**Manifest Destiny to World War I**

How did Western expansion in the mid-1800s contribute to the emergence of the United States as a global power? What forces promoted American expansionism in the middle of the 19th century?

What made the American Civil War an international event? What differentiated Union diplomacy from Confederate diplomacy?

According to Fareed Zakaria (covered in lecture), why was America slow in expanding from a continental power to a global power?

According to Walter LaFeber and the Wisconsin School (covered in lecture), how did crucial business interests and the need for foreign markets contribute to the timing of American expansion in the 1890s?

How did the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Bosnian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip lead to the outbreak of World War I? What role did the threat of nationalist uprisings in the Austro-Hungarian empire play?

Why did the United States enter World War I and what impact did its entrance have?

**US EXPANSION IN THE 1840S (California, Oregon, southwest)**

**Impact of American Expansion**

What impact did Western expansion have on America’s position in the world?

Expansion helped the U.S. project power globally through:

1) land, which was a source of wealth and a place that a growing population could settle upon

2) natural resources, which provided economic prosperity but also was important when mobilizing for war

3) a basis for dynamic economic growth which provided a solid economic foundation for global power

**Forces Promoting American Expansion**

What forces promoted American expansion:

Population and economic growth

Technology: The railroad

Ideology: Manifest Destiny

“And that claim is by right of our manifest destiny to overspread and possess the whole of the continent which providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us... The **God** of nature and of nations has marked it for our own...” John L. O’ Sullivan, Dec. 1845

Domestic Politics: Slavery, and balance of power in senate

THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE CIVIL WAR

**The American Civil War as an International Event**

The American Civil War and the survival of democratic (seen as unstable and chaotic) governance, GB only had limited democratic reforms in 1832, spring of nations – euro democratic rebellions, connections with liberalism and internationalism should have independence (South and states rights)

European powers and the American Civil War

European powers’ role in the fate of the Union

Britain and France neutral but favored the Confederacy (no official recognition); Russia supported the Union (counterweight to GB)

Union diplomacy: Industry (best trade partner) and anti-slavery (EP, made it impossible for euro to support confeds)

Confederate diplomacy: King Cotton (failed cause large surplus)

**US AS A GLOBAL POWER IN THE 1890s**

**American Territorial Expansion in the 1890s**

Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Philippines, Pacific Islands

War with Spain (1898) yields territorial annexations (for sugar), Cuba and Philippines

Important transition in American foreign policy: Why move from being a continental power to a global power (2)?

**Why expand in 1890’s? (I) Civil War legacy**

Puzzle: given economic growth (Europe in asia and Africa in 1870s and 80s) and weak neighbors, why US slow to expand outward after Civil War?

Not like other great powers in the age of imperialism

*Fareed Zakaria*. 1998. From Wealth to Power: The Unusual Origins of America’s World Role. Princeton University Press.- Republicans gave more power to executive branch because unified government

Have to understand domestic institutions (big question #4)

War fatigue from **Civil War** turns U.S. inward to focus on consolidation (war made the state)

Institutional prerequisites for expansion: industrial, debts paid, solidify federal authority over the states, executive authority over Congress, and build up federal bureaucracy

**Why expand in 1890’s? (II) Depression, Overproduction, and Economic Interests**

Walter LaFeber. 1963. The New Empire: An Interpretation American Expansion, 1860-1898. Cornell University Press.

Important role of business interests (industrialization)

Need new foreign markets, many of which closed because of European colonialism, to cure problem of overproduction and deflation (some say issues with gold standard)

Important component policies: high tariffs to increase revenue for military spending (government stimulant for job and economic growth) and raise domestic prices, naval spending, territorial annexations

Acquire foreign markets through territorial expansion; politically easier than domestic reform in aftermath of economic crisis

**THE UNITED STATES AND WW1**

**The U.S. and World War I**

Why the US join in 1917?

How did the United States shape the military and political outcomes associated with World War I?

**World War I**

War breaks out between Germany/Austria-Hungary (Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand) and Russia/France/Great Britain in 1914, ends in November 1918

American intervention (more loans to British and French, more troops) in 1917 changes course of war, sets up its termination

**Why did the US enter World War I? Germans attacked us and League of Nations**

Woodrow Wilson consistently works to keep US out, campaigns on this in 1916 election

E.g. Peace Without Victory Speech (alienated and depressed GB and French)

German submarine campaign shifts public opinion, makes it politically impossible to stay out of war (Wilson was trying to set peach terms in January of 1917, but it was too late)

Wilson also wants to shape the terms of the peace, anti imperialist

**How did US entry shape the consequences of World War I?**

Military consequences: Shifts in balance of military power alters German perceptions of potential for victory, failed offensive in spring of 1918

Political consequences:

End of Germany, Ottomans, Austria, and Russia Empires

War and Wilson’s support of self-determination facilitates

Imperial collapse and

Democracy

Get collective security system centered around League of Nations

Economic consequences: United States as preeminent economic power of world (we made Europe’s goods) and victor’s creditor

In sum, U.S. plays critical role in construction of postwar international political order