American Foreign Policy in the Gilded Age
19th century “Age of Imperialism”

What is it?

Who’s doing it?

Where is it happening?

How & Why is it done?

What are the consequences?
“Imperialism” – Building Empires

- control by a powerful nation over a “backward” or weaker nation
- Powerful nation = “colonizer”
- Weaker nation = “colony”
Characteristics of a Powerful nation

- **Advanced economy**
  - Industrialized or industrializing

- **Strong central government**
  - One authority

- **Strong military**
  - Large
  - Well-trained
  - Well-equipped
Characteristics of a “Backward” nation

- “Primitive” economy
  - Agrarian &/or extractive

- Abundant natural resources

- Weak central government
  - Or none at all

- Weak military
  - Or none at all
“Powerful” nations - colonizers
➢ Where are they located?

“Backward” nations - colonies
➢ Where are they located?
Why establish colonies?

- Raw materials
- Markets
- Investment
- “Nationalism”
  - power and glory
  - competition
Beliefs & Attitudes

“It is desirable that the earth should be peopled, governed, and developed, as far as possible, by the races which can do this work best, i.e. by the races of highest 'social efficiency'.”

- J.A. Hobson, English economist & social scientist
“White Man’s Burden”

- “Superior” race obligated to help those “less fortunate”
“White Man’s Burden”

- A moral duty to bring the “benefits” of civilization to “backward” nations
“Benefits” of Civilization

- Form of Government
- “Advanced” economy
- “Advanced” culture
- Christianity
Imperialism - How is it done?

- Contract/agreement
- Alliance with local elites
- Exploit weak government
- Exploit ethnic/class conflicts
- Legal methods
  - Annexation, Protectorate, Trusteeship
- Force/military intervention
“Sphere of influence”

- Exclusive cultural, economic, political privileges/control
1823
Monroe Doctrine
China

“Open Door Policy”
United States in the Gilded Age

- Industrialization - markets

Exports
- 1870: $500 Million
- 1900: $1.5 Trillion
United States in the Pacific

- Hawaii
United States in the Pacific

- Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani
Sanford Dole
United States in the Pacific

- China

Open Door Policy
United States in the Western Hemisphere

1823

Monroe Doctrine
United States in the Western Hemisphere

- Cuba
José Marti

Máximo Gómez
MAINE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY BOMB OR TORPEDO


IN A SUPpressed Despatch to the State Department, the Captain Says the Accident Was Made Possible by an Enemy

Dr. C. C. Pendleton, Just Arrived from Havana, Says He Overheard Talk There of a Plot to Blow Up the Ship—Capt. Zaleski, the Dymamic Expert, and Other Experts Report to The World That the Wreck Was Not Accidental—Washington Officials Ready for Vigorous Action if Spanish Responsibility Can Be Shown—Divers to Be Sent Down to Make Careful Examinations.
DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY

$50,000! $50,000 REWARD!
For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt
Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.

The Journal Offers $50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death. Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.

NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.

Hidden Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-of-War—Officers and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown Into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Scout the Idea of Accident—Spanish Officials Protest Too Much—Our Cabinet Orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck.
“Remember the Maine, To hell with Spain”
Spanish-American War
April – August 1898

- Caribbean
  - Cuba
  - Puerto Rico

- Pacific
  - Philippines
  - Guam
Battle of Manila Bay, Philippines

Commodore George Dewey
“Rough Riders”

Teddy Roosevelt
Cuba

- San Juan Hill
- El Caney
- Guantanamo Bay
- Santiago

Puerto Rico

- Coamo
- San Germán
“A Splendid Little War”
Treaty of Paris – Dec, 1898

- Cuba independent
- U.S. ownership of
  - Guam
  - Philippines (for $20M)
  - Puerto Rico