

Chapter 19

From Crisis to Empire
1877-1900

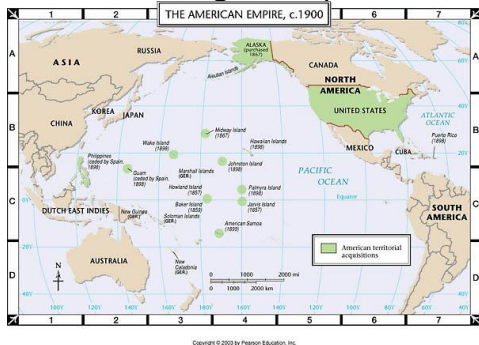
1

Expansionism

- A process that began in the 1880's when internal pressures influenced a foreign policy that would see the United States build an empire

2

Building an Empire



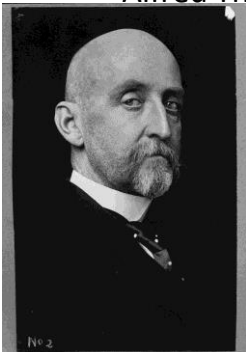
3

Internal Pressures of Expansionism

- Business leaders believed that continue domestic prosperity required overseas markets because American productivity outpaced American demand
- Religious leaders proclaimed that America's mission was to spread Christianity, which was heavily influenced by racism
- Political leaders, like Theodore Roosevelt, built upon social Darwinism to excel the United States toward imperialism and military might.

4

Alfred Thayer Mahan



- Much of American expansionism was influenced by the writings of a single individual, Alfred Thayer Mahan
- Mahan wrote *The Influence of Sea Power upon History*, which pointed to the Royal Navy as the key to the success of the British Empire
- According to Mahan, the only way the United States could ever see similar success is if it built a massive, modern navy.
- Theodore Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy at the time, and he used Mahan's words to propel the American navy into the twentieth century, taking it from one of the worst in the world, to one of the top navies in the world that rivaled that of the British.

5

A Modern American Navy



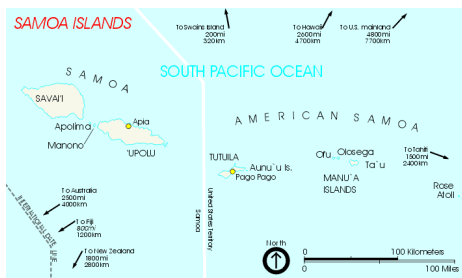
In the decades surrounding the turn of the 20th century, naval armed progressives sold the nation on the idea of an expanded navy. An expanded navy would not only bring prosperity to the U.S., but allow a stagnant officer corps to be revitalized and promoted.

6

- A modern American navy meant:
 - American trade and business interests overseas would be protected
 - A reliance upon coal for fuel, which was heavy and took up a lot of cargo space
 - To facilitate trade in Asia, the U.S. needed multiple fueling stations throughout the vast Pacific Ocean
 - A very visual representation of the growing military and economic might of the United States

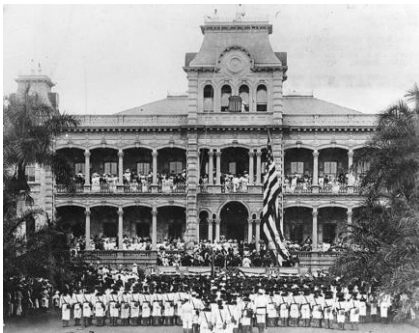
7

Samoa Islands



8

Annexation of Hawaii



9

Hawaii

- In the late 1800's Hawaii was led by Queen Liliuokalani, who had inherited the throne after the U.S. built the Pearl Harbor navy base in 1887.
- The Hawaiian Islands were increasingly the home to massive sugar plantations owned by Americans, but the McKinley Tariff undermined Hawaii's sugar industry which led to the overthrow of Hawaiian monarchy.
- In 1893, the queen was deposed and American sugar growers claimed Hawaii to be an independent nation, calling it the Republic of Hawaii, and requested U.S. annexation
- Hawaii became a territory in 1898 and the 50th state sixty-one years later

10

Cuba

- In 1895, the Spanish-controlled colony of Cuba revolted against harsh Spanish rule
- American businessmen opposed the revolt as it disrupted American business interests on the island, and the federal government largely ignored the revolt
- But the American public became increasingly interested in the revolt, especially after the Spanish commander in Cuba, Valeriano Weyler, herded Cubans into concentration camps where more than 200,000 would die from disease and starvation



11

Yellow Journalism

William Randolph Hearst



Joseph Pulitzer



12

Explosion of the *U.S.S. Maine*

- A few days after the publication of a private letter in which a Spanish foreign minister called President McKinley "weak", the *U.S.S. Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor, killing 266 crewmen.
- It was immediately assumed that the Spanish were to blame, and two months later the U.S. recognized Cuban independence and declared war upon Spain.



13

Teller Amendment

- At the same time that the U.S. recognized Cuban independence, Congress also recognized President McKinley's association with American businesses and passed the Teller Amendment to ensure Cuban independence
- The Teller Amendment announced any U.S. interest in Cuba beyond helping them gain independence. It pledged that once independence was gained the U.S. would not interfere with the island.

14

Battle of Manila Bay



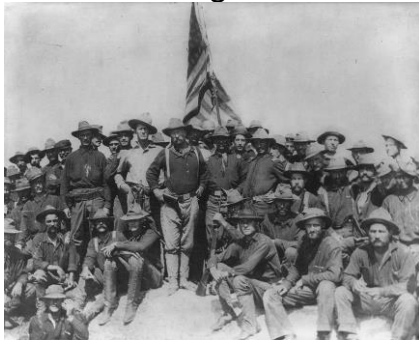
15

Spanish-American War



16

TR's Rough Riders



17

- After the U.S. Navy annihilated the Spanish Navy, a treaty was signed in which:
 - Spain recognized the independence of Cuba
 - Spain ceded to the U.S. the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the island of Guam.
 - In return, the U.S. gave to Spain \$20 million
- Despite the briefness of the Spanish-American War, it cost the lives of 5,462 Americans, of which only 379 were combat casualties.

18

Platt Amendment

- The U.S. broke the Teller Amendment by occupying Cuba from 1898 to 1902, and agreed to only leave if Cuba accepted the Platt Amendment
- The Platt Amendment stated that:
 - Cuba could not make a treaty that limited its independence
 - Cuba did not borrow money beyond its means
 - The U.S. had a right to intervene in Cuban affairs whenever it deemed it necessary
 - The U.S. be allowed to maintain a naval base on the island

19

Philippine Insurrection

- At the same time that the U.S. was fighting Cuba, a military engagement broke out between the U.S. and Philippine nationalists who demanded independence.
- The fight between the U.S. and Emilio Aguinaldo ended up being far more ferocious and lasting much longer than the Spanish-American War.
- The source of the dispute lay with the Philippines expecting that they too would gain independence under the Teller Amendment, and the U.S. desiring to keep the islands for their own benefit and out of the hands of nations like Germany.



20

Philippine-American War

Gen. Elwell Otis



Gen. Arthur MacArthur



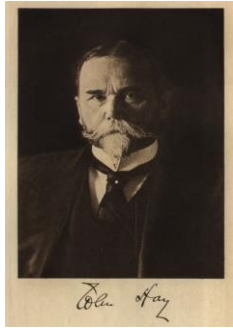
21

- President Theodore Roosevelt officially called an end to the Philippine-American War on July 4, 1902
- The conflict cost 4200 American lives, as well as 2800 wounded
- 20,000 Filipino soldiers were killed, as well as the death of more than 200,000 Filipino civilians

22

Open Door Policy

- In the midst of the fighting of the Philippine-American War, the United States was called upon to intervene in events unfolding in China
- In 1889, Secretary of State John Hay announced the Open Door Policy, which guaranteed equal trading rights with China for all western nations and Japan.
- Hay hoped that not only would the Open Door Policy secure American trade in China, but also prevent the troubled nation from being fractured by the trade interests of a handful of nations.
- Chinese nationalists, however, viewed the Open Door Policy as yet another attempt by a western nation to control China. Their uprising led to the Boxer Rebellion.



23

Boxer Rebellion



24

Boxer Rebellion

- The Boxer Rebellion began when the nationalist group, the Society of the Harmonious Fists, began attacking all foreigners, Christian missionaries and their converts, and placed the foreign embassy district in Peking under siege.
- Inside the district were 500 foreigners, 3000 Chinese Christians, and 450 troops; outside were 140,000 Boxers and imperial troops.

25

Boxer Protocol

- After a 55 day siege, an International Relief Force (which included troops fighting in the Philippine-American War) put an end to the Boxer Rebellion and forced China to sign the Boxer Protocol
 - Each foreign power was able to keep a small armed contingent in the embassy district of Peking
 - China was forced to pay a staggering \$333 million in reparations
 - America's part of that sum was \$25 million, which was used to educate Chinese youths in China and the U.S.

26