American Foreign Policy in the Gilded Age

“Age of Imperialism”
“Age of Imperialism” – Building Empires

- What does it mean?
- Who’s building empires?
- Where is it happening?
- How & Why is it done?
- What are the consequences?
“Imperialism”

- 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 (undisputed) authority

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

- Undeveloped or underdeveloped

- “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 opportunities
- “Nationalism”
  - power and glory
  - competition
“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
- Create “sphere of influence”
“Sphere of influence”

- Control - cultural, economic, political

19th century “Scramble for Africa”
1823
Monroe Doctrine

“hegemony”
China
“Open Door Policy”
United States in the Gilded Age

- General Foreign Policy Goals
  - Expand American business
  - Extend American democracy
  - “Civilize” through religious conversion
  - Protect American interests

"The civilized nations are beginning to perceive that they have a duty, which is often contemptuously spoken of, to police the world. The recognition of this duty has been forced by trade."

- Robert Spear, Presbyterian mission administrator
Foreign Policy in the Gilded Age

- Industrialization - markets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exports</th>
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<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>$500 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>$1.5 Trillion</td>
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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 Martí

Máximo Gómez
William Randolph Hearst

Joseph Pulitzer
U.S.S. Maine

Feb 15, 1898
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. E. C. Pendleton, just arrived from Havana, says he overheard talk there of a plot to blow up the ship—Capt. Zalenski, the dynamite 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

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

- **Pacific**
  - Philippines
  - Guam

- **Caribbean**
  - Cuba
  - Puerto Rico
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