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'.”
“White Man’s Burden”

- “Superior” race *obligated* to help those “less fortunate”

- 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
- Establish “sphere of influence”
“Sphere of influence”

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

“Open Door Policy”
United States in the Gilded Age

- Westward expansion
United States in the Gilded Age

- Industrialization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exports</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<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
United States in the Pacific

- China

Open Door Policy
1823
Monroe Doctrine
United States in the Western Hemisphere

- Cuba
William Randolph Hearst

Joseph Pulitzer
U.S.S. Maine

Feb 15, 1898
MAINE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY BOMB OR TORPEDO

Capt. Sigsbee and Consul-General Lee are in doubt—The World has sent a special tug, with submarine divers, to Havana to find out—Lee asks for an immediate court of inquiry—260 men dead.

In a suppressed dispatch to the State Department, the captain says the accident was made possible by an enemy.

Mr. C. Pendleton, just arrived from Havana, says he overheard talk there of a plot to blow up the ship—Capt. Zalinski, 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

$50,000 REWARD—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?$50,000 REWARD

NEW YORK JOURNAL
AND ADVERTISER.

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.

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

NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINEx

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”

21. Rough Riders gathered behind the two Colt automatic rifles presented by some of the members of the regiment while they were in camp at San Antonio.
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
American Empire - 1900