

U.S. Foreign Policy from 1865 to 1914

American foreign policy during this age actually began during the Civil War. William H. Seward of New York, who was the Secretary of State for both Lincoln and Johnson, helped stop both Britain and France aiding the South and joining the Civil War.

Areas of debate during these times were:

- the failure to annex Hawaii
- the failure to purchase the Dutch West Indies
- the success to annex Midway island
- the gaining of rights to build a canal through Nicaragua

In addition, during the Civil War Napoleon III had French troops occupy Mexico. At the end of the war Seward used the Monroe Doctrine to threaten military action against France. Rather than fight, Napoleon III left Mexico.

In 1867 Seward also arranged to buy **Alaska** from the Russians for \$ 7.2 million (or 2 cents per acre). Most of the nation was against this decision at the time and nicknamed the event "**Seward's Folly**" and referred to Alaska as "**Seward's Icebox**."

There is no doubt that the Industrialization of the nineteenth century caused American Imperialism. The two most significant reasons were:-

1. the need for world markets as at home there were significant surpluses of industrial and agricultural goods
2. the nation's supply of raw materials was rapidly diminishing so there was a need for new sources of raw materials, which had to be found overseas.

International Darwinism emerged as strength meant acquiring territories abroad. The old idea of manifest destiny now spread across the world. Imperialism was forthcoming.

Imperialism: acquiring new territory or gaining control over the political or economic life of other countries.

The United States had to compete with England, France, Germany, Russia and Japan in order to become successful in its endeavors.

The U.S. efforts were assisted by the **Missionary Movement**.

Headed by Reverend Josiah Strong Protestant Americans believed that they had a Christian duty to colonize and spread Christianity and Western Civilization. They deemed that America had racial superiority and white supremacy over other nations, especially in Africa, Asia and the many Pacific Islands.

The Republican party was pro international expansion. The two primary leaders of this campaign were Henry Cabot Lodge (Massachusetts) and Theodore Roosevelt (New York). By 1900 the United States had the third largest navy in the world, a reason to acquire islands such as Samoa to be used as coaling and supply stations for the fleets.

The efforts of the press aided Imperialism. Through articles about distant and exotic places the readers' images were widened, to the point of national expansion.

The Monroe Doctrine was widely quoted to protect re-colonization in Latin America. In 1889 Benjamin Harrison's Secretary of State, James Blaine, set up the **Pan American Conference**. It linked the nations of Latin America to the United States and was to be the foundation for the **OAS – Organization of American States that was to form in 1948**.

United States Foreign Pressure.

Venezuela

In 1895 and 1896 England and Venezuela were disputing over the boundary of Guyana. President Cleveland cited the Monroe Doctrine to England threatening action if necessary. Arbitration between the nations took place. Even though the situation favored England they honored the American threat of action. What took place created a vital friendship between England and America that still lasts today.

Spanish-American War

In the 1890's the nation's press was full of **Jingoism – nationalism calling for an aggressive foreign policy.**

In 1895 there was a revolt in **Cuba**. There were mass protests against Spanish rule leading to sabotaging and laying waste to the plantations. The hope was that the Spanish would leave the island for good but the opposite took place. Spain sent in over 100,000 troops to quell the rebellion.

“Yellow Journalism” – bold headlines of crime, drama etc. took to the pages of the New York World and the New York Journal printing false and exaggerated accounts of the events in Cuba. False accounts of Spanish atrocities in Cuba were written.

The De Lôme Letter – 1898.

In a letter from the Spanish Minister to the U.S. President McKinley's policies were criticized. The contents of this letter were leaked to the New York Journal and subsequently printed verbatim. The press showed this as a Spanish insult to U.S. National Honor.

The Sinking of the Maine (February 15, 1898).

One week after the De Lôme letter the U.S.S. Maine was anchored in Havana harbor. It suddenly exploded, killing 260. The “Yellow Press” said that the bombing was done by the Spanish. It was later determined that the explosion was an accident.

McKinley issued a strong ultimatum to Spain, demanding a ceasefire in Cuba. However the U.S. newspapers and the majority of Congress, wanted a war. McKinley yielded to these pressures and a war message was sent to Congress. In his message he demanded that Spain:

1. “put an end to barbarities, bloodshed, starvation and horrible miseries” taking place in Cuba.
2. The United States was willing to use force to protect the lives and properties of any U.S. citizen living in Cuba.
3. end the war which was causing serious injury to American commerce and trade
4. stop any disorders that were a constant menace to peace in Latin America.

On April 20, 1898 Congress approved and added the **Teller Amendment** to McKinley’s ultimatum. It stated that once peace was restored to Cuba and the Spanish were expelled then the Cubans could control their own government. American was now at war with Spain.

Invasion of the Philippines

Ironically the first shots of the war took place in **Manila Bay in the Philippines**.

McKinley’s Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, order the new, all-steel navy to open fire on Spanish ships in Manila Bay.

On May 1 Commodore George Dewey engaged fire and attacked Spanish naval ships and quickly sunk their fleet.

By May 13 the invasion of the Philippines, assisted by Pilipino rebels ended as Manila fell from Spanish rule and the America flag was raised over the city.

Invasion of Cuba

June 1898 saw an American invasion of a volunteer armed force land on the island.

Malaria, typhoid and dysentery killed over 5,000 whereas only 500 were killed in battle.

1. Aided by Cuban rebel forces the invasion army, now led by Theodore Roosevelt waged war against the Spanish.
2. Roosevelt’s volunteer regiment known as the “**Rough Riders**” won the famous cavalry charge up **San Juan Hill**.
3. In addition the United States also used veteran regiments of **African Americans** in the campaign with great success.
4. When the United States navy destroyed the Spanish Fleet at the battle of **Santiago Bay** the government of Spain quickly asked for peace.

A peace treaty was signed in Paris, France on December 10, 1898

1. Cuba gained its independence
2. The United States acquired Puerto Rico and Guam from the Spanish
3. The United States now ruled the Philippines, in return Spain received \$ 20 million.

Of note during this war were the **Hawaiian Islands**. Due to their geographic importance in the Pacific **Hawaii was annexed in June 1898**. It became a **Territory in 1900** and in **August 1959 became the 50th State**.

The Philippines Situation

Imperialists were in favor of annexation

Anti-Imperialists were in opposition due to:-

- a) the area was too highly populated
- b) there were different races and cultures involved
- c) it violated the principles of the Declaration of Independence
- d) the Philippines did not have a right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"
- e) there was already too much political conflict in Asia.

On February 6, 1899 the **Treaty of Paris** was passed on a vote 57 to 27 (2/3 less 2 votes) The Philippine Islands were now annexed. However there was much resentment on the islands towards America.

Guerillas, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, who had previously fought against Spanish rule now fought against the United States. After three years of fierce fighting and thousands of lives later, the United States finally took full control over the nation in 1902.

There were many political issues regarding the Philippine Islands and the acquisition of Puerto Rico. They became known as the **Insular Cases (Island Cases)**.

The greatest issue was the question: Did the Constitution apply to the Philippines and Puerto Rico?

During a series of Supreme Court hearings between 1901 and 1903 it was deemed that **Constitutional Rights were NOT automatically extended to these areas**. Congress must first vote and grant these areas such rights.

Cuba and the Platt Amendment of 1901.

U.S. troops stayed on the island until 1901 – when the new Cuban government agreed to the following terms and conditions:-

1. never sign any treaty or agreement with another foreign country that jeopardizes the independence of Cuba
2. never build up excessive public debt. If this happens then the United States will forcibly take action against Cuba.
3. permit the United States to intervene at any time to preserve Cuban independence and keep law and order on the island.
4. the United States will keep naval bases on the island (Guantanamo Bay).

Cuba reluctantly signed as it now became a Protectorate of the United States

America's Open Door Policy in China

As the United States rose as a world power it began to focus its attention towards China. **John Hay**, McKinley's Secretary of State approached the other Imperial nations and made them accept the United States **Open-Door Policy** for equal trading privileges in China. Once agreed American industrialists and traders became a common sight in the two major cities of Peking and Shanghai.

When the **Boxer Rebellion of 1900** took place in Peking, American missionaries were killed in the attack. U.S. troops were part of the international force sent to Peking to put down the rebellion.

After the rebellion Hay completed his second round of notes regarding the **United States commitment to an open-door policy**. He demanded that the nations involved:

- a) preserve China's territorial integrity
- b) allow equal and impartial trade within all parts of the Chinese empire.

Theodore Roosevelt's Big-Stick Policy

In 1901 President McKinley was shot by an anarchist assassin. He was succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt. He proceeded to attempt to build the United States into a world power. His policy was simple, "speak softly and carry a big stick."

The Panama Canal

Roosevelt's decision to build the canal was aided by the **Hay-Pauncefote Treaty of 1901**. The British agreed to cancel the earlier treaty of 1850 and end the joint control over the rights to the canal. The United States now had the sole rights to develop and build a canal through Panama.

The United States had to first deal with **Colombia** as they controlled the **Isthmus** of Panama. They refused to allow the United States commence digging. In 1903 the government backed a revolt in Panama, which did not last long. Colombia quickly surrendered its possession and in **1903 the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty** gave long-term control of the **Canal Zone** to the United States.

The building of the canal started in 1904 and was completed by 1914 thanks to the efforts of two army colonels:

George Goethals – the chief engineer

Dr. William Gorjas – who eliminated the mosquitoes and yellow fever.

In 1921 the United States in a case of remorse paid Colombia \$ 25 million for the canal.

Roosevelt's Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

1902 – Venezuela was not paying its debt – the British navy sailed in order to force them to pay

1904 – The Dominican Republic was unable to pay their debts causing many threats from Europe.

In December 1904 Roosevelt intervened. He stated that he would send U.S. gunboats to collect from those nations who were not paying their debts to foreign nations. In addition the United States would then occupy any Latin or South American country.

To repay the debts owed overseas, the United States would then supervise and collect taxes and duties which were to be used as repayments.

Over the next 20 years the United States took such action against **Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua**. The end result being that it created many long-term unpleasant relationships between these nations and the United States.

American diplomacy attempted to work after the **Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905**. Hosting the **Treaty of Portsmouth** (New Hampshire) in 1905 the United States had both Russia and Japan agree on an end to the war. However Japanese nationalists blamed the United States for not giving Japan all they wanted as a result of the war.

Roosevelt faced another international incident when the authorities in San Francisco passed a law that Japanese-American children be mandated to attend segregated schools.

Roosevelt quickly reached the “**Gentlemen’s Agreement**” with Japan in 1908

- Japan must secretly restrict the emigration of its workers to the United States
- Roosevelt will persuade California to drop these discrimination laws.

Between 1907 and 1909 the United States new navy “**The Great White Fleet**” sailed around the world in a show of power. Its last port of call was Tokyo Bay. As a show of agreement between the nations of Japan and the United States the **Root-Takahira Agreement of 1908** was signed.

(Secretary of State Elihu Root and Japanese Ambassador Takahira)

1. There will be mutual support for each others Pacific possessions
2. Both nations fully support the Open-Door Policy in China

Roosevelt was also a master for international arbitration. As a result he was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1906. He was credited for:

Algeciras Conference – Spain, 1907

– ending the dispute over Morocco between France and Germany

Second International Peace Conference – Hague, 1907

- limiting warfare around the world

Roosevelt was followed by **William Howard Taft (1909-1913)**.

Taft's international policy was completely different; he did not carry a "big stick". He favored **commerce** not naval action to resolve problems. He was in full support of American enterprises overseas, a policy that came to be known as "**Dollar Diplomacy**."

Taft believed that private finance spent in China and Central America would increase stability within these areas. However his good intentions met with discontent from the anti-imperialists within the United States.

Taft was able to have American bankers help the British, French and Germans build the Chinese railroads in 1911 **BUT** the United States was excluded from building the Manchurian Railroad by both Russia and Japan. This act of insolence was seen as defiance to the Open-Door Policy.

Taft also faced a problem in **Nicaragua**. In 1911 the Latin American nation was having financial problems which resulted in a Civil War taking place in 1912. In response the president sent in U.S. Marines to control the situation. These marines were to stay in the nation until 1933.

The Lodge Corollary (to the Monroe Doctrine)

This was initiated by **Henry Cabot Lodge** (Republican from Massachusetts). In 1912 Japanese investors wanted to buy part of the Baja Peninsula in California. Lodge's resolution was passed in the Senate even though Taft opposed the bill. The outcome was that **Non-European powers were excluded from owning territory in the Western Hemisphere**. Both Japanese and Latin American countries were outraged at this law.

International Policy was part of **Woodrow Wilson's "New Freedom"** campaign for presidency in 1912. His agenda included:-

1. a promise of a moral approach to foreign affairs
2. an opposition towards Imperialism, "Big-Stick" and "Dollar-Diplomacy"

Wilson's Moral Diplomacy from 1913-1917.

Once elected Wilson called upon **William Jennings Bryan** to be his Secretary of State. Bryan followed Wilson's plan by showing Americans intentions:

- A) demonstrating that the United States respected other nations rights
- B) supported the spread of Democracy throughout the world

Wilson took upon his government the task of **Righting Past Wrongs**.

1. Philippines – The Jones Act of 1916

- full territorial status was now granted to the country
- the people were guaranteed a full Bill of Rights and universal male suffrage to Filipino citizens
- a promise of independence was given once a stable government was formed within the country.

2. Puerto Rico

- an act of Congress in 1917 granted U.S. Citizenship to all inhabitants
- provisions were made for a limited self-government to be formed on the island.

3. Panama Canal

- U.S. ships now had to pay Canal Surcharges and Tolls.

4. Conciliation Treaties

Wilson and Bryan negotiated treaties where countries agreed to:

- submit disputes to international commissions
- allow for a 1-year cooling-off period before military action

* Thirty of such treaties were signed between countries around the world *

Wilson did use force when necessary. United States Marines were used to straighten out financial and political troubles – the intention being to maintain stability and to protect the Panama Canal. [60% of U.S. shipping used the canal at this time so its safety was of utmost national importance]. Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican republic saw U.S. Marines occupy their shores.

Mexico

In 1913 General Victoriano Huerto, a military dictator was in charge of Mexico. The previous democratically elected president had been assassinated.

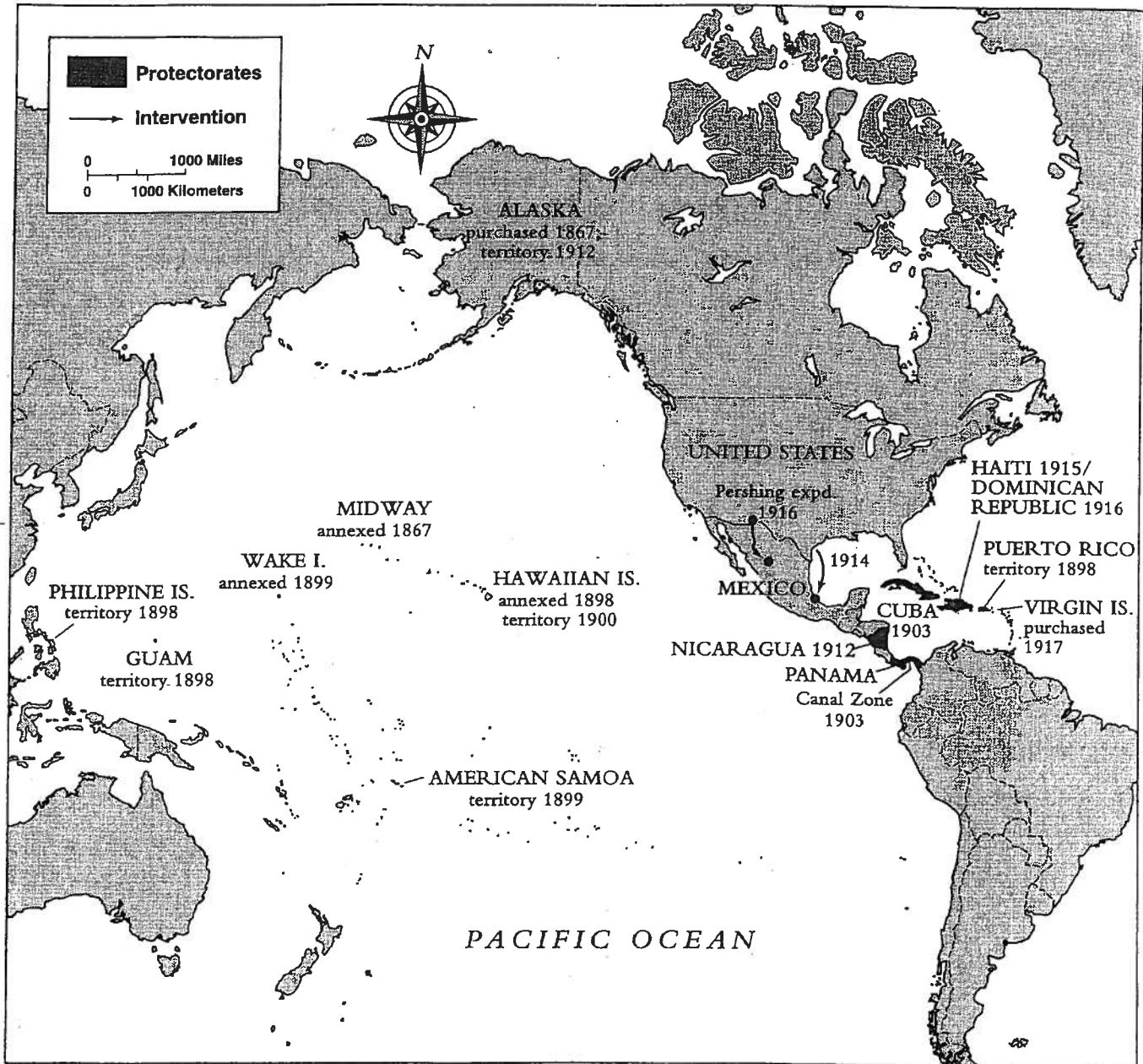
The Tampico Incident

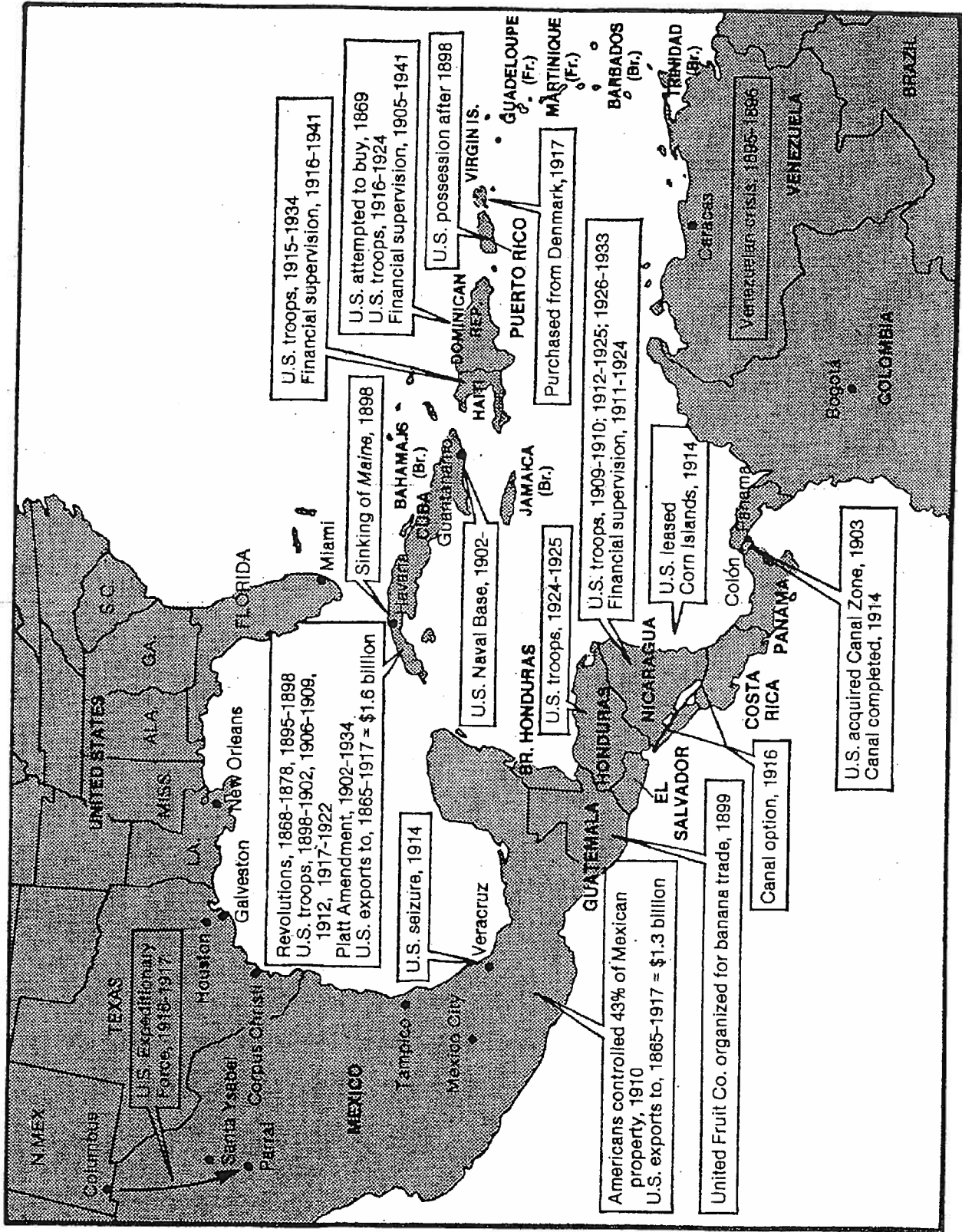
In an effort to bring down Huerto revolutionaries began fighting in Mexico. The United States placed an arms embargo on Mexico and sent the naval fleet to Vera Cruz. During the fleet being docked in Vera Cruz several seamen went ashore. They were arrested then subsequently released by the Mexican authorities. Huerto refused to apologize for the incident. In response the navy was given orders to occupy Vera Cruz. Mexico and the United States were now on the brink of war.

With thanks to the efforts of the **ABC Powers** (Argentina, Brazil and Chile) war between the two nations was averted after several rounds of mediation.

Huerto was replaced by Venustiano Carranza (more democratic). Immediately his new government was challenged by bands of revolutionaries loyal to **Pancho Villa**. Hoping to destabilize his opponent's government Villa led raids across the U.S.-Mexico border and murdered people in both Texas and New Mexico. In 1916 Woodrow Wilson sent **General Pershing** and his men to push Villa back to Mexico. Pershing could not catch Villa in New Mexico. President Carranza protested to the United States that Pershing's presence in the region was too long a stay. Wilson responded by withdrawing his troops, not because of the Mexican pressure but because of the possibility of American entrance into World War I.

U.S. TERRITORIES AND PROTECTORATES, 1917





The United States and the Caribbean

History of U.S. Interventions in Latin America

Location	Period	Type of Force	Comments on U.S. Role
Argentina	1890	Troops	Buenos Aires interests protected
Chile	1891	Troops	Marines clash with nationalist rebels
Haiti	1891	Troops	Black workers revolt on U.S.-claimed Navassa Island defeated
Nicaragua	1894	Troops	Month-long occupation of Bluefields
Panama	1895	Naval, troops	Marines land in Colombian province
Nicaragua	1896	Troops	Marines land in port of Corinto
Cuba	1898-	Naval, troops	Seized from Spain, U.S. still holds Navy base at Guantanamo
Puerto Rico	1898-	Naval, troops	Seized from Spain. occupation continues
Nicaragua	1898	Troops	Marines land at port of San Juan del Sur
Nicaragua	1899	Troops	Marines land at port of Bluefields
Honduras	1903	Troops	Marines intervene in revolution
Dominican Republic	1903-04	Troops	U.S. interests protected in Revolution
Cuba	1906-09	Troops	Marines land in democratic election
Nicaragua	1907	Troops	"Dollar Diplomacy" protectorate set up
Honduras	1907	Troops	Marines land during war with Nicaragua
Panama	1908	Troops	Marines intervene in election contest
Nicaragua	1910	Troops	Marines land in Bluefields and Corinto
Honduras	1911	Troops	U.S. interests protected in civil war
Cuba	1912	Troops	U.S. interests protected in Havana
Panama	1912	Troops	Marines land during heated election
Honduras	1912	Troops	Marines protect U.S. economic interests
Nicaragua	1912-33	Troops, bombing	20-year occupation, fought guerrillas
Mexico	1913	Naval	Americans evacuated during revolution
Dominican Republic	1914	Naval	Fight with rebels over Santo Domingo
Mexico	1914-18	Naval, troops	Series of interventions against nationalists
Haiti	1914-34	Troops, bombing	19-year occupation after revolts
Dominican Republic	1916-24	Troops	8-year Marine occupation
Cuba	1917-33	Troops	Military occupation, economic protectorate
Panama	1918-20	Troops	"Police duty" during unrest after elections

Location	Period	Type of Force	Comments on U.S. Role
Honduras	1919	Troops	Marines land during election campaign
Guatemala	1920	Troops	2-week intervention against unionists
Costa Rica	1921	Troops	
Panama	1921	Troops	
Honduras	1924-25	Troops	Landed twice during election strife
Panama	1925	Troops	Marines suppress general strike
El Salvador	1932	Naval	Warships sent during Faribundo Marti revolt
Uruguay	1947	Nuclear threat	Bombers deployed as show of strength
Puerto Rico	1950	Command operation	Independence rebellion crushed in Ponce
Guatemala	1954-?	Command operation, bombing, nuclear threat	CIA directs exile invasion and coup d'Etat after newly elected government nationalizes unused U.S.'s United Fruit Company lands; bombers based in Nicaragua; long-term result: 200,000 murdered
Panama	1958	Troops	Flag protests erupt into confrontation
Cuba	1961	Command operation	CIA-directed exile invasion fails
Cuba	1962	Nuclear threat, naval	Blockade during missile crisis; near-war with Soviet Union
Panama	1964	Troops	Panamanians shot for urging canal's return
Dominican Republic	1965-66	Troops, bombing	Marines land during election campaign
Guatemala	1966-67	Command operation	Green Berets intervene against rebels
Chile	1973	Command operation	CIA-backed coup ousts democratically elected Marxist president
El Salvador	1981-92	Command operation, troops	Advisors, overflights aid anti-rebel war, soldiers briefly involved in hostage clash; long-term result: 75,000 murdered and destruction of popular movement
Nicaragua	1981-90	Command operation, naval	CIA directs exile (Contra) invasions, plants harbor mines against revolution; result: 50,000 murdered

Location	Period	Type of Force	Comments on U.S. Role
Honduras	1982-90	Troops	Maneuvers help build bases near borders
Grenada	1983-84	Troops, bombing	Invasion four years after revolution
Bolivia	1987	Troops	Army assists raids on cocaine region
Panama	1989	Troops, bombing	Nationalist government ousted by 27,000 soldiers, leaders arrested, 2000+ killed
Haiti	1994-95	Troops, naval	Blockade against military government; troops restore President Aristide to office three years after coup
Venezuela	2002	Command operation	Failed coup attempt to remove left-populist president Hugo Chavez
Haiti	2004-	Troops	Removal of democratically elected President Aristide; troops occupy country