper’s Magazine*—argued for Anglo-speaking supremacy; Josiah Strong in *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis* also tried to justify Anglo-supremacy
 - E. John W. Burgess (Founder of Columbia’s School of PoliSci) said that Anglo-Teutonic nations were the best politically
 - F. Alfred Thayer Mahan—Navy Admiral, in *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* set out the theories that:
 1. Sea power governed what makes nations successful
 2. The US had two oceans to determine its greatness
 3. Sea power depends on domestic economy, foreign commerce, navy, trade routes, and colonies
 4. The US should build Panama Canal and get defensive bases on each side (Hawaii, Caribbean)
 5. Government finally launched a ship-building program
- II. Hemispheric Hegemony
 - A. James G. Blaine—secretary of state for two administrations, organized Pan-American Congress to annex parts of Latin America; little was accomplished but it was the early seeds of expansion
 - B. Venezuela Dispute—Cleveland, interested in Latin America, supported Venezuela in Venezuela/British Guiana border dispute and when Britain ignored them, they began to talk of war and Britain agreed to arbitration
- III. Hawaii and Samoa
 - A. Americans looked for more presence in Hawaii, base at Pearl Harbor
 - B. Self-Sufficient Societies—Hawaii was long established; American-Hawaiian battles were frequent; King Kamehameha I helped US get trade with China in 1810 but US wanted annexation and settlement (sugar plantations, missionaries)
 - C. Americans brought diseases, liquor, and firearms to Hawaiians; devastating society
 - D. G. P. Judd (American) became prime minister under King Kamehameha III, they established constitutional monarchy
 - E. 1887—Naval Base
 - F. Growing sugar was the basis for Hawaiian economy, entered US duty-free
 - G. Americans tried to dominate laborers
 - H. Queen Liliuokalani was a nationalist who set out to challenge the growing American control of the islands; the US eliminated duty-free imports, destroying economy, US planter pushed to become part of US, Liliuokalani yielded to a warship that was helping the American planters’ rebellion
 - I. President Harrison signed treaty for annexation quickly before leaving office; Senate did not ratify it, Cleveland (Democrat) did not support it, 1898 Republicans finally annexed it
 - J. Hayes administration got treaty in Samoan Islands 3000 miles south of Hawaii to arbitrate affairs there
 - K. Acquisition of Samoa—US, Great Britain and Germany formed protectorate but the three-way ruling failed, US and Germany broke it in two and Britain got other territories

War with Spain

US turned ambitions to overt expansion during war with Spain in 1898.

- I. Controversy over Cuba
 - A. Spain once controlled much of America, now only had Cuba and Puerto Rico, Cuba was resisting Spanish control, Americans sympathized with Cuba but did not intervene
 - B. Cuban Revolt
 1. Cuba wanted end to Spanish misrule and had problems with Wilson-Gorman Tariff that devastated their economy
 2. Cubans destroyed island to get Spanish to leave
 3. Spanish General Baleriano “Butcher” Weyler made concentration camps, killing Cubans by thousands
 4. American press misrepresented what was happening, there were atrocities on both sides
 - C. Yellow Journalism
 1. Joseph Pulitzer and *New York World* competed with William Randolph Hearst and his *New York Journal*; catered to lower classes (tabloid-like sensational news)
 2. In a war of circulation (“anything to sell a paper”), they sensationalized the crisis in Cuba and made many Americans sensitive to Cuban revolutionists
 - D. Cleveland proclaimed neutrality anyway; McKinley took a firmer stance
 - E. Possibility of peaceful settlement fell through in February 1898
 1. Spanish minister in Washington, Dupuy de Lôme’s personal letter about McKinley being a weakling was seized and published by newspapers
 2. The battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor blew up, killing 260 people
 3. Americans blamed Spanish (probably was accident in engine room)
 4. War hysteria, \$50 million’s for military preparation voted unanimously
 - F. McKinley tried diplomacy and Spain agreed to getting rid of concentration camps but when they refused to negotiate with Cubans, Senate and McKinley proclaimed war
- II. “A Splendid Little War”
 - A. Secretary of State John Hay expressed national opinion calling the short, low-casualty conflict a “splendid little war”
 - B. Supply and Mobilization—bad supplies, inefficient technology, not enough regular soldiers, National Guard was main fighters
 - C. Blacks unused to segregation who were at training camps in the South (many soldiers were black) had some racial battles at home
 - D. African Americans saw Spanish blacks fighting alongside Spanish Whites and realized the injustices at home
- III. Seizing the Philippines
 - A. “No agency in the American military had clear authority over strategic planning”
 - B. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt was an imperialist and advocate of war; instructed commander George Dewey in Philippines to attack in the event of war
 - C. Dewey’s Victory—“steamed into Manila Bay” and destroyed the fleet there, Dewey was promoted to Admiral
 - D. War was becoming one to strip Spain of its colonies
- IV. The Battle for Cuba (*section probably won’t be on any tests*)
 - A. Basically (neglecting numbers), US changed strategy from skilled forces to blitzkrieg after they lost an easy battle; there was a great deal of incompetence
 - B. General William R. Shafter was commander, moving toward Santiago
 - C. The Rough Riders (*probably important for test*)—nominally commander: General Leonard Wood, real commander was (Col.) Theodore Roosevelt; at the center of fighting Kettle Hill (part of San Juan Hill) was his “great day” when he missed being killed while about 100 of his soldiers were killed
 - D. Shafter was afraid he would have to abandon position near Santiago because his forces were so weakened; Spanish ordered Admiral Pascual Cervera to evacuate; was destroyed, surrender at Santiago
 - E. US meets no resistance in taking Puerto Rico

- F. Armistice ends war; Spain recognized independence of Cuba and cedes Puerto Rico and Pacific island Guam; accepts US occupation of Manila
- V. Puerto Rico and the United States
 - A. Annexation of Puerto Rico—the island would eventually be the most important spoils of the war
 - B. Puerto Rico was discovered by Ponce de León, taken for the Spanish; they wiped out almost the whole native population with disease
 - C. Early rebellions were semi-successful: quickly stopped but abolished slavery and got representation
 - D. After US annexed it, military rule was established followed by a colonial government: US governor and a two-house parliament that could be vetoed by US
 - E. Finally they became American citizens with Jones Act in 1917 (became territory)
 - F. Sugar Economy—planters (many outside the US) turned farmers into paid laborers; sugar was the main cash crop making Puerto Rico dependent on the world sugar prices; instability caused worries, other visionaries looked for statehood
- VI. The Debate over the Philippines
 - A. Debate raged over the Philippines which was thousands of miles away
 - B. The Philippines question—claiming divine guidance through prayer, the ambiguous McKinley decided to take control of the Philippines, basically because there was no other option
 - C. The Treaty of Paris formally ended the war, granted terms
 - D. Anti-Imperialist League—resistance against taking the Philippines was “fierce” from anti-imperialists, especially the rich elite who opposed imperialism for many reasons
 - E. The arguments for imperialism included trade and national invigoration
 - F. William Jennings Bryan, a fervent anti-imperialist flip-flopped, trying to make himself president but failed and just caused the treaty to be signed
 - G. The Election of 1900—Bryan vs. McKinley w/ Theodore Roosevelt in a decisive victory (referendum on Philippines)

The Republic As Empire

The US was now involved in European and Asian politics and engaged in a war with the Philippines.

- I. Governing the Colonies
 - A. Most colonies presented no problems, become territories quickly with citizens
 - B. Cuba was a little different: after the grounds were laid for independence by soldiers, the economy was also largely controlled by Americans
 - C. Platt Amendment—Cuba made no mention of US in its constitution, Platt Amendment reformed it to making the US the arbitrator of Cuban foreign policy (they could make no treaties) and other controlling demands, limiting their independence
 - D. American Economic Dominance—Americans controlled the Cuban economy with absentee ownership; there were some revolts because of the “boom and bust” sugar economy
- II. The Philippine War
 - A. Americans chose not to think of themselves as European imperialists but realized that they needed to use some strength and brutality in subjugating peoples
 - B. The Philippine War is the least remembered conflict; it lasted from 1898 to 1902 involving 200,000 Americans (losing 4,300) and about 50,000 native casualties; the US was subject to guerrilla warfare and ended up using the same tactics of “Butcher Weyler” a few years before
 - C. Emilio Aguinaldo—led the Filipinos against US (and Spain before) and General Arthur MacArthur, commander in Philippines
 - D. A savage spirit permeated the American soldiers as they executed guerrillas and destroyed villages; very high death : wounded ratio among Filipinos
 - E. Growing Economic Dependence—Aguinaldo was captured, claimed allegiance to US, and lived quietly; William Howard Taft became governor and Americans provided roads, schools, bridges, sewers, etc.; economy (fishing, etc.) became linked to US
 - F. Governors decreased control, independent country on July 4, 1946
- III. The Open Door

- A. Europeans were cutting up China, US was linked to it already; now US was more involved in Asian affairs with Philippines
 - B. Secretary of State under McKinley, John Hay issued “Open Door Notes” asking for access to China but no special privileges
 - C. These asked for the following principles
 - 1. Each nation involved in China respected other nations involved in China
 - 2. Chinese officials collected tariffs for everyone
 - 3. The nations did not discriminate against each other in taxes, dues, etc.
 - D. Many countries rejected the Open Door Notes but the US could do little to enforce it
 - E. Boxer Rebellion—a martial arts group called the Boxers launched revolt against foreigners in China; they captured diplomats in Peking; countries sent in people to rescue them
 - F. US had helped rescue those captured, England and Germany accepted Open Door Notes and US gained access to lucrative trade
- IV. A Modern Military System
- A. Because the US military was in shabby condition, McKinley hired Elihu Root, attorney of NY, to recreate the military, he did it in 1900-1903
 - B. Root’s Military Reforms
 - 1. Quadrupled regular army size
 - 2. Federal army standards for National Guard
 - 3. More military schools
 - 4. Joint Chiefs, centralized planning agency based on European models—Supervised and coordinate army establishment; plan for possible wars; Army and Navy Board for cooperation
 - 5. US entered 20th Century with a modern military

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