APUSH
1890-1909
EMPIRE & EXPANSION
U.S. Imperialism
REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 27
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 19
America’s History (Henretta) Chapter 21
Important Ideas

• Since the 1790s U.S. territorial expansion has largely focused on western expansion.

• In 1893 Frederick Jackson Turner says the frontier is closed.

• The 1890s marks a transition in U.S. history: the United States becomes a global power.
MOTIVES FOR IMPERIALISM

- **Economic**: open up markets abroad, access to cheap raw materials
- **Political**: Desire to compete with other nations
  - Don’t want to fall behind
- **Strategic / Military**: Acquire naval bases
  - Alfred T. Mahan “The Influence of Sea Power” – need to have a powerful navy
  - Building of the Panama Canal
- **Ideological motives**: Idea of the “white man’s burden”
  - Darwin’s concepts applied to international affairs
  - Rev. Josiah Strong’s “Our Country” Anglo-Saxon civilization is superior
    - Must colonize other lands to spread “superior” civilization
In the 1820’s American missionaries go to the islands to convert native people to Christianity.

American sugar and pineapple planters begin buying up land—Dole family.

In 1887 the United States signs a treaty establishing Pearl Harbor naval base.

Various interests in the U.S. want to annex Hawaii.

Queen Liliuokalani advocated that Hawaii should be controlled by the Hawaii people.

Revolt orchestrated by plantation owners overthrows the queen in 1893.

Grover Cleveland rejects annexation, William McKinley annexes in 1898.
Cuba was one of the few colonies still controlled by Spain—Revolts against Spanish rule were becoming more common.

Spanish General “Butcher” Weyler took controversial steps to stop the rebellion.

- *Reconcentration* camps: Many Cubans die of starvation and disease

Why does the U.S. care?
- U.S. investments in *sugar plantations*
- Sympathy for the plight of the Cuban people
  - *Yellow Journalism*: exaggerated reporting

- *De Lome letter*: Spanish official disrespects President McKinley
Maine explodes Feb. 15, 1898
Yellow Press blame Spain for the destruction of the battleship Maine

April 1898 the United States declares war against Spain
- U.S., Cuba, Philippines vs. Spain

Teller Amendment: The U.S. have no intention of taking over Cuba.
- Cuba will control their own government
SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN HAY referred to the war as “a splendid little war”

George Dewey crushes the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay

Theodore Roosevelt led a volunteer regiment called the “Rough Riders”

War ends in August 1898

Treaty of Paris will spark a debate in the United States
TREATY OF PARIS
The United States acquires Guam, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines

Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.
IMPACT OF THE WAR

• Key debate: What should the U.S. do with these newly acquired territories

• Debate in Congress: 2/3 majority required to ratify a treaty
• Anti-Imperialist League opposed annexation of the Philippines
  – Members included Carnegie, AFL leader Samuel Gompers, Mark Twain, etc.
• McKinley favored expansion and Congress narrowly approves the treaty
  – Know about U.S. actions in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines
• United States technically leaves Cuba in 1902
  – Remember the Teller Amendment?

• Platt Amendment passed in 1901
  – The U.S. can intervene to restore peace and order
  – Cuba could not sign a treaty with a foreign power that limited its independence
  – U.S. could maintain a naval base at Guantanamo Bay
Puerto Rico

- **Foraker Act** (1900)- Puerto Rico was granted limited degree of popular govt.
  - Withheld full self rule
  - Congress granted U.S. citizenship in 1917

- Status of places such as Puerto Rico and the Philippines were uncertain
  - Did the rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution follow the U.S. flag?

- **Insular Cases**: constitutional rights are not automatically extended to people in American territorial possessions
Emilio Aguinaldo was the leader of the Filipino independence movement against Spain – Fought alongside the U.S. against Spain

Following the Treaty of Paris he thought the Philippines would receive independence

Brutal guerilla war takes place between the U.S. and the Philippines

Formal independence not until 1946!
Access to China

- The United States was very interested in gaining access to markets of China
- Problem: Other nations had carved up China into spheres of influence
  - Area of exclusive trading privileges
- Secretary of State John Hay announces the Open Door Policy in 1899
  - All nations should have equal trading privileges in China
- Boxer Rebellion was an attempt to remove foreign influence of China
  - Rebellion put down by an international force
President Theodore Roosevelt

- William McKinley is reelected in the Election of 1900
- Theodore Roosevelt becomes President when McKinley is assassinated in 1901
- Under Roosevelt there will be a dramatic rise in the power of the Presidency
- TR will pursue an expansionist foreign policy
  - “speak softly and carry a big stick”
The presence of a canal would dramatically cut down travel time
- Trade
- Military

First attempt to build a canal was by France
- Failed!

Roosevelt attempted to get Colombia to allow the United States to build a canal in Panama
- Colombia rejects the treaty that would have allowed the U.S. to build the canal

TR decides to secretly support the movement for Panamanian independence from Colombia
- Hay – Bunau - Varilla Treaty gives U.S. right to build canal
Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

- **Monroe Doctrine** (1823): stay out of the western hemisphere

Various Latin American countries owed money to countries such as England and Germany
- England sends warships to Venezuela in 1902
- Santo Domingo owed money
- Worried Europe would keep intervening

Roosevelt responds by issuing the Roosevelt Corollary
- The U.S. has the right to intervene in Latin America
- U.S. dramatically expanded its role in Latin America
  - Various Presidents send troops to Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, & Nicaragua
  - Strains relations between the U.S. and Latin America
ROOSEVELT IN EAST ASIA

• TR wins noble prize for helping negotiate a peace agreement ending the Russo-Japanese War (1905)
  – Japan beat down Russia
  – The U.S. increasingly concerned over the growing strength of Japan

• Gentlemen’s Agreement (1908):
  – Laws in California discriminated against Asian immigrants (damn nativism again!)
    • San Francisco required Asian students attend segregated schools (fear of “yellow peril”)
  – TR and Japan reached a compromise
    • Japan secretly agreed to restrict the emigration of Japanese workers to the U.S.
    • TR would pressure CA to repeal its law

• Great White Fleet (1907-1908): Roosevelt sends new fleet of U.S. battleships on trip around the world
  – Demonstrates U.S. growing power
McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson believed in playing a more active role in world affairs.