

Chapter 28- America on the World Stage

1899-1909

“Little Brown Brothers” in the Philippines

- The Senate refused to pass a resolution granting Filipino independence and bitterness toward American troops erupted into open insurrection in 1899 under Emilio Aguinaldo
- As Filipino armies were defeated, they melted into the jungle to wage guerrilla warfare
- Atrocity tales shocked and rocked the United States (reconcentration camps established)
- The backbone of the Filipino insurrection was broken in 1901 with the capture of Aguinaldo
- President McKinley appointed the Philippine Commission to act as a sort of government
- At its head was William H. Taft who called the Filipinos his “little grown brothers”
- Millions poured in to improve roads, sanitation, and public health (sugar trade)
- The Filipinos hated compulsory Americanization and preferred liberty (July 1946)

Hinging the Open Door in China

- Following China’s defeat by Japan in 1895, imperialistic European powers moved in
 - A growing group of Americans viewed the vivisection of China with alarm (Manchu dynasty)
 - Churches worried about missionaries, Chinese markets, American public nudged Washington
 - Secretary of State John Hay dispatched to all great powers the Open Door note (summer 1899)
 - He urged them to announce that in their spheres of influence they would respect certain Chinese rights and the ideal of fair competition (*Open Door* gained wide acceptance with public)
 - Italy alone accepted the Open Door unconditionally (only major power without land in China)
 - Britain, Germany, France, and Japan all accepted; Russia politely declined
 - In 1900 a super patriotic group known as the “Boxers” strove to drive out the “foreign devils”
 - A multinational rescue force arrived and quelled the rebellion—contrary to nation’s principles
 - The allied invaders had China pay an indemnity of \$333 million—vastly excessive
 - Secretary Hay announced that the Open Door would embrace the territorial integrity of China
- Imperialism or Bryanism in 1900?
- President McKinley had won war, acquired rich estates, established the gold standard, prosperity

- McKinley was renominated on a platform that endorsed prosperity, gold standard, and expansion
- Teddy Roosevelt became a popular vice-presidential candidate (governor of New York)
- William Jennings Bryan forced a silver plank down the throats of Democrats
- Bryan assailed both imperialism and Republican-fostered trusts (Roosevelt toured the country)
- Bryanites trumpeted their “paramount” issue of slavery while Republicans responded by charging that “Bryanism,” not imperialism was paramount (no more prosperity with free-silver)
- Victory for Republicans was not a mandate for or against imperialism (prosperity & protection)

TR: Brandisher of the Big Stick

- William McKinley had served another six months when in September 1901, a deranged anarchist murdered him—Roosevelt became president at age forty-two, the youngest so far
- Known for impulsiveness, he proclaimed that he would carry out the policies of his predecessor
- The Rough Rider’s high-voltage energy was electrifying (“the tennis cabinet”)
- Roosevelt never cased to preach the virile virtues and denounce civilized softness
- “Speak softly and carry a big stick and you will go far”—if statesmen had big stick, they could work their will among foreign nations without shouting; shouting would do no good without it
- His self-confidence merged with self-righteousness; he loved people and mingled with all ranks
- A moralizer and reformer, Roosevelt preached virtue from the White House pulpit
- TR had an enormous popular appeal because the common people saw the fiery champion in him
- Roosevelt was a direct-actionists; he believed that president should lead and keep things moving

Colombia Blocks the Canal

- Spanish-American War had emphasized need for a canal across the Central American isthmus
- An isthmian canal would augment the strength of the navy by increasing its mobility
- Waterway would make it easier to defense recent acquisitions (American merchant marine)
- By Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, the US could not secure exclusive control over such a route (UK)
- The British consented to the Hay-Pauncefote Treat in 1901 (US free hand to build canal)
- French Canal Company was eager to salvage something from their failure at Panama

- Bunau-Varilla offered holdings at \$40 million (from \$109) for New Panama Canal Company
- Congress in June 1902 decided on the Panama route; Panama was unwilling part of Columbia
- A treaty between the US and Colombian government granted the US a lease for a six-mile-wide zone in exchange for \$10 million and an annual payment of \$250,000 (Columbia rejected)
- The “blackmailers of Bogota” were blocking the onward march of civilization

Uncle Sam Creates Puppet Panama

- Bunau-Varilla was disturbed by prospect of losing money; Panamanians ripe for another revolt
- He raised a tiny “patriot” army consisting of fire department and bought Colombian troops
- The Panama revolution occurred on November 3, 1903 and Colombian troops were gathered to crush the uprising, but U.S. naval forces would not let them cross the isthmus
- Roosevelt justified interference by interpretation of treaty of 1846 with Colombia
- This pact obligated Washington to maintain “perfect neutrality” of the isthmus
- Panama became outpost of US and Bunau-Varilla signed the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty (same \$)
- Rough Rider became involved in the Panama affair and the European imperialists raised their eyebrows in scorn at America’s superior moral pretensions—Roosevelt’s “cowboy diplomacy”

Completing the Canal and Appeasing Colombia

- The “rape” of Panama marked an ugly downward lurch in U.S. relations with Latin America
- The era of the bullying “Big Brother” policy was brazenly launched
- Roosevelt defended that he had received a “mandate from civilization” to start the canal
- The Nicaragua route was about equally feasible but the presidential election of 1904 was coming
- Active work was begun on “making the dirt fly” in 1904; organization was perfected under West Point engineer Colonel George Washington Goethals (who cared about sanitation)
- In 1914 the colossal canal project was completed at an initial cost of about \$400 million

TR’s Perversion of Monroe’s Doctrine

- Nations such as Venezuela and the Dominican Republic owed to European creditors and seeking to force payment, German warships sank two Venezuelan boats in early 1903
- Roosevelt feared that Germans or Britons might remain in Latin America (Monroe Doctrine)
- Roosevelt devised the policy of “preventive intervention”—Roosevelt Corollary to M.D.

- Brandishing of the big stick in the Caribbean became effective in 1905, when the United States took over the management of tariff collections in the Dominican Republic (treaty later)
- TR—"We shall intervene to prevent you from intervening" (preemptive stroke)
- The new corollary was used to justify wholesale interventions and repeated landings of the marines, which helped turn the Caribbean into a "Yankee lake"
- The shadow of the big stick fell on Cuba in 1906; revolutionary disorders brought an appeal from the Cuban president, and "necessity being the mother of invention," U.S. Marines were landed

Roosevelt on the World Stage

- Outbreak of war between Russia and Japan in 1904 gave him a chance to be a global statesman
- Russia was seeking China's Manchuria (Port Arthur) and Japan saw this as a threat
- Russian troops had invaded Manchuria during the Boxer rebellion and had not withdrawn them
- The Japanese suddenly began war in 1904 (railroad) and proceeded to administer a humiliating series of beatings to the inept Russians—the first serious military setback to a European power
- As war dragged on, Japan began to run short of men and money and officials approached Roosevelt in deep secrecy and asked him to help sponsor peace negotiations
- At Portsmouth, NH in 1905, Japanese presented demands for a huge indemnity and island of Sakhalin, while Russians refused to admit defeat—Japanese ended up with no money and land
- Roosevelt received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 but diplomatic glory had its toll on the US
- American relations with Russia had soured as Russians accused Roosevelt of robbing victory
- Japan and America became rivals in Asia, as fear and jealousy between them grew

Japanese Laborers in California

- Japanese government prohibited emigration of its citizens until 1884, when it began to allow temporary laborers to work on sugar plantations in Hawaii
- Thousands of Japanese were recruited for work in California as farm laborers, workers, servants
- Japanese immigrants did the nation's arduous work but were barred from becoming citizens
- Like the Chinese, Japanese immigrants confronted racist hostility
- In 1906 San Francisco's school board ordered the segregation of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean students in a special school to free more space for whites (after a devastating fire and earthquake)
- The people of Japan regarded this discrimination as an insult to them and their children

- On both sides of the Pacific, war talk sizzled in the yellow press (“yellow peril”)
- After inviting the SF Board of Education to the White House, he broke the deadlock
- The Californians came to accept the “Gentlemen’s Agreement”—school order repealed and Japanese agreed to stop the flow of laborers to the American mainland (fear of Japanese?)
- Roosevelt used the big stick and sent his entire battleship fleet on a voyage around the world
- Great White Fleet received welcomes in Latin America, Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia
- Overwhelming reception in Japan was the high point of the trip; in the warm diplomatic atmosphere created by the visit of the fleet, the Root-Takahira agreement of 1908 was reached
- The US and Japan pledged themselves to respect each other’s territorial possessions in the Pacific and to uphold the Open Door in China (battleship cruise—contribution to peace)