

Chapter 5: An Emerging World Power

Section 1: The Roots of Imperialism

Focus Question: How and why did the United States take a more active role in world affairs?

- I. Causes of Imperialism - imperialism means the policy by which strong nations extend their political, military, and economic control over weaker territories.
 - A. Economic Benefits - Most countries that were imperialists wanted new raw materials and natural resources. This is referred to as an extractive economy - where one country takes resources from another. The U.S. had a lot of natural resources and raw materials, but it was looking for people to buy them. Since there were too many goods, the prices would drop - basic supply and demand.
 - B. Military strength - this was backed by Admiral Alfred T. Mahan. He believed that great nations had to have a great naval power. The U.S. did not, if the U.S. wanted to become great they would need to change that. Along with this, the U.S. would need foreign bases as fueling stations along the way. As a result, the U.S. had the third largest navy in the world by 1900.
 - C. National Superiority - racial, national, and cultural superiority have been used to justify imperialism. This was supported by the belief of social darwinism.
- II. First Steps Toward World Power
 - A. The Pacific - in 1853, Commodore Perry sailed into Japan. he was the first to be able to convince Japan to open its country to outsiders for trade. Part of this was due to Perry's lavish gifts, the other part was due to Japan realizing that by being closed off they were behind militaristically.
 1. By 1867, the U.S. had gained possession of Midway Islands and by 1887 had increased trade with Hawaii and built a naval port at Pearl Harbor.
 - B. Alaska - this was purchased in 1867 by Secretary of State William Seward. It was purchased for 7.2 million from Russia. It was called Seward's Folly or Seward's Icebox because all it was was snow. Today however it is the richest state in terms of natural resource including oil and timber.
 - C. Latin America - in 1889, the First International Pan American Conference was held. the point was to show Latin America how beneficial it would be if they worked together economically with the U.S. It helped to create the Pan American Highway system which linked the U.S. to Central and South America
 - D. Hawaii - since the early 1800s, U.S. missionaries had lived in Hawaii trying to civilize its people. By the mid 1800's their children were know plantation owners. In 1887, they convinced the king to change the constitution to allow only land owners to vote which meant only American would be able to vote since they controlled 3/4 of the land.
 1. New tariff - in 1890 a new tariff was passed that called for a tax on sugar from Hawaii - this had once been tax free. The American sugar owners were worried this would cause their profits to drop.
 2. Queen Liliuokalani - came to power and wanted to return Hawaii to Hawaiians. She proposed a change to the constitution which would take the power away from the land owners.

3. Sanford Dole - who was a leading land owner at the time, convinced the U.S. minister to Hawaii to help overthrow the queen. Dole became the new governor and asked the U.S. to annex Hawaii. The President at the time, Harrison, agreed, but he could not get enough signatures to ratify before he was out of office. When Cleveland came to power he investigated the overthrow and realized what happened. He would not annex Hawaii until the Hawaiian people voted on it. He was replaced by McKinley who believed in annexation and promptly agreed with annexation and convinced the Senate to approve.

Section 2: The Spanish American War

Focus Question: What were the cause and effects of the Spanish American War?

I. Causes of the War

- A. Cuba - Cuba was a colony of the Spanish. America had tried to purchase Cuba from Spain previously due to it only being 90 miles off the coast - but Spain said no.
 1. Rebellion - in 1895, Cuba led by Jose Marti revolted. They used guerrilla tactics of hit and run against the Spanish.
 2. General Weyler - was assigned by the Spanish to put down the rebellion. He used the idea of reconcentration camps to cut off the rebels. He would round up all the villagers - who supplied the rebels, and put them into the cities. This was not good as many died due to disease and starvation due to the overpopulation.
 3. American property - this was destroyed by both the Spanish and the Cubans. One reason American businessmen wanted the US to get involved.
- B. Yellow Press - as the conflict in Cuba was going on, there was also a newspaper war in the U.S. Two competing newspapers led by Hearst and Pulitzer were trying to get as many readers as possible. To gain readers they would often sensationalize the stories. They saw what was happening in Cuba as a way to get more readers.
 1. De Lome Letter - Feb. 1898, a private letter from the Spanish Ambassador was leaked. It called McKinley weak. Many Americans were upset and it ruled jingoism (ones who use aggression to show their nation is better).
 2. U.S.S. Maine - this was sent to Havana harbor to protect American citizens in Cuba. Soon after the DeLome letters as published, an explosion rocked the Maine. The yellow journalists blamed the Spanish - although there was no proof of such.

II. Beginning of the War

- A. Spain's Concessions - Spain makes a point of doing everything that the U.S. asks. They abolish the reconcentration camps - but it was too little too late.
- B. Teller Amendment - Congress passes the amendment saying that they have no intention of annexing Cuba, simply going to help fight for their independence.
- C. Declaration of War - after the U.S. had the navy blockade the Cuba port and asked for volunteers, Spain declared war.

III. The Spanish American War

- A. The Philippines - the Philippines are a Spanish Colony. The U.S. Pacific Fleet happened to be closer to them than Cuba, so they surprised the Spanish fleet there and won.
 - 1. Emilio Aguinaldo - A Filipino rebel fought on land as the Americans were fighting in the Bay. He was hoping for Freedom for his country.
 - 2. Surrender - August the Spanish surrendered to the U.S.
 - B. Troops
 - 1. Supplies - they were undersupplied, had the wrong type of uniforms, no horses, obsolete weapons.
 - 2. Training - most of the officers were Civil War veterans. they were corrupt and spent more time telling war stories than training.
 - 3. Rough Riders - this was a volunteer cavalry unit led by Teddy Roosevelt, who had resigned from his position as undersecretary of the Navy to join the army.
 - C. Cuba- American troops landed in Cuba in June 1898. Most famous battles were the battles of Kettle Hill and San Juan. Both overlooked Santiago Harbor which is where the Spanish fleet was. With the aid of the African American 9th and 19th Cavalries - the U.S. took both hills. When the Spanish Fleet tried to flee the harbor they were attacked and forced to surrender.
 - D. Puerto Rico - although by the time U.S. forces landed in Puerto Rico, there few battles and the war was just about over.
 - E. Casualties - Over 3000 Americans died in the war, but only 300 were combat deaths. The rest were due to disease such as yellow fever and malaria.
- IV. Effects of the War - the war itself was referred to as a Splendid Little War due to the ease and thoroughness of the victory.
- A. Treaty of Paris - Spain gave up Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Guam. It sold the Philippines for \$20 million. The Teller Amendment said the US couldn't annex Cuba, but said nothing about the other territories.
 - B. Debate over imperialism
 - 1. Pro- many believed, including the President, that it was the U.S.'s responsibility to uplift these countries. The Philippines were a gateway to China, and the other Pacific islands were good refueling ports. Puerto Rico helped them maintain a presence in the Caribbean. If the US didn't do it, then someone else would
 - 2. Con - Anti-imperialists - didn't believe these arguments. They said it was unconstitutional as they were not allowing self determination.
 - C. New World Power - as a result of the Spanish American War, the US was now a world powers.