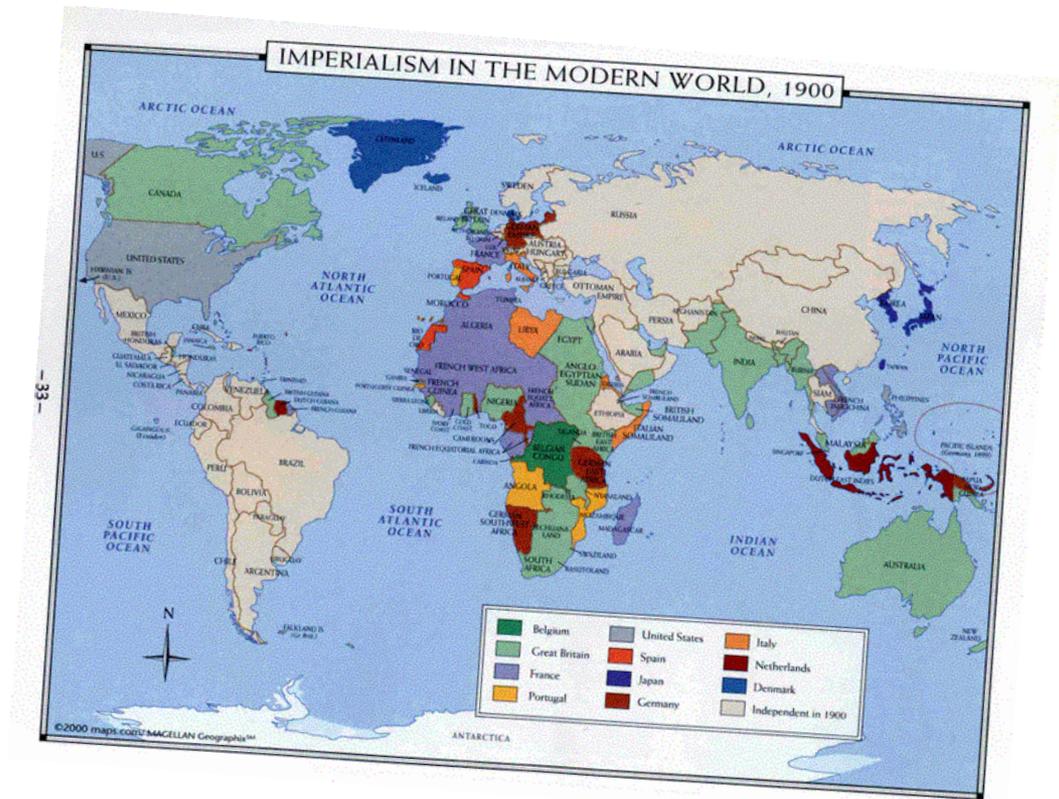


Unit 2: Imperialism and Isolationism (1890-1930)

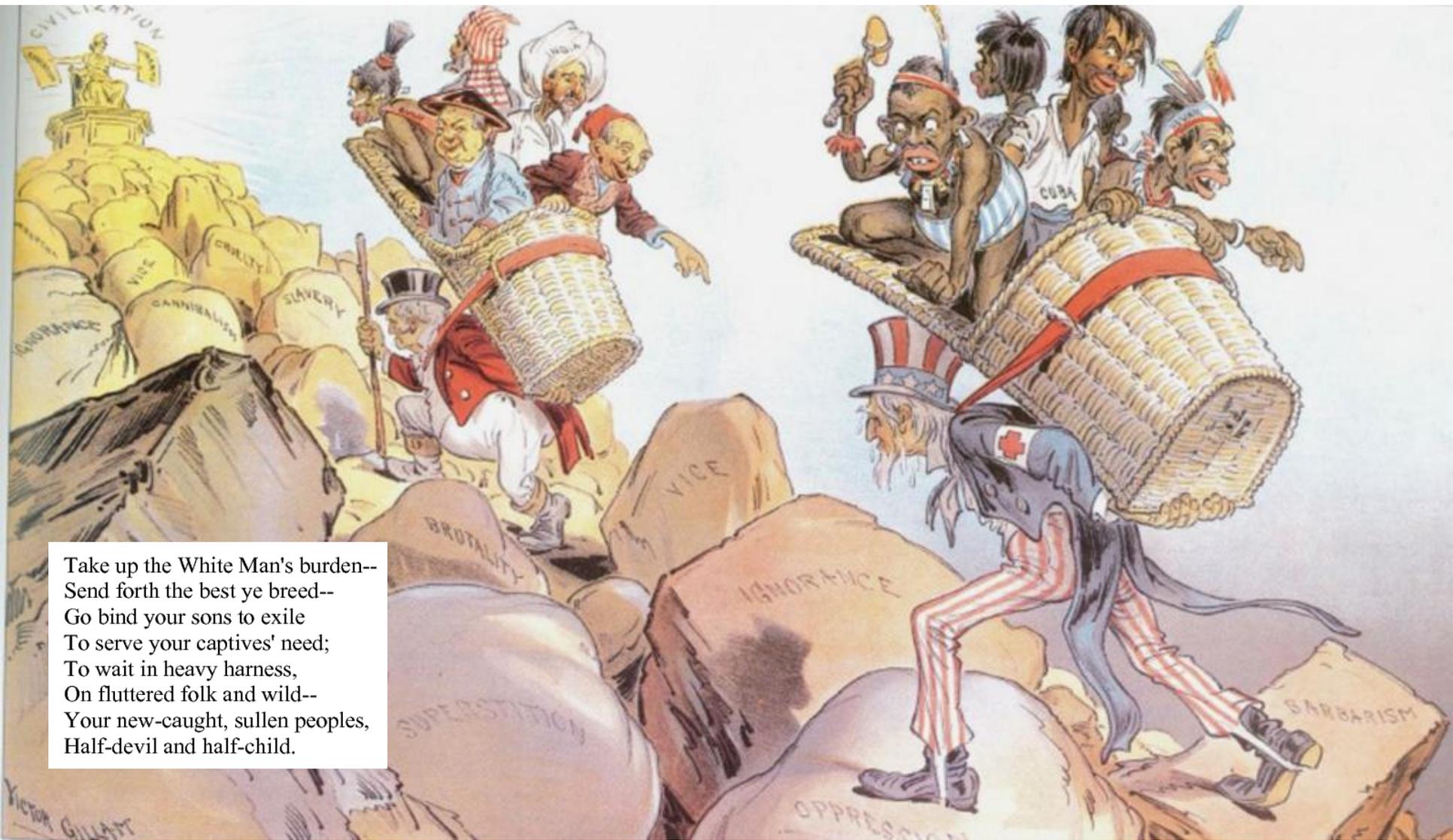
Imperialism

- What is an empire?
- Is imperialism the same as colonization?
- Why would the U.S. get involved in this practice?
- What is the difference between acquiring and taking something?



Pro-Imperialism

- Money, Money, Money!
 - New markets fuel capitalism, help create a more favorable balance of trade (export > import)
 - Raw materials were needed to feed American factories
 - Better trade routes and outposts would help merchants
 - Cheap labor in foreign countries would increase profits
- Reinforced by competition with European countries, need to defend trade routes and increase military presence worldwide
- Justified by belief in Manifest Destiny, Social Darwinism, and the “White Man’s Burden” to spread civilization and Christianity



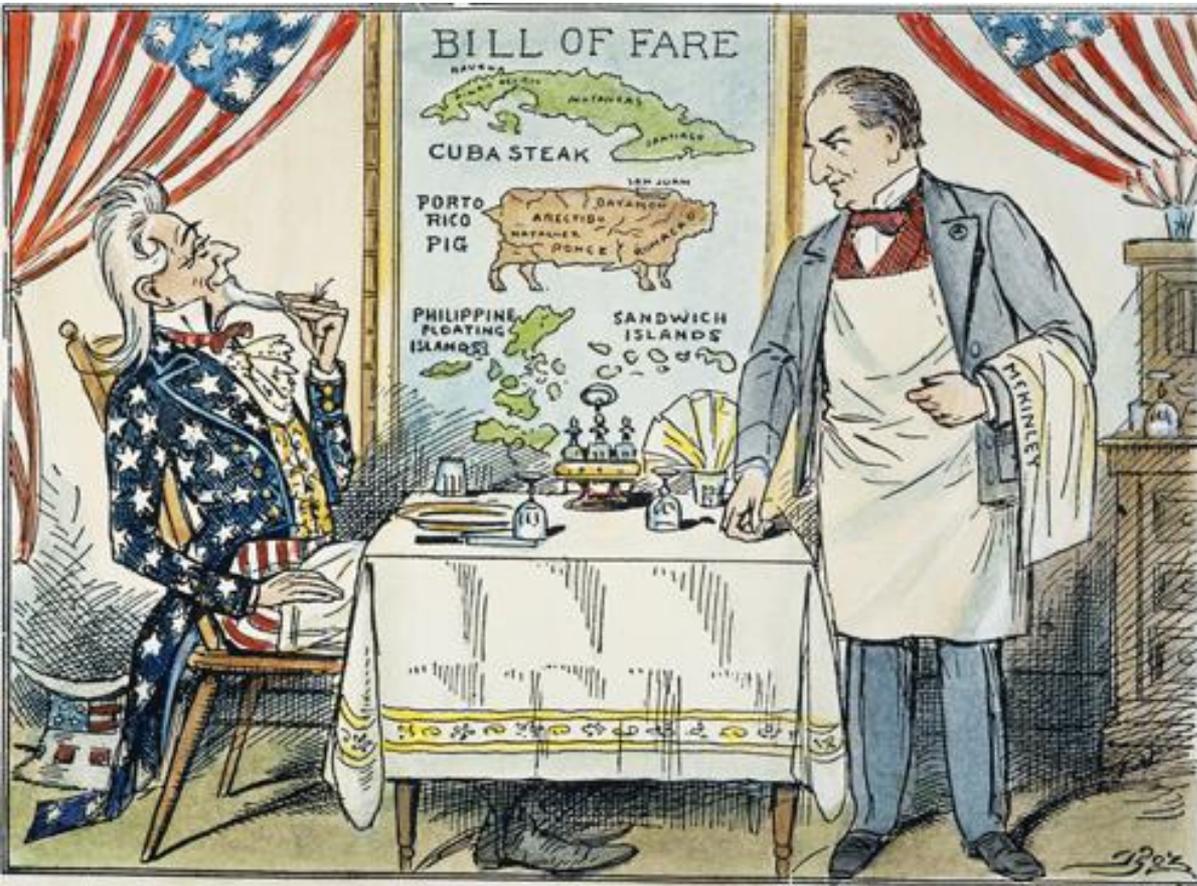
Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.

Anti-Imperialism



- Goes against democratic principles
- High cost to maintain military overseas
- Potential for war or rebellions
- Distracts from dealing with domestic issues like civil rights
- Using foreign labor causes greater competition for jobs, lower wages
- Nativism, xenophobia

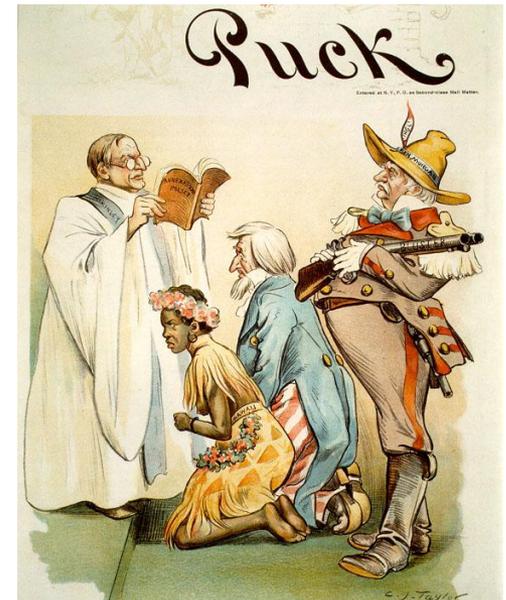
William McKinley



Republican William McKinley defeated William J. Bryan in the Election of 1896. As president, he embarked on a pro-business and pro-imperialism agenda.

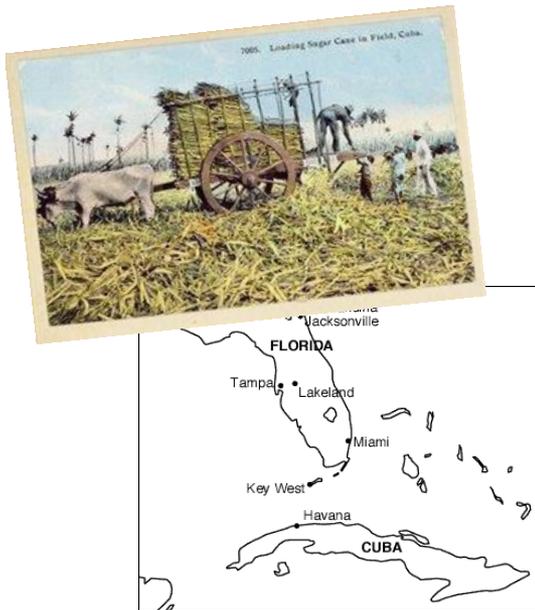
Two new states

- The U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million.
 - It was called “Seward’s Folly” because people believed the Sec. of State had wasted money on worthless land.
- Led by American sugar plantation owners who wanted duty-free status and more control over Pacific trade, U.S. military forces overthrew the Hawaiian monarchy
 - There was debate over annexation because of the methods used to take control, but when McKinley became president it was annexed as a territory



Spanish-American War

- Long-term causes
 - Monroe Doctrine: getting European countries out of the Western Hemisphere



- American sugar plantations had interests in securing a more stable government and increasing U.S. influence in Latin America
- Revolutionaries in Cuba asked the U.S. for support in overthrowing Spain and becoming independent

Spanish-American War

- Immediate Causes
 - Yellow journalism: Exaggerated stories with unsupported claims, sensationalized to sell papers, got Americans in heated debate over Cuba
 - De Lôme Letter: Hearst published an intercepted letter written by a Spanish ambassador criticizing President McKinley with the title “Worst Insult to the United States in its History”
 - When the U.S.S. Maine exploded in Cuba, the papers blamed it on Spain without any proof
 - McKinley asked Congress for declaration of war, with promise not to annex Cuba after

Spanish-American War

- Treaty of Paris

- Cuba gained independence

- Platt Amendment established it as U.S. protectorate, Guantanamo naval base



- Puerto Rico was added as a U.S. territory

- The Foraker Act set up a government that shared power with Puerto Ricans

- U.S. purchased Philippines for \$20 mill

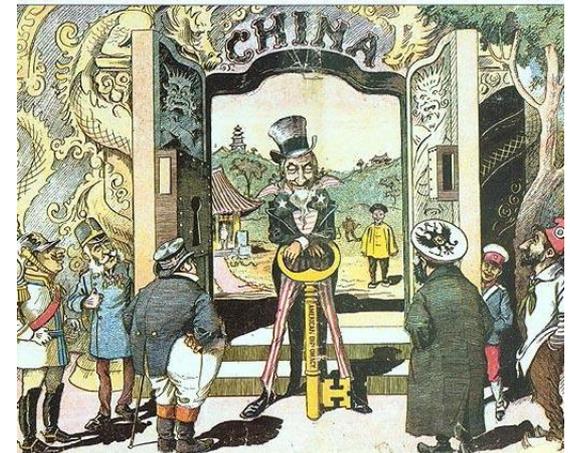
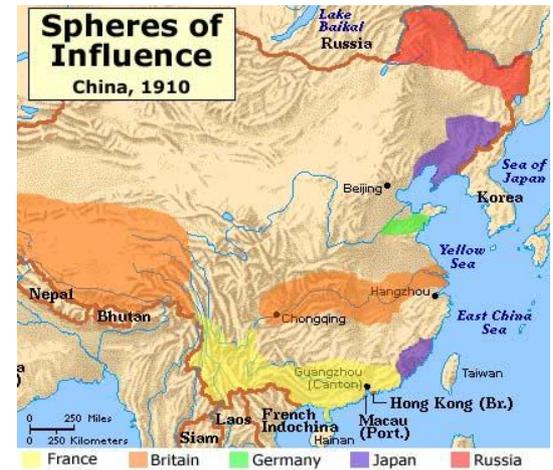
- McKinley debated what to do, and then decided they were “unfit for self-government,” and that the U.S. needed to “uplift and civilize and Christianize them”

Philippine-American War

- Filipinos fought for independence against the U.S. for almost three years
- The U.S. put rebels in “zones of protection” or internment camps, where thousands died from disease and starvation
- After the war, the U.S. set up a government that shared power with Filipinos
- Independence was granted after WWII

Open Door Policy in China

- Taking Hawaii and the Philippines gave the U.S. a major base of trade in Asia, but China was the big market to break into
- To resist colonization, China had created “spheres of influence” to limit trade with different countries to specific ports
- Secretary of State John Hay issued a series of diplomatic letters to the China and the European countries asking for an end to this practice



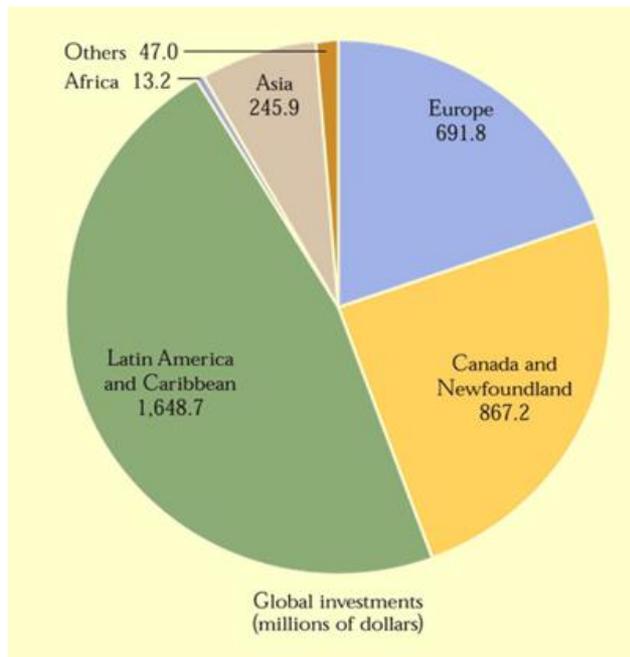
Roosevelt's Big Stick Diplomacy

- “Talk softly and carry a big stick” – strong military presence to add weight to diplomatic negotiations
- Sent the Great White Fleet to pressure Russia and Japan into a negotiation
- Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine added threat of force to protect U.S. interests in Latin America
- Helped Panama win independence from Colombia in exchange for rights to build and control the Panama Canal



Taft's Dollar Diplomacy

- A continuation of TR's policies in Latin America and Asia, Taft attempted to reduce European influence by offering to buy up debt to those countries in exchange for economic privilege



- In Nicaragua, U.S. bankers loaned money to a pro-U.S. regime in exchange for control of their customs, railroads, and bank system

Wilson's Missionary Diplomacy

- Favored intervention when there was a moral responsibility to oppose oppressive, undemocratic, or hostile governments
- Wilson intervened in the Mexican Revolution by supporting the leader that was least objectionable and helping stop a rebellion by Socialist leaders Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata
- And then...

