

## AP United States History

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### American Imperialism (Start of Period 7)

- Motivations for Expansion
  - Economic opportunities and competition with European empires drive imperialism
  - Perception that, by the 1890s, the Western frontier was "closed"
  - Global Manifest Destiny — Americans were destined to expand their culture and institutions to peoples around the globe
    - Jingoism — An intense form of nationalism with an aggressive foreign policy
- White Man's Burden
  - The concept of a superior white race whose duty was to spread culture and civilization to others around the world
  - Often manifests in missionary work
    - Help to spread Christianity (Josiah Strong)
  - Some disagreed with this policy, claiming it mirrored the British tyrants in America
- World's Fair, Chicago, 1893 — Exotic people exhibit
  - Native displays contrast with industry and progress of us
    - Frederick Douglass and Ida Wells attend and wrote a scathing criticism
- Alfred Thayer Mahan and The Importance of Naval Power
  - *The Influence of Seapower Upon History* argues for a stronger navy
- Battleship Maine (It blew up in Havana.)
  - McKinley used as an excuse to go to War with Spain
  - Yellow Journalism helps to make this idea popular with the American public
  - Teller Amendment: Congress passes a joint resolution authorizing war, and the amendment says the US has no intention in Cuban political control