

Chapter Summary

Becoming a World Power, 1872–1917

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How are empires built?

This chapter explains why the United States desired new markets and describes how the United States spread its power and influence around the world by annexing other countries, influencing their politics, engaging in war, and becoming a world power.

The Imperialist Vision

- The United States needed new markets for its products and manufactured goods.
- America believed it was its destiny to spread its power and civilization around the world.
- As a world power, the United States believed it was necessary to control trade and have a powerful navy.
- In order to keep its economy strong and reduce European influence, America decided it needed new overseas markets.
- In July 1853 Commodore Perry traveled to Japan to negotiate a trade treaty.
- The United States annexed Hawaii.
- In October 1889 the first Pan-American Conference was held in Washington, D.C.

The Spanish-American War

- Yellow journalism sensationalizing Spanish atrocities caused most Americans to support Cuban rebels.
- In support of the rebels in Cuba and after the sinking of the USS *Maine*, America declared war on Spain.
- Cuba became independent, although the United States controlled its foreign relations and had great influence over internal affairs.

- As a result of the Spanish-American War, the United States acquired Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.
- Americans debated the morality and wisdom of becoming an imperial nation.
- A three-year war was fought to secure and control the Philippines.

New American Diplomacy

- The United States established the Open Door policy in China that allowed trade with all nations.
- President Roosevelt negotiated a peace agreement between Russia and Japan.
- The Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was completed.
- To help stabilize Latin America, the Roosevelt Corollary was established.
- Taft's Dollar Diplomacy helped increase trade and profit in Latin America.
- The United States provided stability to several Caribbean nations.
- The United States intervened in the lengthy Mexican Revolution.
- The foreign policies under Presidents Wilson, Roosevelt, and Taft spread U.S. influence to other nations throughout the world.