

United States History

Chapter 12- Day 1

Becoming a world Power 1872-1912

Section 1—The Imperialist Vision

- Beginning in 1880s most Americans wanted the U.S. to become a world power.
- Economic and military competition, as well as a growing feeling of cultural superiority encouraged this
- Imperialism--the economic and political domination of a strong nation over a weaker one
- New Imperialism—era after Civil War when European nations expanded their power overseas
- By late 1800s most Europeans have high tariffs that reduced trade with others, so they looked overseas for trade and to invest capital
- Asia and Africa two popular places
- Some became colonies, while others became protectorates (allowing local rulers to stay in place but larger country protect from invasion or rebellion)
- As US became industrialized imperialism took on a new interest
- Many believed we needed to look overseas for markets
- Albert Beveridge said we need to look overseas for new markets, new uses for capital, and new work for labor
- Social Darwinism argued nations compete with each other politically, economically and militarily and only the strongest survive.
- Anglo-Saxonism believed English speaking nations had superior character, ideas, and system of gov't. and were destined to dominate the world.
- Others believed we should extend “manifest destiny” overseas and spread our civilization
- Josiah Strong, minister, believed it was our Christian Duty to become our brothers keeper

Expansion into Pacific

- 1853 Admiral Mathew Perry steamed into Japan
- 1854 Japan and U.S. sign trade agreement
- 1820 English missionaries arrive in Hawaii and it became a whaler stop over. Now it becomes a refueling station
- 1875 Congress exempted Hawaiian sugar from tariffs in exchange U.S. has exclusive rights to naval base at Pearl Harbor
- 1887 American planters pressure Hawaiian King into constitution limiting King's power and increasing planters power
- 1891 Queen Liliuokalani comes to throne and imposes new constitution. Planters led by Sanford Dole overthrew Queen with the help of marines. 5 years later Hawaii annexed by U.S.
- As imperialism and Anglo-Saxonism gained support the U.S. became more aggressive.
- 1888 willing to go to war to prevent Germany from taking control of Samoa Island
- 1891 Chilean mob attack U.S. sailors, we threatened war
- 1895 U.S. backs Venezuela against Great Britain in border dispute