

American Imperialism & the Spanish-American War 1865-1917

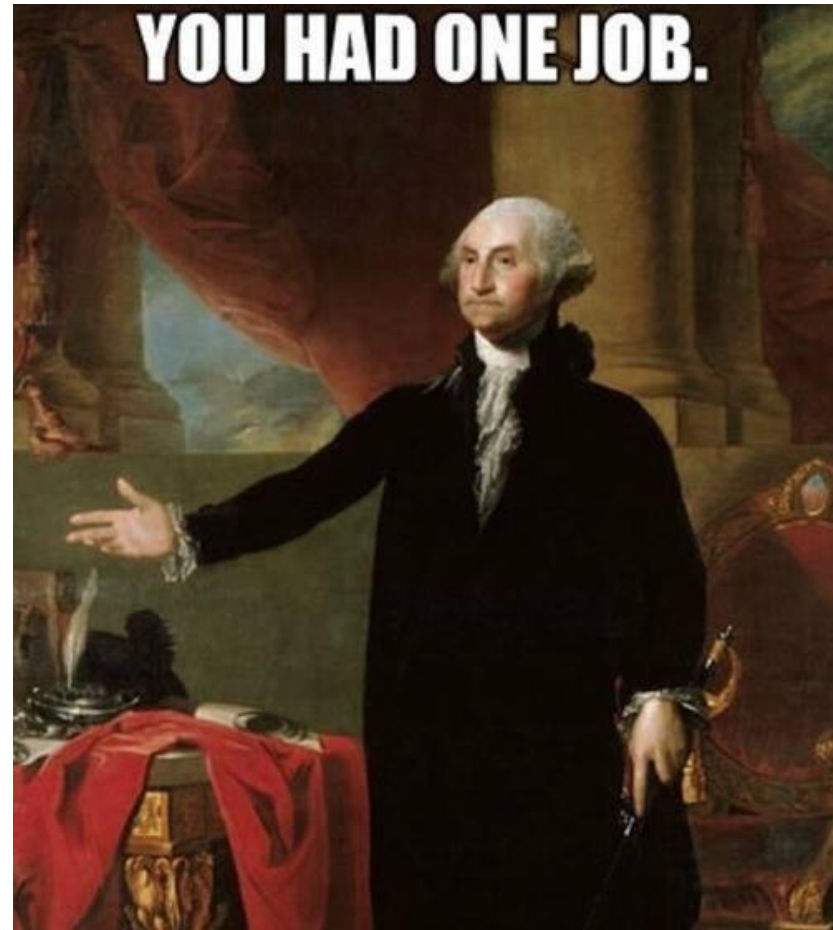
Washington's Warnings

-Washington's Farewell Address guided American foreign policy for over 100 years:

“... steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.”

-Some believed this policy meant the U.S. should continue an **isolationist** foreign policy

-Others pointed out Washington supported trade with other countries and was not calling for complete isolation in the world



Imperialism



-The 1900s: “**Age of Imperialism**”

- Many European nations created large empires by obtaining economic and political control over weaker nations

-Inspired the search for raw materials and markets fueled imperialism European powers competed for power and influence in Asia and Africa

Manifest Destiny Achieved

1890: U.S. Census agreed the “frontier” was closed

- Frederick Jackson Turner claimed this lack of a frontier was a threat to our national identity
- We began to look at expanding beyond America’s borders (**expansionism**) for a new frontier with the goal of new markets and resources to compete for political influence



A Sense of Mission

- Belief America could lift up people they considered “uncivilized” by spreading Christianity and “Western Civilization”
- Proposed that missionaries should be sent to teach Christian religious beliefs and Western culture to the “uncivilized peoples” of the world especially in Latin America
- A sense that there was a “White Man’s Burden” calling for Americans to help civilize her “savage” neighbors



THE WHITE (I) MAN'S BURDEN.

Opening Japan



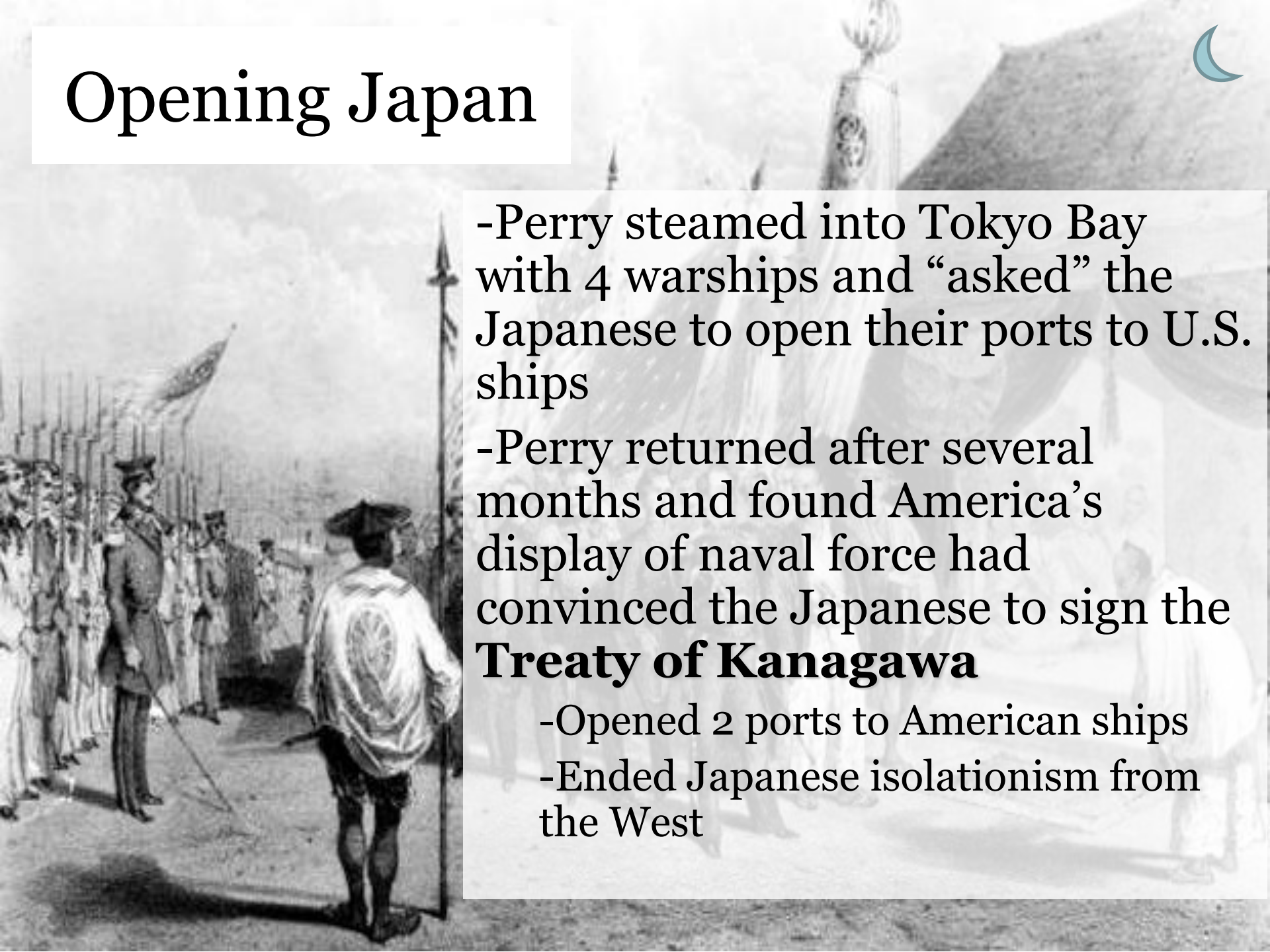
- During the mid-1800s, American merchants made a large profit trading with China
- This led many to want to open trade with Japan, which had chosen to remain **isolated** from “Western Civilization”
- 1853: President Millard Fillmore sent **Commodore Mathew Perry** on a mission to Japan to open trade

Opening Japan

-Perry steamed into Tokyo Bay with 4 warships and “asked” the Japanese to open their ports to U.S. ships

-Perry returned after several months and found America’s display of naval force had convinced the Japanese to sign the **Treaty of Kanagawa**

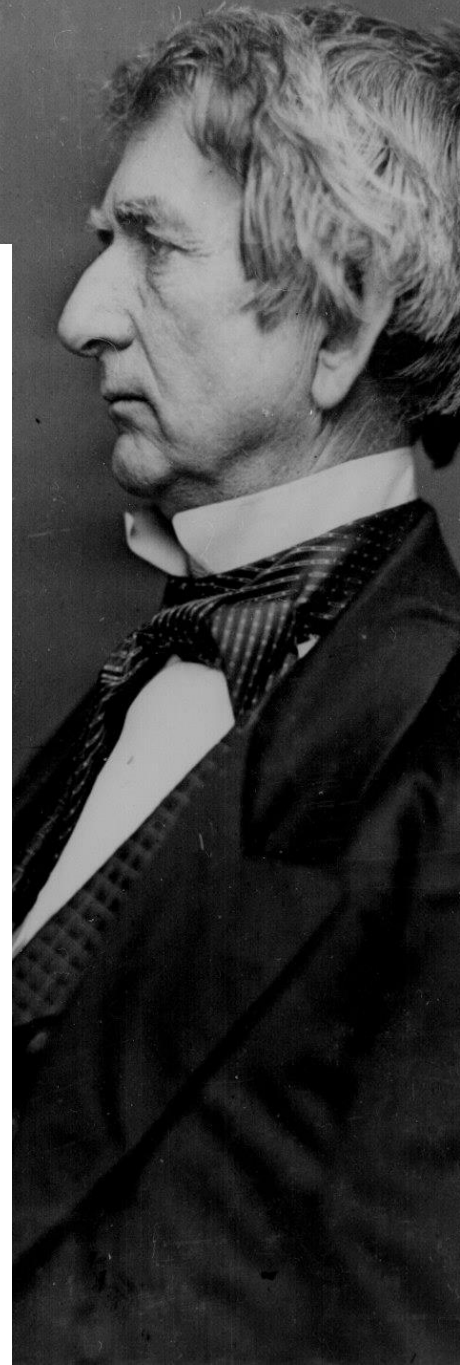
- Opened 2 ports to American ships
- Ended Japanese isolationism from the West



American Imperialism

Secretary of State **William H. Seward** pictured an American empire that would dominate the Caribbean, Central America, and the Pacific

- A canal was needed across Central America that would link the Atlantic and Pacific
- Seward purchased Alaska in 1867 from Russia for \$7.2m - a territory twice the size of TX
- Many newspapers and people criticized the purchase as a barren wasteland, and it was dubbed "**Seward's Folly**"
- After gold was discovered there in the 1890s (and later on oil, timber, fish and other resources) "**Seward's Icebox**" became a bargain



Hawaii



- U.S. Navy and merchant ships needed more small islands to secure the Pacific
- Christian missionaries had already arrived in Hawaii in the 1820s
- A large sugar plantation business had been established by merchants who brought in labor from Japan and China
- Hawaiians led by Queen Liliuokalani tried to regain economic control from American businessmen
- U.S. diplomat John Stevens arranged for Marines to assist an uprising and secure the annexation of Hawaii to the U.S. the treaty was signed by President Benjamin Harrison in 1892
- Annexed in 1898; statehood in 1959

Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan



-His book, *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* called for improving and enlarging the Navy

-Argued that sea power would protect shipping and provide access to world markets

-To maintain a powerful Navy, the U.S. would need overseas colonies where ships could be supplied and refueled

-By the early 1900s, the U.S. had the naval power it needed to back up an expanded role in world affairs

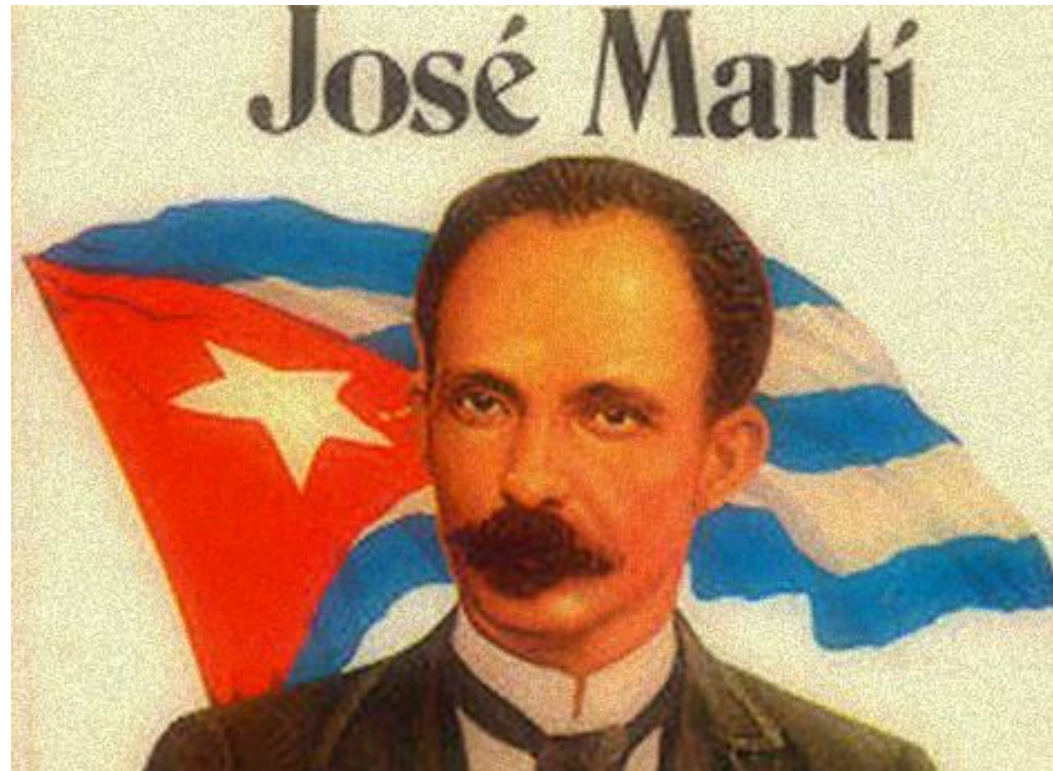
The Spanish-American War



The Cuban Rebellion



- Cubans wanted Spanish occupation to end
- Spain defeated a Cuban rebellion, forcing leader **Jose Marti** to flee to the U.S. to gather money, arms, and troops
- In 1895, Marti returned to Cuba and led a revolt
- Many people (including Marti) died
- Rebels burned sugarcane fields hoping to get the Spanish to leave → U.S. involvement





- The Spanish retaliated by herding Cubans into “**re-concentration**” camps to separate them from the rebels
- Thousands died of starvation and disease
- The Cuban struggle got the attention of U.S. businessmen who wanted to protect their investments and trade with the island
- Others were afraid of a rebellion so close to the U.S.
- President Cleveland opposed U.S. intervention
- When McKinley became president he also wanted to keep the U.S. out of the war

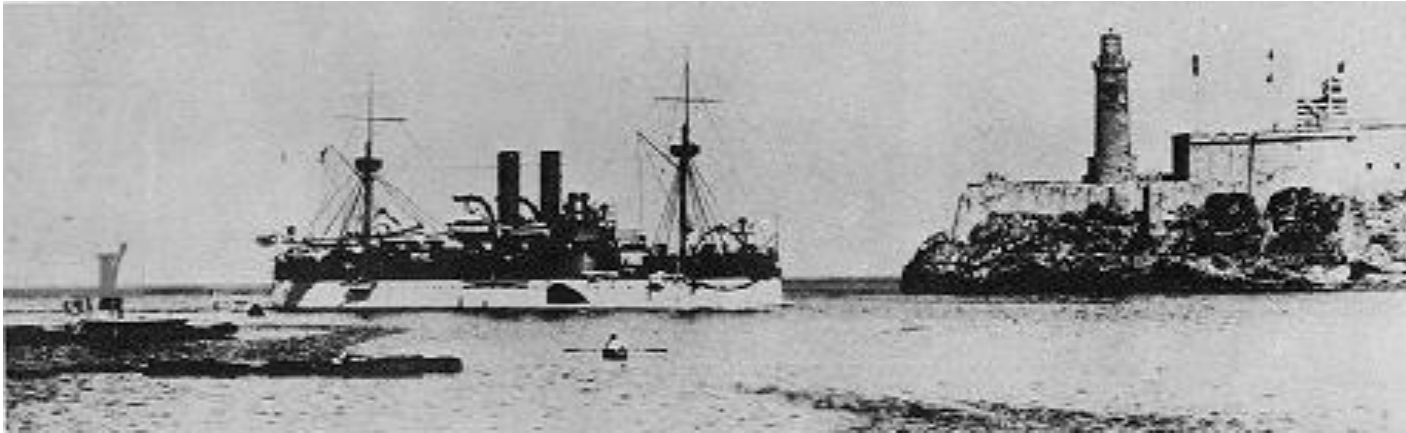


“Yellow Journalism”



- By 1898, newspapers provided the major source of news in America
- An editor’s interpretation of news was often more commonly reported than the actual news
- To increase circulation and profit, publishers embellished headlines
- Known as “***Yellow Journalism***”
 - Joseph Pulitzer and William Hearst were the worst offenders
 - They used the practice of “Yellow Journalism” to help stir public support for war

“Remember the Maine”



- After rioting broke out in the Cuban Capital of Havana, President McKinley sent the battleship the *USS Maine* to protect American citizens and property
- After 3 weeks, the ship exploded and sunk in Havana Harbor, killing about 260 officers and crew; the general consensus was that it was caused by a mine in the harbor
- American newspapers blamed the Spanish and the slogan “**Remember The Maine**” became a rallying cry for revenge and war
- When negotiations failed to ease American concerns, Congress recognized Cuban independence
- 25 April 1898: Congress declared war on Spain
- Some historians believe that it was actually a malfunction of the ship, but we still don't have positive proof

Teddy Roosevelt during the Spanish American War →

- Resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to command the 1st Regiment of the U.S. Cavalry Volunteers
- Unit becomes known as the “*Rough Riders*”



Teddy Fights



On 1 July, the Rough Riders, along with black “Buffalo Soldiers” joined the **Battle of San Juan Hill**

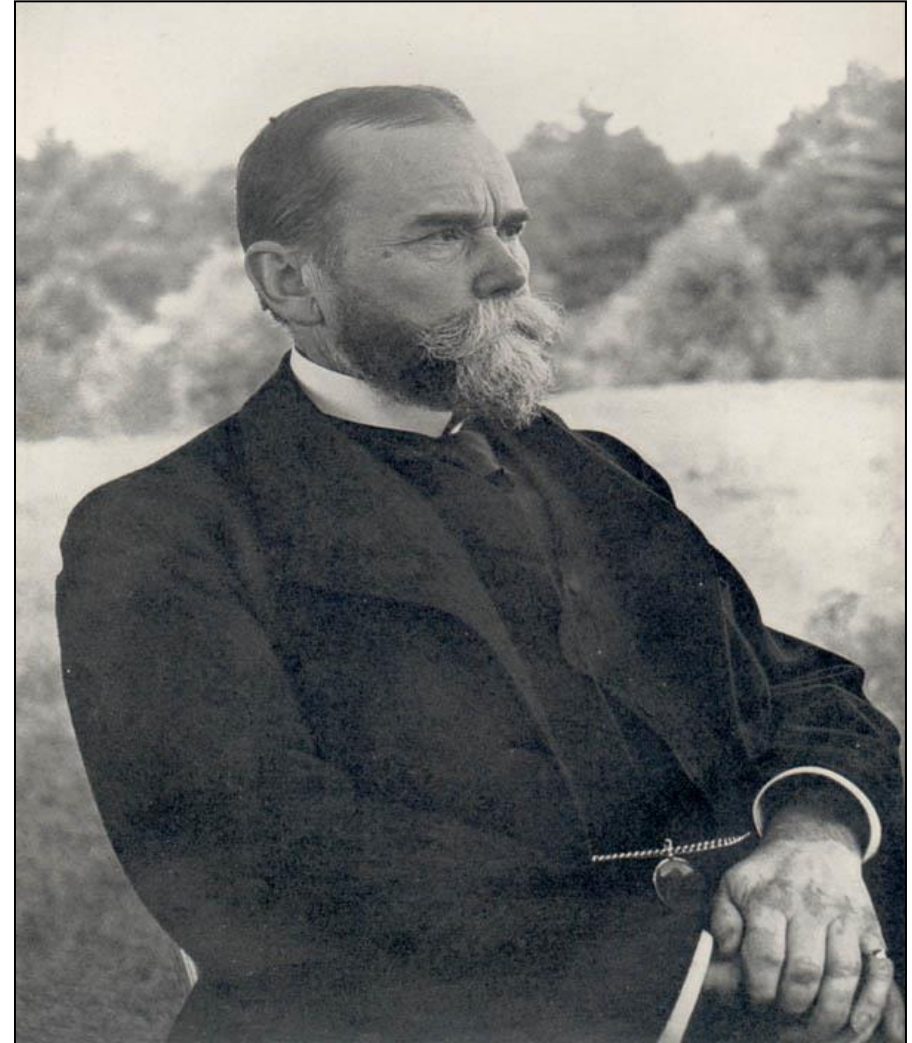
-Helped to end the Spanish resistance in Cuba



“A Splendid Little War”



- Quote from Secretary of State John Hay
- Lasted 4 months and 400 Americans died
- More than 2,000 additional men died from tropical diseases like yellow fever and malaria
- Black soldiers faced discrimination and segregation in the military while watching as the Cuban rebel army fought side by side by all kinds of soldiers



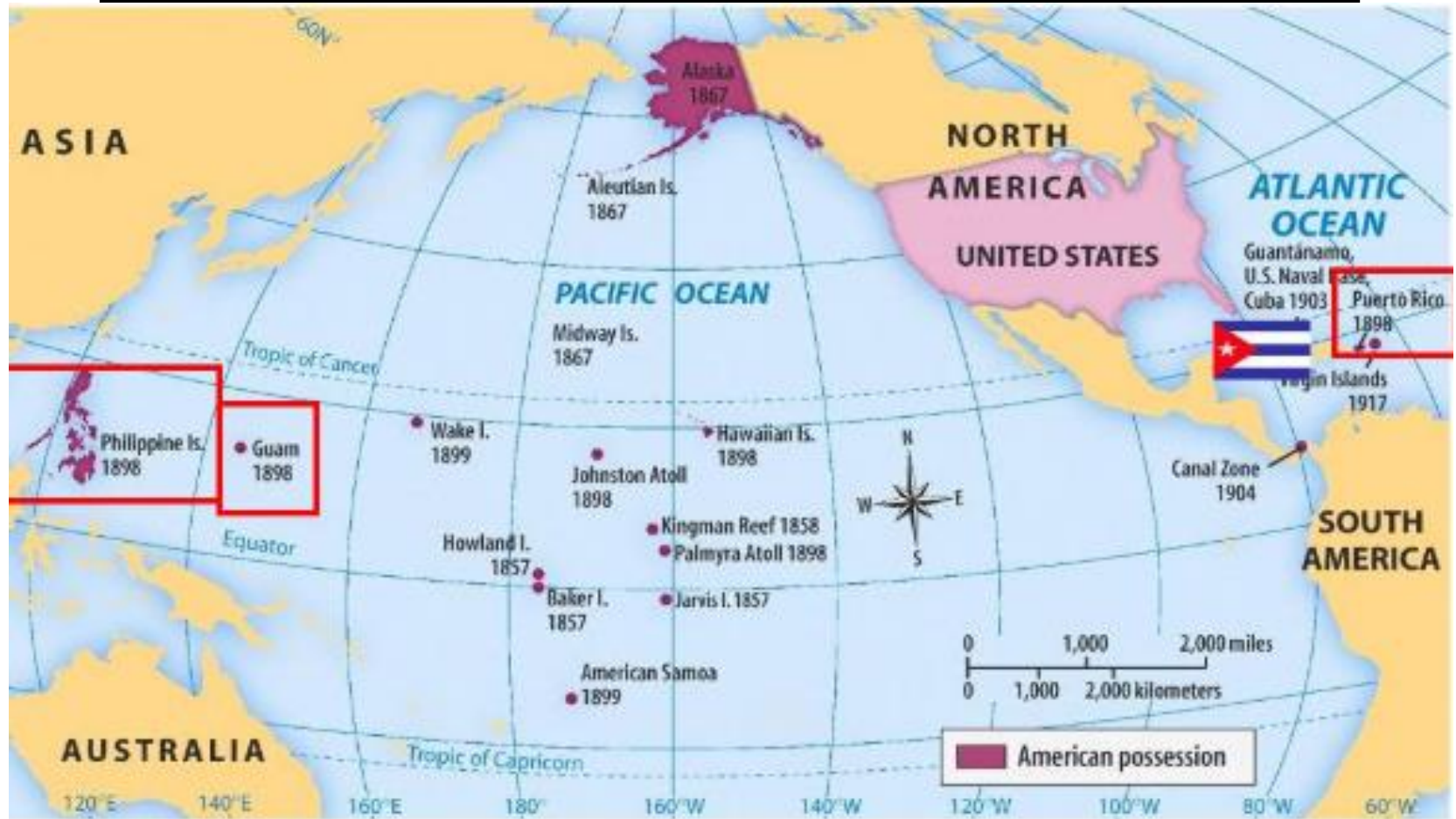
American Acquisitions



The U.S. and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris 10 Dec. 1898, ending the war

-The **Teller Amendment** was signed before the war ended, and proclaimed that the U.S. would not annex Cuba to try to gain support for the war

American Acquisitions

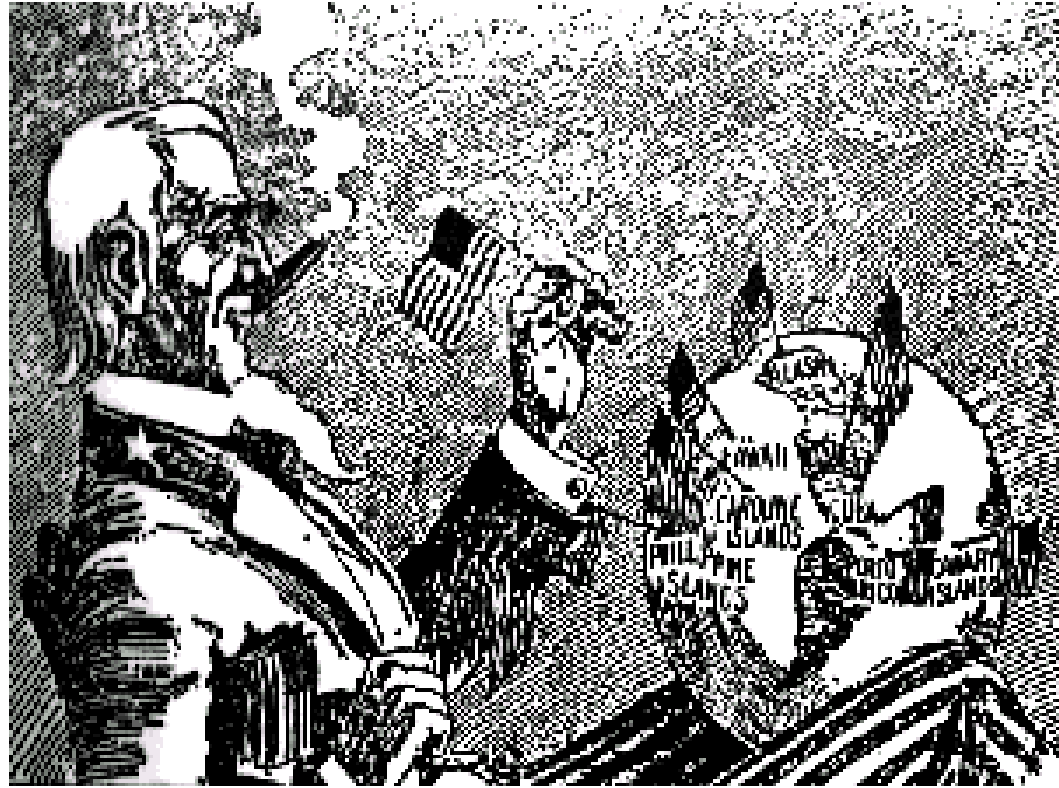


- Puerto Rico and Guam became territories of the U.S.
- Spain also surrendered the Philippines to the U.S. for \$20m (will remain an American territory through 1946)

In 1901, the U.S. granted Cuban independence but only if their new constitution included concessions to the U.S. known as the **Platt Amendment**

- Prohibited Cuba from making treaties with other nations and gave America control of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay

- The U.S. could also interfere in Cuban affairs if the country's independence was threatened



War in the Pacific

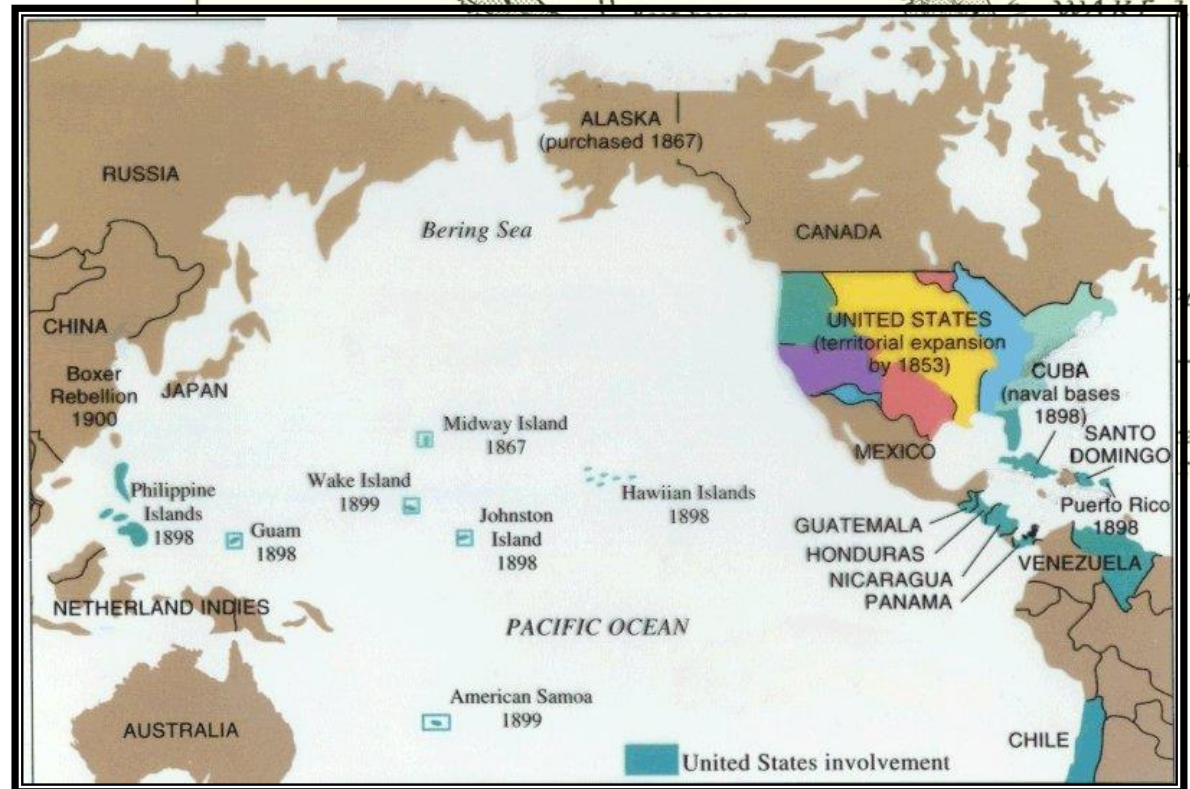
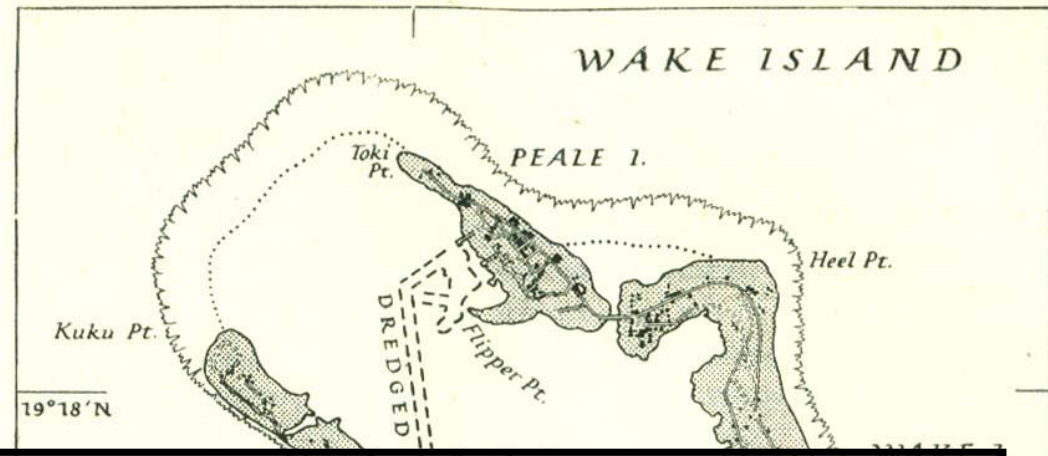


- The Philippine Islands were the Pacific base for the Spanish Fleet
- U.S. Commodore George Dewey launched a surprise attack on Spanish fleet in Manila Bay
- Continued fighting led to American victory
- U.S. gained control of the Philippines

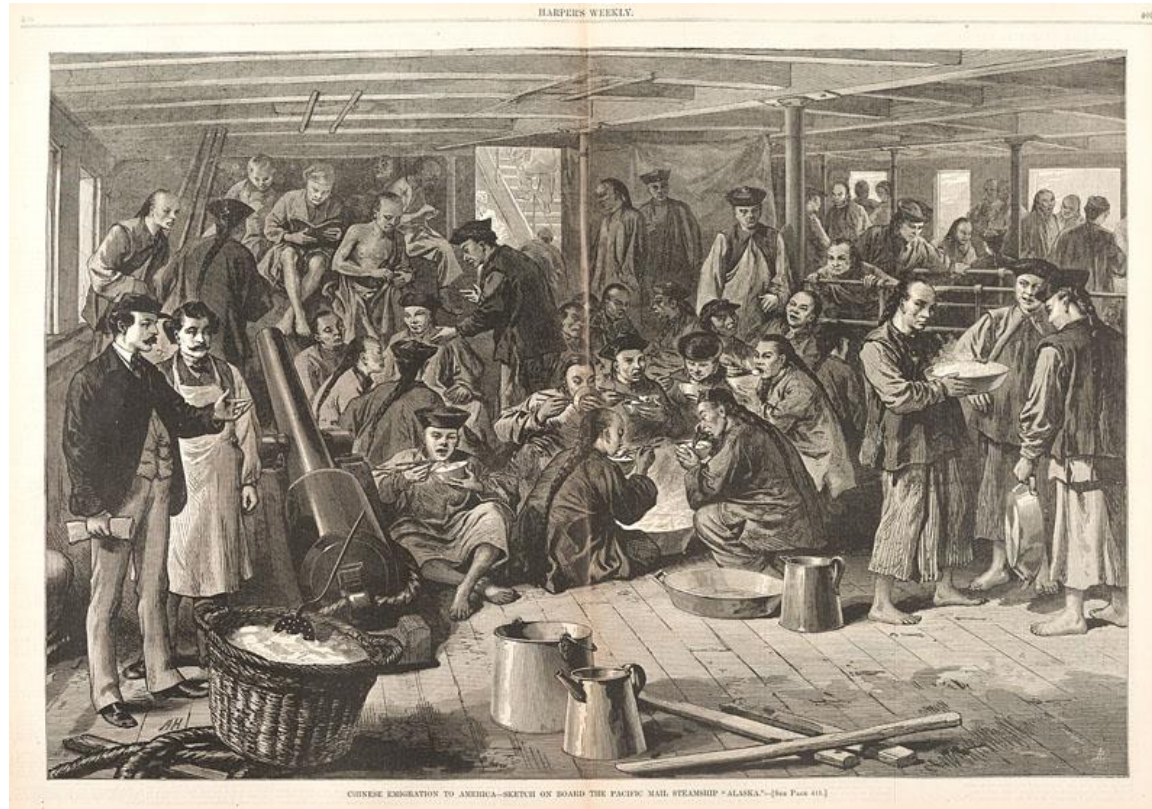
U.S. Imperialism in the Pacific



- Seward believed the U.S. could build its empire in Hawaii through trade
- In 1868, Seward acquired the Midway Islands as a “pit stop” for American ships going to China



Rivalries in China

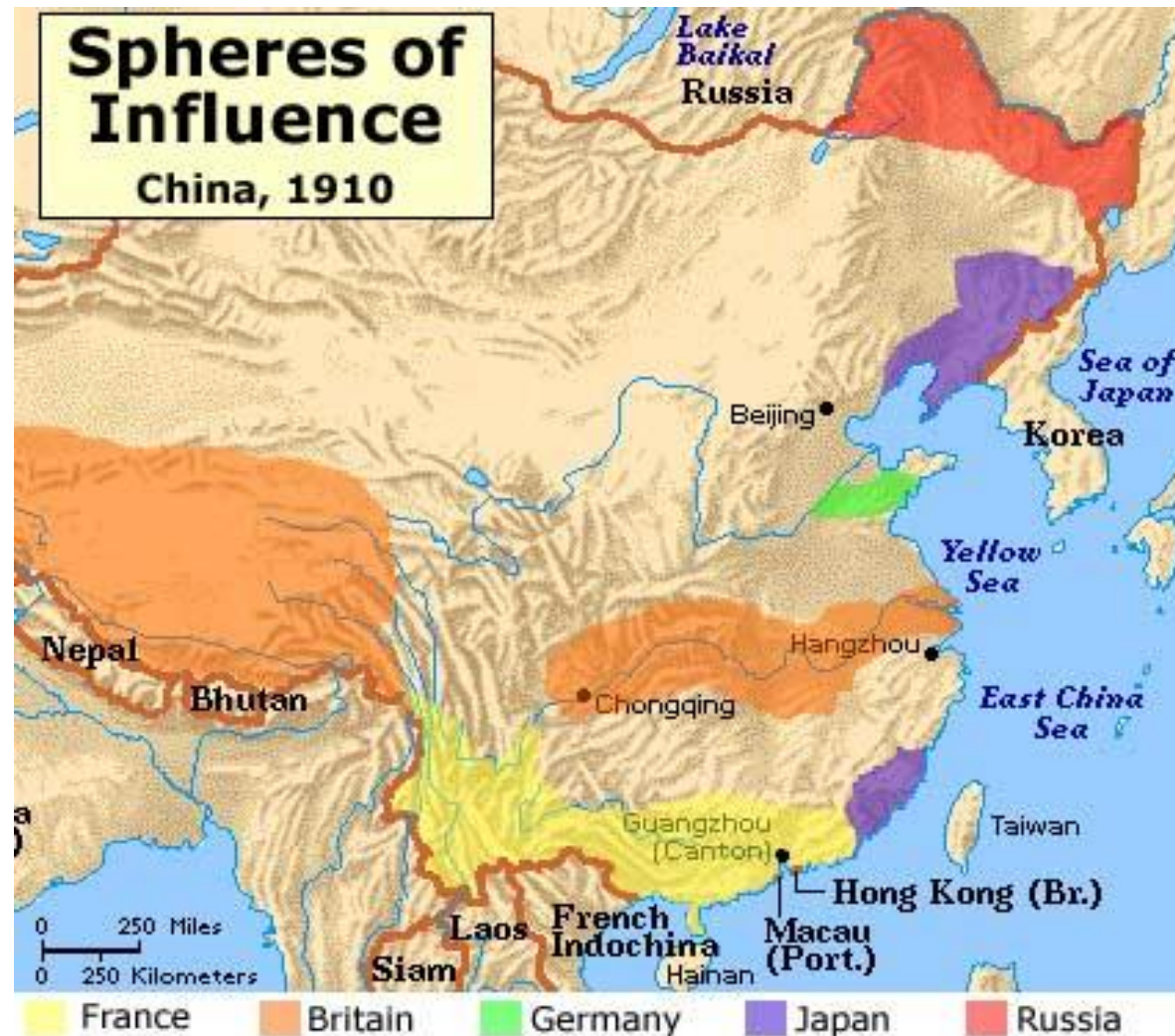


-For Americans, the Pacific Islands were a steppingstone to a larger prize - China

-China was torn apart by internal fighting; they also lacked manufacturing industries making it militarily weak in resisting foreign powers who wanted to exploit its vast resources and markets

-By the late 1800s Japan and the European powers had claimed “**Spheres of Influence**” in China where each country had special rights and powers

-U.S. leaders worried our country would be squeezed out of the profitable Chinese market

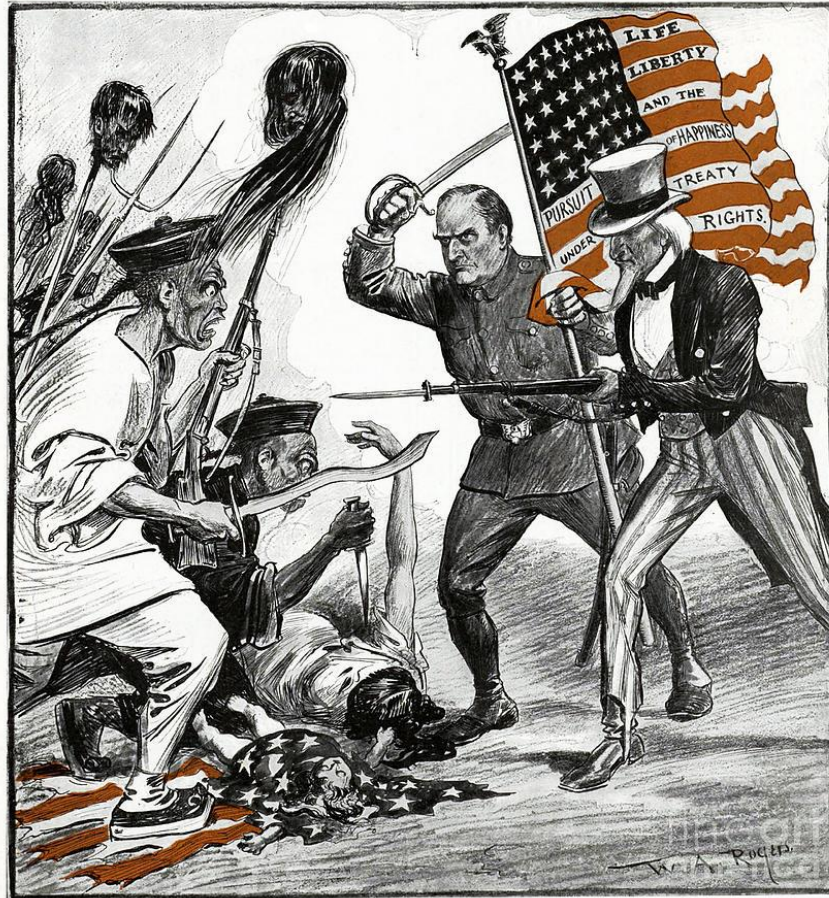


-Secretary of State John Hay proposed the “**Open Door Policy**” under which each foreign nation in China could trade freely in the other nations’ “Spheres of Influences”

-These other foreign nations were not quick to agree to this policy because it benefited the U.S. the most

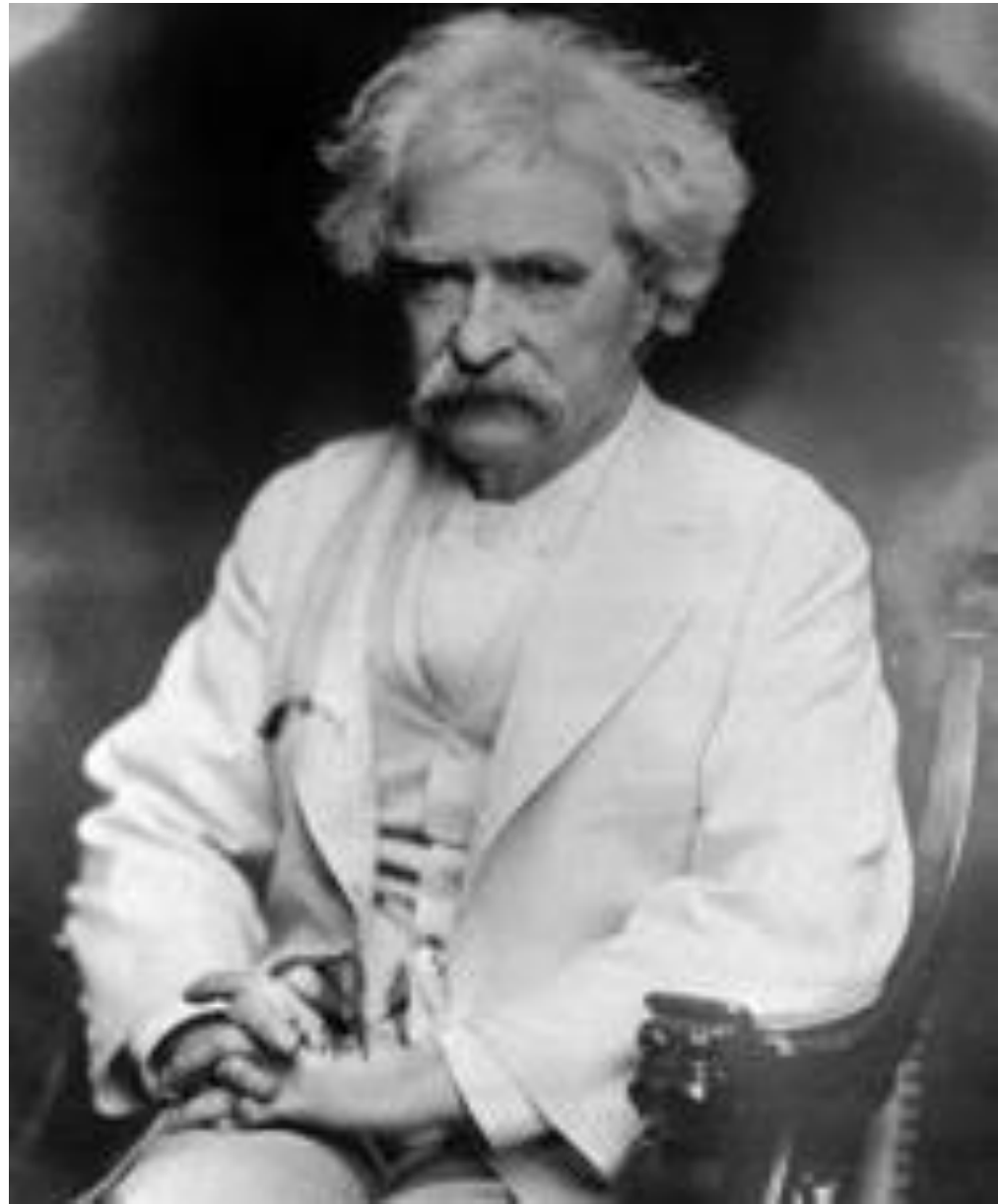
- This soon changed in 1899, because a secret martial arts society known as the **Boxers** began a violent revolt to rid China of the Christian “**foreign devils**”

-In August of 1900, foreign troops broke the siege and defeated the Boxers



“China never wanted foreigners any more than foreigners wanted Chinamen, and on this question I am with the Boxers every time. The Boxer is a patriot. He loves his country better than he does the countries of other people. I wish him success. The Boxer believes in driving us out of his country. I am a Boxer too, for I believe in driving him out of our country.”

- **Mark Twain; Berkeley Lyceum,
New York, November 23, 1900**



Diplomacy



Latin American Policies



-The U.S. wished to build a canal across Central America to connect two oceans and newly acquired territories

-The French had a contract to build a canal in the Columbian province of Panama, an isthmus (a strip of land connecting two larger bodies of land)

- The French had failed at building the canal and the U.S. bought the lease from the French for \$40m

-In 1903, Secretary of State John Hay (of the Open Door Policy) negotiated a treaty for a 99-year lease on the land in exchange for \$10m and an annual rent of \$250,000



- Columbian opposition grew against the deal, which angered President Roosevelt
- He used “**Big Stick/Gunboat Diplomacy**” to support Panamanian rebels in a revolt against Columbia and intervened against Columbia when they sent troops
- On 6 November, the U.S. recognized Panama’s independence and Hays signed a new treaty with the country of Panama
- Some members of Congress were angered by Roosevelt’s actions, but Roosevelt replied: “**I took the canal zone and let Congress debate**”



Policing the Western Hemisphere

Roosevelt Corollary

- America has the right to act as “policeman” in Latin America
- To preserve American interests, the U.S. would intervene
- This policy was an addition to the **Monroe Doctrine**

Dollar Diplomacy

- While Roosevelt thought of American power in military terms, his successor William Howard Taft took a different view
- Taft wanted to alter American foreign policy by “**substituting dollars for bullets**”
- Taft was willing to intervene in other nations when U.S. business interests were threatened
- Believed American investments would bring stability to troubled areas of the world as well as profit and power to the U.S.