

The Spanish-American War and U.S. Involvement in Latin America: 1898-1904

A Presentation Based on the
Georgia Standards of Excellence
(GSE) Objectives for High School
History Students

SSUSH14 Explain America's evolving relationship with the world at the turn of the twentieth century.

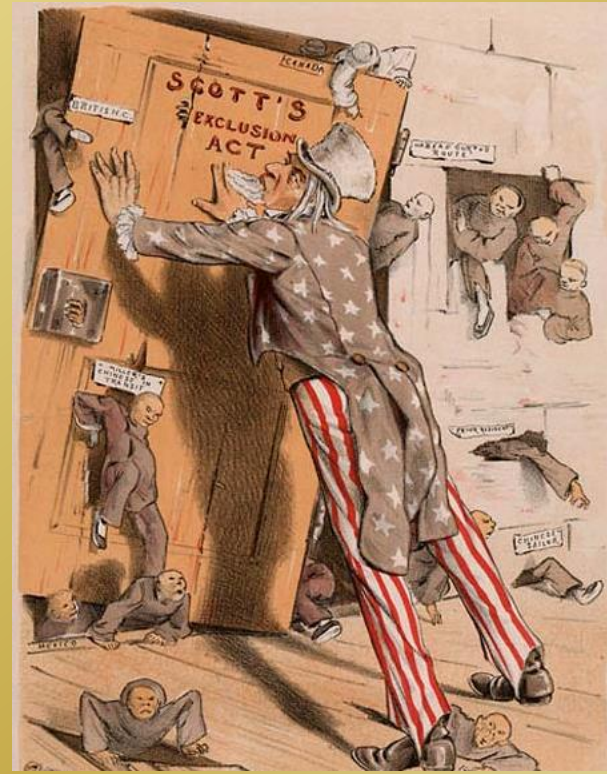


Explain the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and anti-Asian immigration sentiment on the west coast.

- Most Chinese immigrants to the U.S. entered the country on the west coast, mainly via San Francisco.
- Many of these immigrants came to the U.S. to escape poverty and civil war in China, to participate in the Gold Rush, and to help build the transcontinental railroad.
- By the 1870s however, there was strong opposition to Chinese immigration, chiefly for:
 - fear of losing jobs to Chinese laborers, and
 - nativism.
- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was a direct result of these fears and prejudices.

The Chinese Exclusion Act

- In 1882, the U.S. Congress passed the **Chinese Exclusion Act** which:
 1. prohibited any further Chinese immigration for 10 years, and
 2. disallowed Chinese in the U.S. from becoming citizens
- The Act was made permanent in 1902 and was not repealed until 1943

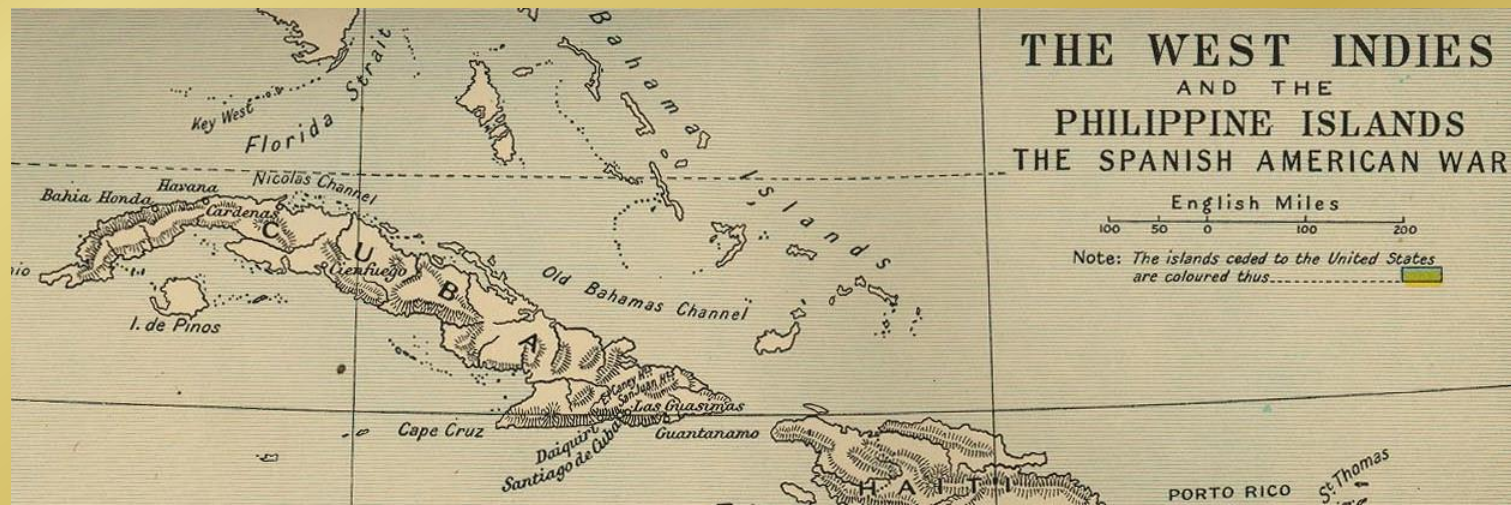


SSUSH14a. Describe how the Spanish-American War, war in the Philippines, and territorial expansion led to the debate over American imperialism.

- ***Imperialism*** is expansion of a nation's territory or influence by exerting political, military, or economic control over one or more other nations or regions.
- In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a number of influential U.S. citizens supported expansion of American influence in the world for several political and economic reasons, including:
 - **new markets** (esp. in Asia & Latin America) to sell U.S. products
 - new sources of **raw materials**
 - creation of **military bases** around the world to protect U.S. interests
 - desire to **spread American values** around the world (thus extending Manifest Destiny beyond the Western Hemisphere)
 - A belief among some in **Social Darwinism**, i.e., that some nations or races had superior character, ideas, and systems of government and were destined to control other nations
- During the late 1800s, the U.S. developed a **strong naval force** to carry out these aims.

Cuba

- By the late 1800s many Americans wanted to expand U.S. power overseas to counter Europe's imperialism.
- In Cuba, an island controlled by Spain for centuries, Cuban rebels rose up in a war of independence against Spain.
- U.S. businesses that had invested heavily in Cuban sugar plantations, mining and railroads feared the revolution would destroy their interests.
- A number of Republican party members were also quite “jingoistic” (i.e., favored aggressive nationalism).



Yellow Journalism

- “**Yellow journalism**” refers to sensational or exaggerated newspaper reporting to attract readers and increase circulation.
- In the 1890s, two New York newspapers, **the *World*** (published by Joseph Pulitzer) and **the *Journal*** (published by William Randolph Hearst) used these tactics to compete for readership.
- Many of their stories on Cuba described harsh deeds of the Spanish attempting to put down the revolution.
- Some of the brutal stories were true, such as imprisoning rebels in concentration camps, but others, such as Spaniards feeding rebel prisoners to dogs and sharks, were outrageous.
- Some historians note that these newspapers had little readership beyond New York, but regardless of the breadth of their influence, many Americans supported the Cuban rebels.

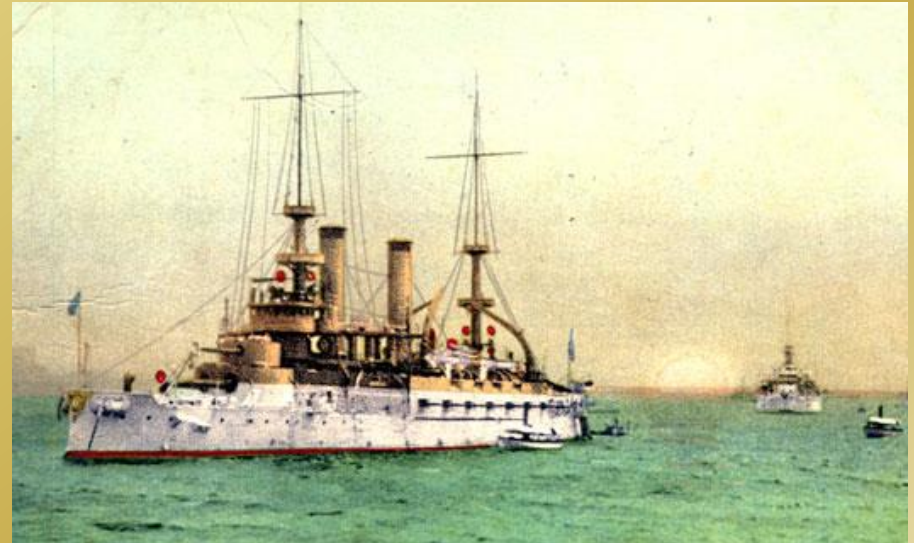
Spanish-American War

- Many **American** political **leaders**, businessmen, newspaper publishers, and others **supported Cuban rebels** and put pressure on the government to aid the rebels and declare war on Spain.
- On **Feb. 15, 1898**, a mysterious **explosion** sank the **U.S. battleship *Maine***, which had been sent to Cuba's Havana harbor to protect American interests.
- In **April 1898**, President McKinley, fearing destruction of American interests in Cuba and with mounting pressure from politicians, convinced Congress to give him authority to use military force to stop the war in Cuba. **Spain and the U.S. then declared war on each other.**
- The U.S. **Navy blockaded Cuba and prepared to attack** the Spanish-controlled **Philippine Islands.**

The Philippine Islands

- The U.S. Navy attacked and **quickly defeated the Spanish fleet in the Philippines** by May 1898.
- The U.S. then invaded the islands with the aid of Filipino rebels and captured the capital of Manila.
- The U.S. Army refused to recognize a new rebel government in the Philippines.

How do you think the Filipino rebels felt about the U.S. Army?



Cuba and the End of the War

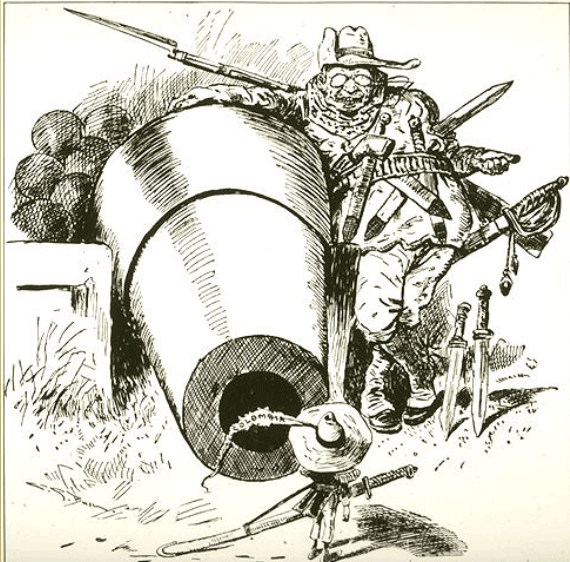
- The U.S. invaded Cuba in June 1898.
- Regular units of the U.S. army and Marine Corps fought as well as National Guard troops and the “Rough Riders” (a volunteer unit led by Theodore Roosevelt).
- After two weeks of fighting, the Spanish surrendered Cuba as well as nearby Puerto Rico.
- Under the 1898 Treaty of Paris ending the war:
 1. Cuba was to be given freedom.
 2. the U.S. annexed Puerto Rico and the Pacific island of Guam.
 3. the U.S. paid Spain \$20M for the Philippine Islands.
- Many Americans wanted to annex the Philippines.



The Annexation of the Philippines

- Supporters of annexation argued that the islands would give the U.S. an economic and military advantage.
- Anti-imperialists, including Mark Twain and Andrew Carnegie, argued against annexation.
 - Some worried that annexation would cost too much to support and defend the Philippines;
 - others felt it was contrary to core American values.
- In 1898, the U.S. annexed the Philippines leading Filipino rebels to attack American troops.
- The uprising was eventually put down, in part by the American ability to stimulate the Filipino economy and promote education and health care systems.

SSUSH14b. Examine U.S. involvement in Latin America, as reflected by the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine and the creation of the Panama Canal.



Why would the U.S. want to build a canal across Panama?



The Panama Canal

- To provide a shorter route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, which insured a quick response by the U.S. Navy worldwide and provided faster, cheaper shipping for U.S. merchants, President Theodore Roosevelt acquired the Panama Canal Zone in 1903.
- To acquire the area, which was part of Columbia, the U.S. supported a revolt for Panamanian independence.



Building the Canal

- A French attempt to build such a canal in 1881 failed because of
 - engineering difficulties and
 - high death and injury rates caused by disease (esp. smallpox, pneumonia, and typhoid fever)
 - poor living conditions, and
 - dangerous nature of the work.
- The U.S. began work on the project in 1904, and completed the canal by 1914.
- Control of the canal was returned to the nation of Panama in 1999 in accordance with terms of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977.

The Roosevelt Corollary (1904)

- President Roosevelt issued a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine stating that the U.S. would intervene in Latin American affairs when necessary.
- Note: the term *corollary* means a natural result of an already proven idea.

What was the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine?

How are the Roosevelt Corollary and the Monroe Doctrine connected?



“The Big Stick”

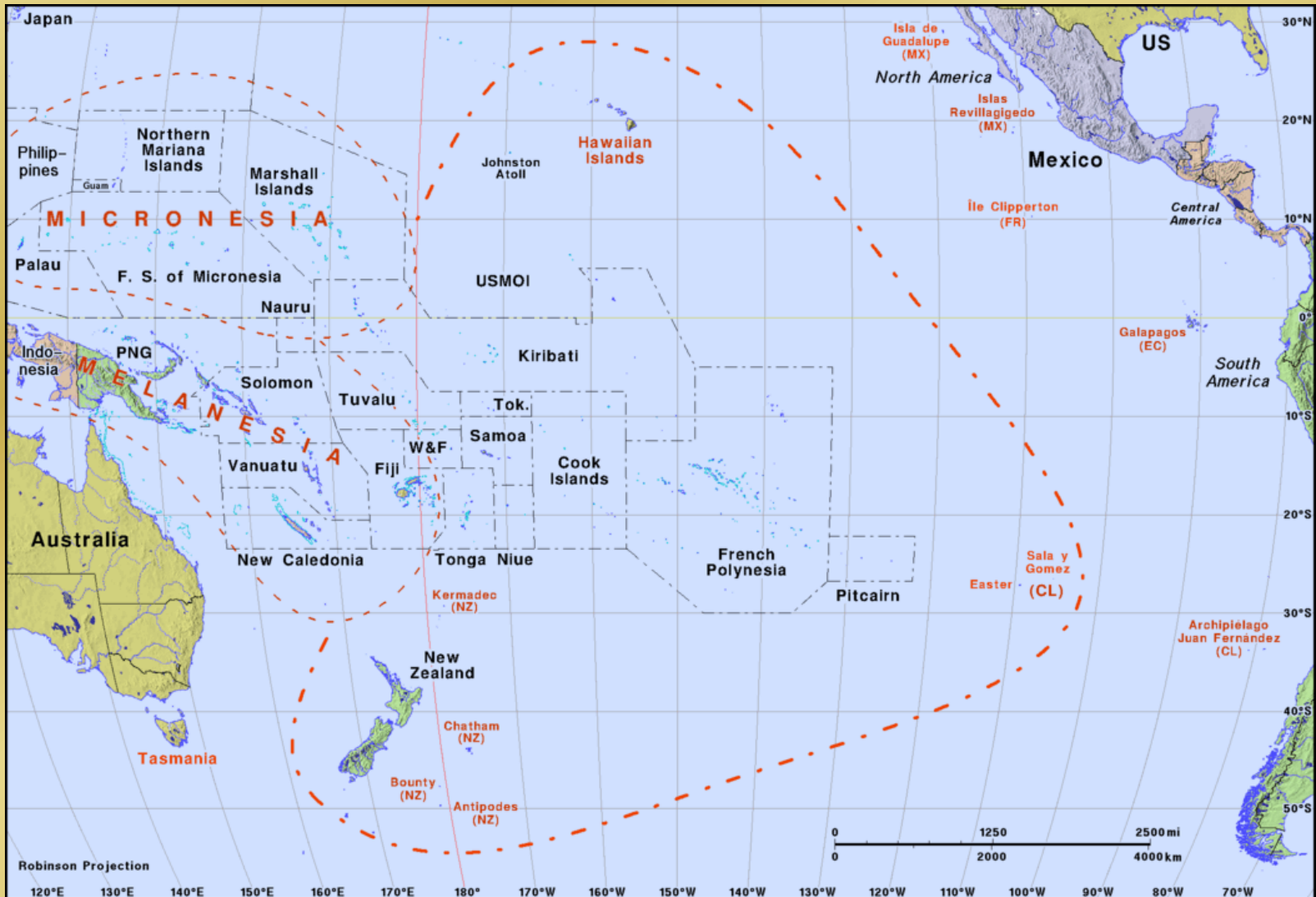
- The Roosevelt Corollary became a key component of Roosevelt’s “**Big Stick**” policy. (The term comes from an African proverb: “Speak softly and carry a big stick.”)
- Roosevelt believed that negotiations (speak softly) were key to relationships. But if negotiations were not fruitful, then the U.S. would use its military (big stick) to enforce order.
- The United States intervened in the Dominican Republic in 1904, Nicaragua in 1912, and Haiti in 1915, pleasing businessmen but angering Latin Americans.





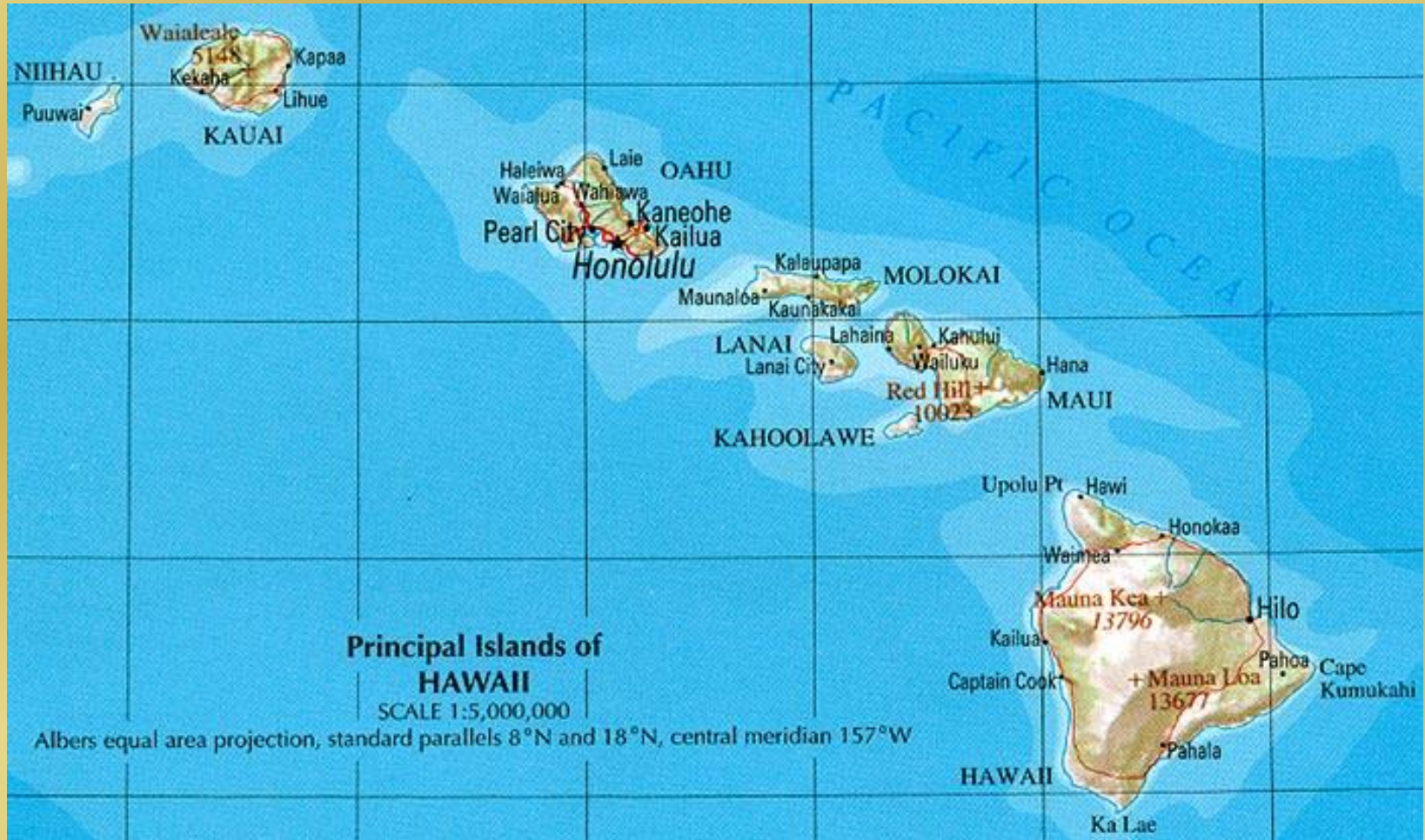
THE BIG STICK IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

Polynesia



POLYNESIA is one of the three major regions of Oceania with similar ethnicity. It includes New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Niue, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Kiribati, USMOI, French Polynesia, Pitcairn, Hawaiian Islands and more; >1000 in all.

Hawaii



U.S. Adds Hawaii to its Empire

- The U.S. had leased a naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for decades, and it was quite useful for naval operations in the Pacific during the Spanish-American War.
- Congress had debated and rejected the annexation of Hawaii many times since 1893, when a group of American businessmen led by Samuel Dole deposed the Hawaiian monarch Queen Liliuokalani and petitioned to become part of the United States.
- Having recognized the value of this resource, the U.S. annexed Hawaii in 1898.

The Great White Fleet

- In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships with escorts began a voyage around the world, stopping in numerous ports in Latin America, Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands, the Middle East and the Mediterranean region.
- The voyage was meant as both a show of goodwill and to display the strength of American sea power.