AMERICAN *IMPERIALISM NOTES
*Imperialism—When stronger nations extend economic, political, or military control over weaker nations
– Like Pacman Gobbling up the little dots
As nations industrialized, they needed 2 things
1. More **raw materials** such as coal, oil, copper, iron, timber—to keep making stuff
2. **New markets** to sell their goods (more people to sell stuff to)
• So they would go to other countries to get those things

• During the 19th Century Europeans were taking over Africa
Eventually *Colonies (the places that the strong countries take over) became status symbols amongst the world powers—signs of strength & dominance
For America it was about MANIFEST DESTINY the new frontier becomes other countries

- Driven By:
  1. Belief in cultural superiority
  2. Quest for new markets
  3. Desire to build military strength
Origins of American Imperialism

• *The Monroe Doctrine
  – 1823—President James Monroe
  – Said America would not allow Europeans to interfere in the Western Hemisphere (North or South America)
    • (it belongs to us!)
THE MONROE DOCTRINE
• *The Spanish American War* (Feb. 1898--Dec. 1898)
  - By the end of the 19th Century the only Colonies Spain had left were Cuba, Puerto Rico, The Philippines, and Guam.
Spanish American War Video (10 min)
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN ACTION

Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.
The Caribbean
• Cuba
  – American Interests in Cuba
    • Protecting American Business interests
      – $Sugar Cane, tobacco, & mining$
  • Getting the last of European Influence out of the Western Hemisphere
• Cuba gained independence after Spanish American War & the U.S. passed the Teller Agreement stating that the U.S. had no intentions of taking over any part of Cuba

• However, in 1900 U.S. Passed the *Platt Amendment insisting the Cuba add it to their Constitution. It stated:
1. Cuba would not make treaties that might limit its independence or subject it to Colonial powers

2. The U.S. reserved the right to intervene in Cuba

3. Cuba would not go into debt

4. The U.S. could buy or lease land for Naval bases or refueling stations
   - Guantanamo Bay
   - Permanent lease--$2000 per year
• U.S. acquired **Puerto Rico** after the Spanish Am. War
  
  • Ruled militarily from 1898-1900
  
  • 1900 Foraker Act—Gave the President of the U.S. the power to elect Puerto Rico’s **governor** & the members of its **upper house** (like our Senate)
  
  • Today Puerto Rico pays no U.S. Taxes but receives U.S. support
• The South Pacific
- **Philippines**
  - America took over the Philippines after the Spanish American War
  - Filipinos expected independence not American rule
    - They **fought back** but were beaten by the U.S.
  - U.S. installed a government similar to Puerto Rico’s
  - Got independence in 1946
Hawaii

- Lots of $ in sugar and fruit
- 1887 white business leaders forced their King to amend their constitution to favor rich land owners
When the king died in 1891, replaced by a Queen who resisted. Called for “Hawaii for Hawaiians!”
• Business groups (backed by the U.S. marines) overthrew the queen & set up a government ruled by Sanford B. Dole (just like the Bananas & the Senator—same family)
• 1898 U.S. proclaimed Hawaii a U.S. territory
• 1959 became the 50th state in the U.S.
Opening up Japan
China (3:28)
• China (The far East)
  – U.S. interests
    • Huge new market
    • Potential for lots of railroad tracks to be laid
  – America’s Influence
    • U.S. feared that China would be carved up & colonized by European countries who would shut American businesses out
• *Open Door Notes*

» Issued 1899

» Letters issued to imperialist nations proposing that nations share trading rights with all of China—so no single country would have a monopoly over any one section of China

» Goal—to protect American Business Interests in the Far East
• Reflected 3 American Beliefs about the U.S. economy

1. The growth of the economy depended on **exports**
2. U.S. had a right to intervene around the world to **keep markets open**
3. Closing of an area to U.S. goods, citizens, or ideas **threatened U.S. survival**

• These 3 beliefs became the basis of U.S. foreign policy
• **Boxer Rebellion**
  – Chinese uprising in 1900 against European & American **influence** in China (Chinese Nativists)
  – Thousands of Chinese Killed
Panama (central America)

- **Panama Canal**—meant that ships didn’t have to sail around the bottom of South America to get to the Pacific Ocean

- Completion of the Panama Canal depended upon a treaty with Columbia (who controlled Panama)
• Columbia refused to sign the treaty
• Phillip Bunau-Varilla helped organize a Panamanian Rebellion
• 1903 Panama declared its Independence from Colombia (with about a dozen U.S. warships present)
• 15 days later the U.S. & Panama signed a treaty giving the U.S. control over the canal zone—American would pay $10 million plus $250,000 per year in rent.

• Jan. 31, 1999, the US turned the canal zone over to the government of Panama.
• **Roosevelt Corollary**
  – Addition to the Monroe Doctrine
  – Said that America would use force to protect economic interests in Latin America
    • Roosevelt said that disorder in Latin America might “force the United States… to exercise international Police Power.”
• **Dollar Diplomacy**
  – Using the U.S. government to guarantee **loans** made to foreign countries by American Businessmen

• Example—**Nicaragua** 1911: U.S. banks loaned Nicaragua $ to get out of debt; however, the U.S. allowed the banks to take over Nicaragua’s railroad system & national bank
• US imperialism was not like European where we openly take over by force. America likes to assert its influence by inciting internal rebellions (that the U.S. secretly or often openly back), which put people into power that will protect U.S. interests.
• Today it’s about spreading influence and culture.
Video  (5:24)