

IMPERIALISM

Imperialism is the policy of powerful Countries taking control of the economic and political affairs of weaker countries. The 3 reasons for the growth of Imperialism are (1) economic, (2) wanting to spread religion and culture, and (3) competition. Many European nations were involved with the policy of Imperialism. Americans were against this policy, but the U.S. finally joins in when it annexes (takes over) Hawaii in 1898.

HAWAII

American planters rebel against Queen Liliuokalani. The American planters ask for help from the U.S. The marines are sent to help the American planters. Queen Liliuokalani will be forced to give up her throne and the planters set up a republic. The planters ask the U.S. to annex Hawaii. President Grover Cleveland blocks the move by Congress to take over Hawaii. In 1898 after Cleveland leaves office the U.S. will annex Hawaii. It provided the U.S. with a strategic military outpost in the Pacific Ocean.

CHINA

In the late 1800s, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan took control of sections in China. They controlled the trade in their section. The U.S. proposed the Open Door Policy. This meant that any nation could trade in any section. The countries reluctantly agreed. A problem arises when the Chinese begin to resent the foreign powers in their land.

They set up a secret society. They call themselves the Righteous Fists of Harmony or Boxers. In 1900 the Boxers rebel. They attack foreigners and kill more than 200. They trap hundreds in Beijing. The foreign governments organize an international army. This included 2500 American soldiers. This army frees the Captives and crush the rebellion. The Imperialist countries that controlled the army, used the rebellion as an excuse for taking control of more land in China.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

The United States became more involved with Latin America in the 1890s. Cuba wanted to become independent from Spain. Cuban revolutionaries fled to New York when their revolution failed. In 1895, another revolution broke out in Cuba. The rebels won control of more than half of the island. In response, Spain sent a new governor to Cuba, General Weyler. He rounded up half a million Cuban rebels and put them in detention camps. At least 100,000 rebels died.

The United States became nervous because Cuba was only 90 miles off the coast of Florida. Opinions on whether or not America should become involved were split. Some felt that the Cubans should be Free from Spanish rule, while others thought that the U.S. should stay out of it. The U.S. government felt that it should become involved because it had a large amount of money invested in trade with Cuba.

The American Press knew that they could sell more Newspapers if the country was at war. Owners of two New York newspapers, Joseph Pulitzer of the World and William Randolph Hurst of the Journal,

used Yellow Journalism (which means: sensational stories), to play on the emotions of their readers. Their headlines would scream "blood on the roadsides, blood in the fields, and blood on the doorsteps." The press called the Spanish governor, "Butcher" Weyler and portrayed him as a cruel villain.

In 1898, fighting broke out in Havana, Cuba. President McKinley sent the battleship the U.S.S. Maine to Havana to protect American citizens and property. On February 15, the U.S.S. Maine lay at anchor. In the morning a huge explosion ripped through the ship. The explosion killed 260 of the 350 sailors and officers on board. The papers blamed Spain and called for everyone to "Remember the Maine." The real cause of the explosion has never been determined. Most historians believe it was an accident on board the ship. On April 25, 1898, Congress declared war on Spain.

The Spanish-American War lasted only 4 months. The battlefield stretched from the nearby Caribbean to the distant Philippine Islands. Two months before the war began, a young official in the Department of Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, wired orders to the Commander of the Pacific Fleet, Commodore Dewey. He was to prepare to attack the Philippines. On April 30 Dewey's Great White Fleet (which is what the American ships were called because they were all painted white) sailed into the harbor under darkness. The Americans surprised the Spanish ships. By noon, the Spanish fleet had been destroyed.

While the Navy ships were in the Philippines, American troops landed in Cuba. The expedition was badly organized. The soldiers wore wool uniforms in tropical heat and they often ate spoiled food. Theodore Roosevelt gave up his job as Assistant Secretary of the Navy and organized the first volunteer cavalry regiment, called

the Rough Riders. It consisted of cowboys and college students. A major battle occurred at San Juan Hill. Roosevelt led the Rough Riders up the hill. They were joined by a regiment of African-American troops that made it possible for the Rough Riders to take the hill.

The Spanish fleet was destroyed in Santiago Bay, and shortly after that the Spanish army was defeated. Spain and the U.S. agreed to stop fighting on August 12. Spain gave Cuba its independence and gave the U.S. Puerto Rico and Guam. The U.S. government did not let Cuba or Puerto Rico run their own governments. They forced the Cubans to sign the Platt Amendment that limited Cuba's right to make treaties and borrow money. It also gave the U.S. the right to have a naval base in Cuba at Guantanamo Bay.

PANAMA CANAL

The United States under President Theodore Roosevelt helped the people of Panama rebel against Colombia. U.S. forces kept the Colombian army from crushing the rebels. Panama declared its independence and the U.S. recognized it at once. Panama agreed to let the U.S. build a canal for \$ 10 million plus \$ 250,000 a year to rent the strip of land across Panama. The canal opened in 1914. It took a long time to build because doctors had to find a way to eliminate the diseases of malaria and yellow fever that killed many of the workers.