

Chapter 8 Section 1.

The Pressure to Expand



Imperialism

- ◉ Stronger nations attempting to create empires by dominating weaker nations. (Economically, politically, culturally, or militarily)
- ◉ Africa and Asia (3rd world nations)



Why?



- Natural resources. (Needed rubber and petroleum for factories)
- Needed new places to sell their goods.
- Competition due to Nationalism.
- Military superiority. (European armies far stronger than those in Africa and Asia)
- Humanitarian reasons. (Sense of duty to spread our “better way of life” incl. Western law, medicine, and Christianity.)

Who was conquering?

- British, French, Germans, Italians, Portuguese, Spanish, and Belgians.



How?

- ⦿ Able to conquer lands half way across the world because of improved transportation and communication.



Annex

- ◎ To join a territory/foreign land to an existing country.



Foreign Affairs

- ◎ The United States' involvement and dealings with other countries around the world.



United States Policy

- Throughout the 1800's we didn't get involved in foreign affairs because we had little interest in it due to our own rapid economic growth and settlement of the West.



Seward's Folly

- In 1867 Secretary of State Seward bought Alaska from Russia. (At the time viewed as “walrus-covered icebergs” in a “barren, worthless, god-forsaken, region”)



Pacific Islands

- Wanted control of some Pacific islands (In middle of Pacific ocean) to use as refueling and repair stations for our Navy vessels.



Pacific Cont.

- We annexed the uninhabited Midway Islands. (1867)
- Made deal with Hawaii. (They could sell duty-free sugar in U.S. as long as they didn't sell or lease territory to any foreign power)



2 Opposing Views

- ◉ *Isolationism* – Continue to avoid foreign entanglements.
- ◉ Others said we should become more involved in international affairs.



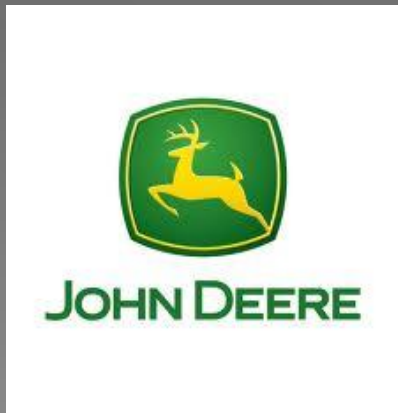
Economic Expansion

- America wanted to expand its markets (selling of its products) because it was making more food and other goods than we could consume.



American Companies

- Many U.S. companies already dominated international markets.
- Rockefeller's Standard Oil, AT&T, John Deere (Farm Machinery), Kodak (Cameras), and Sherwin Williams (Paint).



Banana Republics

- Countries in Central America that had government and economies dominated by American companies.
- Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala.



U.S Navy

- ◎ Congress approved building up America's Navy to protect our overseas markets from foreign rivals.



Powerful

- ◎ By 1900 the U.S. had one of the most powerful Navies in the world that was willing and able to confront an enemy on the open sea.



American Empire

- Some leaders (like Theodore Roosevelt) believed now that the frontier was closed, we had lost our pioneering spirit.



Social Darwinism

- Used to justify the takeover of new territories.
- Believed our society was superior to those we were conquering. (Just like the Native Americans)



Destiny

- ◉ Believed it was a good thing because we were introducing Christianity and modern civilization to people around the world.



Problems

- ◎ Americans soon realized that this policy led to political and military problems.



Essay

- ◎ Should America be more or less involved around the world? Under what circumstances, if any, should we get involved?

