

## IMPERIALISM

### European and American

#### GROWTH OF IMPERIALISM

- Imperialism - Policy of a stronger nation to dominate weaker nations economically, politically, militarily and culturally to create an empire.
- Europe held control over many countries and lands in Africa and Asia.
- Reasons for this: Economic - need for raw materials (petroleum, rubber, etc...) which came from undeveloped parts of the world, and need for markets to sell finished goods.
  - Nationalism - Belief that ones nation (and it's goals, ideals and values) is superior to any other nation. As some european nations gained empires, many of the others would also compete.

#### GROWTH OF IMPERIALISM

- Military: European militaries were vastly superior, in terms of technology and resources, to those of developing nations. To protect their interests abroad, these nations required military bases across the globe.
- Humanitarian/Religious: Many europeans and americans felt that they had a duty to spread western civilization, including western law, medicine, and religion, to those in other places (White man's burden).
- Britain was the largest imperial power of its day, with France, Germany and Russia also competing for influence. By the 1890s, the United States would also join in the fray.

#### AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

- Monroe Doctrine: U.S. saw itself as the protector of small North and South American nations.
- Manifest Destiny: U.S. had a sense that expansion was their natural right.
- Purchase of Alaska - William Seward purchased Alaska from Russia for the United States (Seward's Folley).
- Opening of Japan by Commodore Matthew Perry in 1853, and trade with China by the 1860s.
- Annexation of the Midway Islands in 1867 for the U.S. To use as refueling bases.

#### REASONS FOR AMERICAN EXPANSION

- Economic: U.S. needed markets for its goods. Industry was now producing more than the country could use. Some Americans even invested in the economies of other nations, or expanded their businesses into these new markets. U.S. gained political power with money. Banana Republics.
- Security: Many felt the U.S. Needed a modern navy to protect its interests abroad. By 1900, the American navy was one of the largest in the world, signaling American intent to confront enemies on the seas.

#### MORE REASONS

- American Spirit: Politicians like Henry Cabot Lodge, and Teddy Roosevelt argued that the closing of the American frontier left America without energy and that a quest for empire would renew the nation's pioneer spirit. Drew on the theory of "Social Darwinism", that white peoples were naturally the strongest and the best, and that such expansion would increase christianity.
- Public Support: The American people supported expansion by the U.S. They wanted increased trade and economic power, but did not see themselves as rulers of people overseas.

#### CUBAN REBELLION

- 1868 - Cubans rebel against Spanish. Spain fights back, rebellion lasts for 10 years until Spain puts some reforms in place.

- 1895 - Cubans again rebel to try and force the Spanish out. Spain sends 150,000 troops to quash the rebellion.
  - Forced hundreds of thousands of cubans into “reconcentration camps”. 200,000 Cubans died in these camps of disease and starvation.

#### AMERICAN SUPPORT

- Destruction of American sugar plantations in cuba by rebels was hoped to help bring America into the conflict.
- American journalists and newspapers published sensstional stories about Spain’s actions in cuba.
  - Yellow Journalism: stories meant to stir public opinion toward a particular goal or position.
  - Jingoism: Intense burst of national pride and a desire for a more aggressive foreign policy.
- Public pressure for a U.S. intervention mounted.

#### STEPS TO WAR

- 1898 - Riots erupt in Havana. President McKinley moves the U.S.S. Maine into Havana harbor to protect U.S. interests.
- American newspapers published a letter by the Spanish Ambassador, Dupuy de Lôme, critical of President McKinley. Newspapers use this to play to anti-spanish sentiment.
- February 15 - U.S.S. Maine explodes in Havana Harbor. The exact cause has never been determined. The blame was placed on Spain, and the American public called for war.
- The U.S. Was also preparing to take action on Spain in the Philippines if there was war over Cuba.

#### NEGOTIATIONS, THEN WAR

- McKinley proposed that, to avoid war, Cuba accept the following terms:
  - Compensation for the U.S.S. Maine, end of the reconcentration camps, a truce in Cuba, and Cuban independence.
  - Spain accepted all fo the terms except for Cuban independence.
- April 11, McKinley asks Congress to declare war, which they rapidly do.

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

- May 1, 1898, Admiral Dewey, laying in wait off the Philippines, attacks the Spanish fleet, destroying it in 7 hours.
- The First Volunteer Cavalry, led by former Navy Secretary Theodore Roosevelt, accomplished the most famous victory of the war on July 1, 1898, as they charged San Juan Hill.
- July 3, as the Spanish Navy tried to escape Santiago Harbor, the American Navy sunk every spanish ship.
- 2,500 Americans died (only 400 in combat) in, what John Hay described to Teddy Roosevelt as “A splendid little war.”

#### YET ANOTHER TREATY OF PARIS

- December 1898 - Cuba gains independence, U.S. Paid Spain \$20 million for the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. These territories would not be meant for statehood.
- The treaty was narrowly approved by the Senate, many senators were opposed to the annexation of the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam.

#### AFTERMATH

- The Philippines thought that they would receive independence. President McKinley did not feel that the islands were ready for self government, and if the U.S. did not take over, that another European country would, leading to more war.

- Philippine leader Emilio Aguinaldo declared independence and was ignored by the U.S.
- February 1899, conflict between Philippine rebels and American forces. Over 3 years of fighting, 4,000 Americans were killed, and 3,000 wounded. Americans killed 16,000 rebels and 200,000 civilians. The islands would not gain independence until 1946.

#### AFTERMATH

- In Cuba, the United States installed a 3 year military government, enraging the Cuban people.
- Even upon “independence”, the Cuban government had to submit to U.S. military bases, and allow the U.S. the right to intervene in the country as it saw fit.
- In Puerto Rico, a military government gave way to a U.S. Civil government. The U.S. granted increasing self rule to Puerto Rico, and granted the island’s residents U.S. Citizenship in 1917.

#### HAWAII? I’M FINE!

- The Pacific islands of Hawaii were increasingly important to the U.S.
- U.S. Marines helped Sanford Dole remove the queen from power in 1893.
- President McKinley supported annexation of Hawaii, which was approved in 1898. Congress felt the country needed naval bases on Hawaii.

#### ROOSEVELT

- McKinley was re-elected in 1900, with Rough Rider hero Theodore Roosevelt running for Vice-President
- September 6, 1901, McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz, the president died after 8 days.
- Theodore Roosevelt became president, and adopted different policies than his predecessor.
- Roosevelt’s policies emphasized American interests.

#### PANAMA

- The Spanish-American war highlighted the need for a shorter route from the Atlantic to Pacific Oceans.
- The Isthmus of Panama was, at that time, part of the nation of Columbia. A French company won a concession from Columbia to build a canal in 1879. 10 years later the project was abandoned and the French tried to sell the concession for \$100 million dollars. The United States finally acted in 1902 when the price fell to \$40 million dollars.
- Columbia was waiting out the concession terms so that they could attract more money for the work.

#### PANAMA

- Roosevelt was outraged that Columbia would try to raise the price or “rob” the United States.
- Secretary of State John Hay made it clear that should Columbia hold out, action would be taken diplomatically.
- Roosevelt and other American officials also encouraged the people of Panama to rise up against the Columbians in 1903. American ships were waiting to provide support to the rebels.
- Independent Panama signed the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, granting the United States a permanent 10 mile-wide strip of the Isthmus to build the canal. The U.S. would pay Panama \$10 million, and the United States would have complete sovereignty over the territory.

#### REACTION

- Roosevelt’s opponents did not like his methods, thinking them heavy-handed and illegal.
- Most Americans, however, felt that the Canal was vital to the national interest.

- Construction began in 1904, with workers from all over the world, many of whom had no experience.
- The Canal was finished in 1914, \$23 million dollars UNDER budget, and 6 months early.

#### ROOSEVELT'S FOREIGN POLICY

- U.S. Naval power allowed Roosevelt to pursue an aggressive foreign policy.
- His policy was best explained by the saying "Speak softly and carry a big stick".
- The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine said that the United States would not use the Monroe doctrine aggressively, unless nations in the Americas were threatening United States interests. Similarly, if a government collapsed, inviting intervention from a European power, the United States would act as a "police power"

#### FOREIGN POLICY

- Intervention in Latin America became common under Roosevelt.
- Santo Domingo (Now the Dominican Republic) was taken over by the U.S. after the island went bankrupt. American bankers took over the economy, the American government took over customs enforcement. This avoided European intervention in the country.
- Roosevelt's actions strengthened the Presidency, while weakening the foreign policy powers of Congress.

#### ROOSEVELT AND PEACE

- Roosevelt wanted to keep an open door policy with China for trade, but conflict between Japan and Russia threatened that.
- 1904 - Russia and Japan fought the Russo-Japanese War.
- After several Japanese victories, it was clear that Japan's power outmatched Russia's. Russia requested peace talks.
- Roosevelt negotiated a settlement between the two sides, getting the Japanese to agree to take small land cessions instead of large payments, and getting Russia to leave Manchuria, which was in China.

#### PEACE

- Roosevelt feared Japan's rapid rise to world power. Japan had beaten China in the Sino-Japanese War and had grown ever stronger, becoming the first non-white power to beat a white power in the modern world.
- For his efforts, Roosevelt would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and kept China open for Trade.

#### REFORM AND THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

- Living and working conditions in the United States had become very poor in many places by the late 1800s.
- In addition, movements like temperance and prohibition also gained steam during this time period.
- Progressive movements were also used to root out corruption in government, and expose problems in society.
- The progressive movements fell into four general categories: social, moral, economic & political.

#### WHO WERE THE PROGRESSIVES?

- Progressives came from many walks of life and political parties.
- Progressives shared 4 main beliefs:
  - 1. Government should be more accountable to its citizens
  - 2. Government should curb the power and influence of wealthy interests.
  - 3. Government should be given expanded powers in order to be more active in improving the lives of its citizens.

- 4. Government should become more efficient and less corrupt so it can better handle its new role.

#### THE JUNGLE

- Reporter Upton Sinclair investigated the meat packing industry in the United States.
- Sinclair's work, The Jungle was a fictionalized account of the industry based on actual research.
- The book was a success commercially, and caused a serious investigation into the meatpacking industry. President Roosevelt pledged to root out the problems in the industry.
- Sinclair's book exposed how conditions in the industry led to public health issues, including disease that killed soldiers in the Spanish-American War.
- Eventually, this led to the beginning of U.S.D.A. Meat inspections.

#### JOURNALISTS LEAD THE CHARGE

- Muckrakers - Journalists who wrote stories (some true some embellished) exposing corruption and problems in government, industry and/or American life. Upton Sinclair was a "muckraker"
- Lincoln Steffens uncovered political corruption in St. Louis and other cities.
- Ida Tarbell wrote *The History of the Standard Oil Company* detailing the abuses and corruption in the oil industry, then controlled by Standard Oil.

#### THE LABOR MOVEMENT

- Unions continued to grow during this time.
- Groups like the American Federation of Labor, the Industrial Workers of the World and the Women's Trade Union League fought for higher wages for workers, an 8-hour work day, and better working conditions for skilled and unskilled workers.
- Often these unions were stymied by court injunctions preventing strikes and government action.

#### SOCIALISTS

- Socialism: A political and economic philosophy favoring public (government) control of property and income.
- American socialists wanted to end the capitalist system and redistribute wealth more evenly, as government took control of industry.
- Socialist ideas attracted a wide cross-section of society, from union workers to progressive women to members of the military.
- Most of these socialists wanted to see change through political means and not through revolution. By 1912, the Socialist Party of the United States held over 1000 local city government offices.
- Most progressives were not socialists, and did not advocate a socialist agenda.

#### WOMEN'S GROUPS

- Women's groups formed around nearly all of the reform movements.
- The National Consumers' League investigated how products were produced and sold, demanding that factories pass safety inspections and pay their workers a minimum wage.
- Women began to demand suffrage so that they could better influence the political landscape.
- Women's groups focused on a variety of issues from temperance to workplace issues to moral issues, but all knew that they would not be successful without the right to vote.

### WOMEN'S ACTION

- Florence Kelly became a crusader for workers rights in Chicago in 1891. Through her efforts in 1893, Illinois passed a law banning child labor, limiting work hours for women and regulating factory conditions. Kelly was put in charge of enforcement of the law, eventually earning a law degree in order to take action.
- Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones) was an Irish immigrant whose family had died of yellow fever. She became an impassioned advocate for workers rights, the child labor movement and unions.

### PUBLIC PERCEPTION

- Many were opposed to the progressive movement including many working poor.
- Many families relied on child labor for money to survive.
- Others were opposed to increased government intervention in their daily lives.

### TRIANGLE SHIRTTWAIST FIRE

- Triangle Shirtwaist Company made ladies blouses in the upper-floor of a building in New York.
- March 25, 1911 - 500 workers in the building when a fire broke out, the fire grew thanks to fabric and trash.
- The building had inadequate safety escape measures. The only available staircase led to the roof, the fire escape was rusted and collapsed under the weight of the workers. Doors were locked from the outside to keep workers in.
- This fire was one of many disasters that highlighted the need for reform.

### PRESSURE FOR GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

- Progressives felt that the government should be more responsible for the welfare of its citizens.
- Many pushed for social welfare programs including unemployment benefits, accident and health insurance, and a social security system for the disabled and elderly.
- Progressives wanted these programs overseen by experts and professionals, not politicians.

### MUNICIPAL REFORMS

- Reformers worked to see changes on how cities were run.
- Many focused on destroying “political bosses” and “machine politics” that stifled change. These efforts were met with mixed results.
- New forms of city government began to replace powerful mayors, including the “council-manager” form, with a strong city council.
- Cities began to operate utilities (water, gas, electricity) in an effort to break control of monopolistic industries.
- Cities also began to provide parks, schools, public baths, work programs and shelters for homeless.

### STATE REFORMS

- At the state level, reformers worked to oust party bosses, and pass laws to increase business regulation and social welfare.
- Many states passed laws for direct primary elections, allowing voters to decide party nominees for office.
- States also passed initiative laws, allowing voters to circumvent the legislature and pass laws by public assent.
- Referendum laws allowed voters to approve or reject laws passed by their legislatures, while recall procedures allowed them to remove officials from office.

### WORKPLACE REFORMS

- Attempts to improve working conditions and institute reforms within businesses met with opposition from business owners who contended such moves were illegal.
- Courts upheld the owner's views, but most would allow exceptions for the government to set health standards. Reformers used this to pass laws and have them upheld in court.
- By 1907, 2/3 of states had abolished child labor.

### FEDERAL REFORMS

- President Roosevelt became a very active and progressive president on many issues. He also used his position to rally American opinion to issues he cared about. This was called the "bully pulpit".
- The Square Deal - In a mining union dispute and strike, Roosevelt forced both sides into "arbitration". He also threatened to have the army seize and operate the mine for the federal government. The workers eventually won a 10% raise and a 9 hour work day.
- Anti-Trust - Roosevelt also vigorously enforced the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, forcing the break-up or reorganization of 42 monopolistic companies, including Standard Oil, whose operations harmed the public.

### FEDERAL REFORMS

- Railroads - Roosevelt won passage of the Hepburn Act, allowing the federal government to set interstate railroad rates.
- Public Health - The Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act required ingredient labeling, strict sanitary conditions, and a rating system for meat.
- Environment - Roosevelt (an avid outdoorsman) urged congress to create national parks. Yellowstone was the first. The President was empowered to set aside lands for national parks.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- 16th Amendment - Authorized congress to collect federal income taxes, allowing for those with higher incomes to pay more in tax. Many reformers felt tariffs increased prices, and hurt the poor.
- 17th Amendment - Direct Election of senators.
- 18th - Prohibition of Alcohol.
- 19th - Women's Suffrage.