1. Spanish-American War 9. USS Maine
2. Big Stick Policy 10. Yellow journalism
3. Imperialism 11. Teller Amendment
5. Philippines 13. Yellow Fever
7. Panama Canal 15. “White Man’s Burden”
Why would the US want to build an empire?

IMPERIALISM IN THE PACIFIC
Imperialism refers to a policy of empire building. The colonies acquired by the imperialist powers often supplied resources for their industries and served as markets for their manufactured goods.

- The need for raw materials
  - copper, rubber, tin
- Markets – places to buy and sell goods
- Power and national pride
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR
By the 1890s, the Spanish empire had dwindled to include Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

Most of the people who lived on the islands wanted independence.

American goal was to eliminate Spain from the area and make Cuba an Independent country.
Revolt in 1895 spurred by poor economic conditions

Jose Marti – organized the revolt from New York and then led it in Cuba; killed in action

Was a reporter in Cuba, afterwards from NY.

Harsh living conditions within Cuba (humanitarian crisis)
"YOU SUPPLY THE PICTURES, AND I’LL SUPPLY THE WAR."

- **Yellow Journalists**: Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst
  - New York newspaper publishers
- William Randolph Hearst said the above in a reply to the painter Frederic Remington who believed that there was nothing to write about in Cuba
  - They stretched the truth and about the bravery of Cuban rebels and horrors of Spanish rule.
  - Helped to stir public support
Feb. 9, 1898—*Journal* printed the letter written by Spanish Ambassador to Washington

- Called president McKinley weak and catering to the rabble, offended many Americans
- Letter intensified anti-Spanish feelings in the US
USS Maine sails to Cuba in hopes to keep American citizens safe from rebellion

- Sat in harbor for 2 weeks; Exploded without an explanation
- Americans believed it was a Spanish mine or torpedo – no proof; 260 sailors died
  - Journalists exaggerated headlines to encourage the invasion
- Americans give Spanish three days to leave
- Teller Amendment – addendum that stated the U.S. had no interest in taking control of Cuba

"REMEMBER THE MAINE!"
WAR WITH SPAIN

- The Rough Riders
  - Led by Theodore Roosevelt and Col. Wood
  - Volunteer corps
  - Battle of Santiago
  - San Juan Hill and Kettle Hill
AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Americans achieve quick victory in Philippines
  - Also rebelling against Spanish
- Commodore George Dewey sank 10 Spanish ships inside of Manila Bay
- U.S. troops along with Emilio Aguinaldo took control of Manila on August 13, 1898
Cuba
- Provisional military gov’t put into place
- Platt Amendment – limited Cuba’s right to make treaties and allowed the U.S. to intervene in Cuban affairs
- Effective until 1934

Puerto Rico made a U.S. territory

The Philippines
- Given to the U.S. in exchange for $20 million
- Naval and commercial value
- Guerrilla war against the U.S. led by Aguinaldo
- Lasts until 1902; 4,200 American casualties
Anti-Imperialist League – the group that opposed the treaty included: Samuel Gompers, Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie, and Jane Addams.
"We need Hawaii as much and a good deal more than we did California. It is manifest destiny."

McKinley

Is it the same definition?
THE ANNEXATION OF ALASKA

Seward’s Folly

- Sec. of State William H. Seward bought Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million
  - $.02 an acre
- Many thought it was foolish to waste money on an “icebox”
- Resources – timber, furs, minerals (including gold)
ANNEXATION OF HAWAII

- Americans owned most shops and shipyards in Hawaii by 1840. They were also the majority of planters.
- Sugar became a leading export
- Shipped duty free to the U.S.
- Bayonet Constitution – granted more power to the planters
Took over for brother at age 52
Was “strong and resolute”
Tried to keep the Monarchy alive by writing a new constitution
Americans were unhappy, so they sent for Marines and overthrew the throne.
- **Spheres of Influence** – areas where foreign nations controlled resources
- **Germany, Britain, France, Japan, Russia**
- **Open Door Policy** – American proposal that stated all nations should have equal access to trade in China
Boxer Rebellion – Chinese nationalists who were angered by foreign involvement in China

- Foreign armies put down the revolt
- Forced payments totaling $333 million
AMERICAN INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA
Revolution in Panama
Panama a part of Colombia – would not lease the land to the American gov’t
U.S. warship aided in a Panamanian revolution
Panama declared independence and signed a 99-year lease with the United States
Construction began in 1904 - Opened August 15, 1914

51 miles

Dangerous work – 6,000 die in construction

Disease – malaria and yellow fever

Geography – swamps, forests, and mountains

Explosives

The Panama Canal Zone
ROOSEVELT’S RESPONSE

- Monroe Doctrine had told European nations not to interfere in Western Hemisphere
  - U.S. had weak military – no way to enforce it
  - European loans to Latin America in default
    - Roosevelt Corollary – in cases of “wrongdoing” by Latin American countries, the U.S. might exercise “international police power”
Dollar diplomacy – influencing governments through economic, not military, intervention
- “substituting dollars for bullets”
- He encouraged American trade and investment in Latin America and Asia
- He claimed this would limit the use of force overseas, but when problems arose the US used force to protect its interests

TAFT’S RESPONSE
The United States wanted to build a canal to speed travel between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

The US tried to lease land in Panama, then part of Columbia. When Columbia refused, the US encouraged a Panamanian revolt.

Panama became an independent nation and signed a treaty allowing the US to build a canal.

The canal helped to improve trade but damaged US-Latin America relations.
After the Spanish-American War, a US military government set up schools and a postal service, built roads, and improved sanitation, but Puerto Ricans began to demand greater control of their own country. Under the 1917 Jones Act, Puerto Rico became a US territory and Puerto Ricans became US citizens, but they were not given all the rights of citizenship. US investments in Puerto Rico made a minority of people wealthy, but most Puerto Ricans remained in poverty. A series of political reforms gave Puerto Ricans more control over their government, but Puerto Rico has chosen to remain a US commonwealth.
The United States captured the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

Filipinos claimed that the US had promised them independence after the war, but President McKinley said they were not ready for self-government.

The Filipinos fought against US rule. The US used brutal force to suppress Filipino guerilla tactics and put down the revolt.

After 3 years of fighting and at great human cost, the US set up a government, built schools, and made improvements to harbors on the islands before granting the Philippines independence half a century later.
White American planters controlled most of Hawaii’s agricultural industry, shipping many crops to the US and becoming wealthy and powerful in the process.

Queen Liliuokalani, the constitutional monarch of Hawaii, resented the dominance of the wealthy white minority and tried to give more power to native Hawaiians.

American planters, with the help of US military forces, overthrew the queen in 1893 and applied to Congress for annexation.

After debating the issue for several years, the US finally annexed the Hawaiian Islands, which became a US territory and many years later a US state.
China’s weakness and instability in the 1890s allowed many European powers, along with Japan, to carve out spheres of influence to control trading rights in parts of China.

The US wanted to prevent foreign colonization of China in order to maintain its access to Chinese markets, and so it proposed the Open Door Policy to allow free trade for all foreign nations in China.

The Boxers led an insurrection to rid China of foreign influence, but the rebellion was crushed by US, Japanese, and European forces.

To keep the Open Door Policy, the US insisted that foreign nations not only allow free trade, but also respect Chinese independence.