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The Path of Empire, 1890–1899

PART I: Reviewing the Chapter

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. explain why the United States suddenly abandoned its isolationism and turned outward at the end of the nineteenth century.
2. indicate how the Venezuelan and Hawaiian affairs expressed the new American assertiveness as well as American ambivalence about foreign involvements.
3. describe how America became involved with Cuba and explain why a reluctant President McKinley was forced to go to war with Spain.
4. state the unintended consequences of Dewey's victory at Manila Bay.
5. describe the easy American military conquest of Cuba and Puerto Rico.
6. explain McKinley's decision to keep the Philippines and list the opposing arguments in the debate about imperialism.
7. analyze the long-term consequences and significance of the Spanish-American War.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **concession** A privilege granted by a government to another government, private company, or individual. “. . . Japan, Germany, and Russia all extorted concessions from the anemic Chinese Empire.” (p. 624)
2. **nation-state** The modern form of political organization in which the government coincides exactly with a single national territory and population having a distinctive culture, language, history, and so on. “If America was to survive in the competition of modern nation-states, perhaps it, too, would have to become an imperial power.” (p. 624)
3. **reciprocity** An exchange of equal privileges between two governments. “America's grip was further tightened in 1875 by a commercial reciprocity agreement. . . .” (p. 627)
4. **scorched-earth policy** The policy of burning and destroying all the property in a given area so as to deny it to an enemy. “Driven to desperation, the insurgents now adopted a scorched-earth policy.” (p. 628)
5. **reconcentration** The policy of forcibly removing a population to confined areas in order to deny support to enemy forces. “He undertook to crush the rebellion by herding many civilians into barbed-wire reconcentration camps.” (p. 629)
6. **jingoist** Aggressively patriotic and warlike. “. . . Cleveland—an antijingoist and anti-imperialist—refused to budge.” (p. 629)
7. **atrocities** A specific act of extreme cruelty. “Where atrocity stories did not exist, they were invented.” (p. 629)

8. **proviso** An article or clause in a statute, treaty, or contract establishing a particular stipulation or condition affecting the whole document. "This proviso proclaimed . . . that when the United States had overthrown Spanish misrule, it would give the Cubans their freedom. . . ." (p. 631)
9. **archipelago** A large group of islands within a limited area. "An impression spread that America needed the archipelago. . . ." (p. 633)
10. **hostage** A person or thing forcibly held in order to obtain certain goals or agreements. "Hereafter these distant islands were to be . . . a kind of indefensible hostage given to Japan." (p. 642)

PART II: Checking Your Progress

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, mark **T**. Where it is false, mark **F**, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. The American government was deeply involved in the key international developments of the 1870s and 1880s.
- ___ 2. Alfred T. Mahan argued in his book that the conquest of colonies necessary to provide raw materials and markets was the key to world history.
- ___ 3. The South American boundary dispute over Guyana in 1895–1896 nearly resulted in a U.S. war with Venezuela.
- ___ 4. The Venezuelan boundary dispute was resolved when the United States backed away because of its growing conflict with Germany.
- ___ 5. President Cleveland refused to annex Hawaii because he believed that the white America planters there had unjustly deposed Hawaii's Queen Liliuokalani.
- ___ 6. Americans first became involved in Cuba because they sympathized with the Cubans' revolt against imperialist Spain.
- ___ 7. The Hearst press worked to promote a peaceful, negotiated settlement involving Cuban self-government under Spanish rule.
- ___ 8. President McKinley tried to resist the pressure for war with Spain coming from businesspeople and Wall Street financiers.
- ___ 9. Admiral Dewey's squadron attacked Spanish forces in the Philippines because of secret orders give by Assistant Navy Secretary Theodore Roosevelt.
- ___ 10. American forces received assistance in capturing Manila by native Filipinos who were rebelling against Spain.
- ___ 11. The American military conquest of Cuba was efficient but very costly in battlefield casualties.
- ___ 12. President McKinley declared that religion played a role in his decision to keep the Philippines.
- ___ 13. The treaty to annex the Philippines was approved by a wide margin in the Senate.

- ___ 14. The Supreme Court decided in the insular cases that American constitutional law and the bill of rights applied to the people under American rule in Puerto Rico and the Philippines.
- ___ 15. The Spanish-American War made the United States a full-fledged power in East Asia.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. Alfred Thayer Mahan promoted American overseas expansion by
- developing a lurid "yellow press" that stimulated popular excitement.
 - arguing that sea power was the key to world domination.
 - provoking naval incidents with Germany and Britain in the Pacific.
 - arguing that the Monroe Doctrine implied American control of Latin America.
- ___ 2. Which of the following was *not* among the factors propelling America toward overseas expansion in the 1890s?
- the desire to expand overseas agricultural and manufacturing exports
 - the "yellow press" of Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst
 - the need to find new African and Asian sources of raw materials for American industry
 - the ideologies of Anglo-Saxon superiority and social Darwinism
- ___ 3. The final result of the Venezuela-Guiana crisis with Britain was
- a series of battles between British and American naval forces.
 - the intervention of the German kaiser in Latin America.
 - American colonial control of Guiana.
 - British retreat and growing American-British friendship.
- ___ 4. President Grover Cleveland refused to annex Hawaii because
- white planters had illegally overthrown Queen Liliuokalani against the wishes of most native Hawaiians.
 - there was no precedent for the United States to acquire territory except by purchase.
 - the Germans and the British threatened possible war.
 - he knew the public disapproved and the Senate would not ratify a treaty of annexation.
- ___ 5. Americans first became concerned with the situation in Cuba because
- Spanish control of Cuba violated the Monroe Doctrine.
 - imperialists and business leaders were looking to acquire colonial territory for the United States.
 - Americans sympathized with Cuban rebels in their fight for freedom from Spanish rule.
 - the Battleship *Maine* exploded in Havana harbor.
- ___ 6. Even before the sinking of the *Maine*, the American public's indignation at Spain had been whipped into a frenzy by
- Spanish Catholics' persecution of the Protestant minority in Cuba.
 - Spain's aggressive battleship-building program.
 - William Randolph Hearst's sensational newspaper accounts of Spanish atrocities in Cuba.
 - the Spanish government's brutal treatment of American sailors on leave in Havana.

- ___ 7. Even after the *Maine* exploded, the United States was slow to declare war on Cuba because
- the public was reluctant to get into a war.
 - President McKinley was reluctant to get into a war.
 - the Cubans did not want Americans to intervene in their affairs.
 - there was no clear evidence that the Spanish had really blown up the *Maine*.
- ___ 8. As soon as the U.S. declared war on Spain, Commodore George Dewey sailed to the Philippine Islands because
- that was the best place to strike a blow for a free Cuba.
 - he had been ordered to do so by Assistant Navy Secretary Theodore Roosevelt.
 - the American navy happened to be on a tour of East Asian ports.
 - he was invited to do so by Philippine nationalists.
- ___ 9. Emilio Aguinaldo was
- the leader of Cuban insurgents against Spanish rule.
 - the leader of Filipino insurgents against Spanish rule.
 - the commander of the Spanish navy in the Battle of Manila Bay.
 - the first native Hawaiian to become governor of the islands after the American takeover.
- ___ 10. The largest cause of American deaths in Cuba was
- the direct-charge tactics of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders.
 - the effective artillery bombardments of the Spanish navy.
 - armed clashes with Cuban rebels and civilians.
 - bad food, disease, and unsanitary conditions.
- ___ 11. In addition to Cuba, American forces successfully seized the Spanish-owned Caribbean colony of
- Puerto Rico.
 - the Virgin Islands.
 - the Dominican Republic.
 - Guam.
- ___ 12. President William McKinley based his decision to make the Philippines an American colony on
- the belief in white Anglo-Saxon superiority to the Asian Filipinos.
 - a combination of religious piety and material economic interests.
 - the belief that the Philippines would be the first step toward an American empire in China.
 - the strong agitation for empire coming from the Hearst and Pulitzer yellow press.
- ___ 13. Among prominent Americans who opposed annexation of the Philippines were
- Leonard Wood and Walter Reed.
 - William Randolph Hearst and Theodore Roosevelt.
 - Mark Twain and William James.
 - Mark Hanna and "Czar" Thomas Reed.

- _____ 14. Pro-imperialist Americans argued that the Philippines should be seized because of
- patriotism and economic opportunities.
 - the Monroe Doctrine and national security.
 - the Declaration of Independence and the wishes of the Philippine people.
 - overpopulation and the need to acquire new land for American settlers.
- _____ 15. The Platt Amendment provided that
- the people of Puerto Rico were citizens of the United States.
 - the United States would eventually grant independence to the Philippines and Puerto Rico.
 - no European power could establish new bases or colonies in the Pacific.
 - the United States had the right to intervene with troops and maintain military bases in Cuba.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. Book written by a Protestant minister that proclaimed the superiority of Anglo-Saxon civilization
- _____ 2. Remote Pacific site of a naval clash between the United States and Germany in 1889
- _____ 3. South American nation that nearly came to blows with the United States in 1892 over an incident involving the deaths of American sailors
- _____ 4. The principle of American foreign policy invoked by Secretary of State Olney to justify American intervention in the Venezuelan boundary dispute
- _____ 5. Valuable naval base acquired by the United States from the Hawaiian government in 1887
- _____ 6. Term for the sensationalistic and jingoistic prowar journalism practiced by W. R. Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer
- _____ 7. American battleship sent on a "friendly" visit to Cuba that ended in disaster and war
- _____ 8. Amendment to the declaration of war with Spain that stated the United States would grant Cubans their independence after the war
- _____ 9. Site of the dramatic American naval victory that led to U.S. acquisition of rich, Spanish-owned Pacific islands
- _____ 10. Colorful volunteer regiment of the Spanish-American War led by a militarily inexperienced but politically influential colonel
- _____ 11. The Caribbean island conquered from Spain in 1898 that became an important American colony
- _____ 12. Group that battled against American colonization of the Philippines, which included such influential citizens as Mark Twain and Andrew Carnegie
- _____ 13. Supreme Court cases of 1901 that determined that the U.S. Constitution and bill of rights did not apply in colonial territories under the American flag

- _____ 14. American-imposed restriction written into the constitution of Cuba that guaranteed American naval bases on the island and declared that the United States had the right to intervene in Cuba
- _____ 15. Deadly tropical disease conquered during the Spanish-American War by Dr. Walter Reed and other American medical researchers

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Josiah Strong | A. Imperialist advocate, aggressive assistant navy secretary, Rough Rider |
| _____ 2. Alfred Thayer Mahan | B. Harvard philosopher and one of the leading anti-imperialists opposing U.S. acquisition of the Philippines |
| _____ 3. Richard Olney | C. Spanish general whose brutal tactics against Cuban rebels outraged American public opinion |
| _____ 4. Queen Liliuokalani | D. Native Hawaiian ruler overthrown in a revolution led by white planters and aided by U.S. troops |
| _____ 5. Grover Cleveland | E. Commander in Spanish-American War who organized the efficient American military government of Cuba |
| _____ 6. "Butcher" Weyler | F. American naval officer who wrote influential books emphasizing sea power and advocating a big navy |
| _____ 7. William R. Hearst | G. Naval commander whose spectacular May Day victory in 1898 opened the doors to American imperialism in Asia |
| _____ 8. William McKinley | H. Vigorous promoter of sensationalistic anti-Spanish propaganda and eager advocate of imperialistic war |
| _____ 9. George E. Dewey | I. American doctor who led the medical efforts to conquer yellow fever during U.S. occupation of Cuba |
| _____ 10. Theodore Roosevelt | J. American clergyman who preached Anglo-Saxon superiority and called for stronger U.S. missionary effort overseas |
| _____ 11. Emilio Aguinaldo | K. Belligerent U.S. secretary of state who used the Monroe Doctrine to pressure Britain in the Venezuelan boundary crisis |
| _____ 12. Leonard Wood | L. President who initially opposed war with Spain but eventually supported U.S. acquisition of the Philippines |
| _____ 13. William James | M. Leading Democratic politician whose intervention narrowly tipped the Senate vote in favor of acquiring the Philippines in 1899 |
| _____ 14. William Jennings Bryan | N. American president who refused to annex Hawaii on the grounds that the native ruler had been unjustly deposed |
| _____ 15. Walter Reed | O. Leader of the Filipino insurgents who aided Americans in defeating Spain and taking Manila |

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- ___ American rebels in Hawaii seek annexation by the United States, but the American president turns them down.
- ___ A battleship explosion arouses fury in America and leads the nation into a "splendid little war" with Spain.
- ___ A South American boundary dispute leads to aggressive American assertion of the Monroe Doctrine against Britain.
- ___ Americans grant Cuba self-government but retain naval bases and the right to intervene.
- ___ The U.S. Senate narrowly approves a treaty giving the United States a major colony off the coast of Asia.

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
___ 1. Economic expansion, the yellow press, and competition with other powers	A. Enabled America's unprepared military forces to gain quick and easy victories
___ 2. The Venezuelan boundary dispute	B. Created an emotional and irresistible public demand for war with Spain
___ 3. The white planter revolt against Queen Liliuokalani	C. Strengthened the Monroe Doctrine and made Britain more willing to accommodate U.S. interests
___ 4. The Cuban revolt against Spain	D. Led to the surprising U.S. victory over Spain at Manila Bay
___ 5. The <i>Maine</i> explosion	E. Set off the first debate about the wisdom and rightness of American overseas imperialism
___ 6. Theodore Roosevelt's secret orders to Commodore Dewey	F. Turned America away from isolationism and toward international involvements in the 1890s
___ 7. The confusion and weakness of Spain's army and navy	G. Aroused strong sympathy from most Americans
___ 8. McKinley's decision to keep the Philippines	H. Enhanced American national pride and made the United States an international power in East Asia
___ 9. W. J. Bryan's last-minute support for the treaty acquiring the Philippines	I. Set off a bitter debate about imperialism in the Senate and the country
___ 10. The Spanish-American War	J. Tipped a narrow Senate vote in favor of imperialist acquisition of the Philippines

G. Map Mastery

Map Discrimination

Using the maps and charts in Chapter 27, answer the following questions.

1. *The Venezuela-British Guiana Boundary Dispute*: In the Venezuelan boundary conflict, which nation—Britain or Venezuela—gained more of the disputed territory in the final settlement?
2. *The Pacific*: What two prime naval harbors did the United States acquire in (a) Samoa and (b) Hawaii?
3. *Dewey's Route in the Philippines, 1898*: Manila Bay lies off the coast of which island of the Philippine archipelago?
4. *The Cuban Campaign, 1898*: Which of the two battles fought by Rough Riders—San Juan Hill and El Caney—occurred nearer Santiago Harbor?
5. *The Cuban Campaign, 1898*: Which of the two Spanish-owned Caribbean islands conquered by the United States in 1898 was farthest from Florida?

Map Challenge

Using the map of *The Pacific* on p. 627, discuss the exact geographical relation of each of America's new Pacific colonies—Samoa, Hawaii, the Philippines—to (a) the United States mainland and (b) China and Japan. Which of the colonies was most strategically important to America's position in the Pacific, which least, and which was most vulnerable? Why?

PART III: Applying What You Have Learned

1. What were the causes and signs of America's sudden turn toward international involvement at the end of the nineteenth century?
2. How did the United States get into the Spanish-American War over the initial objections of President McKinley?
3. What role did the press and public opinion play in the origin, conduct, and results of the Spanish-American War?
4. What were the key arguments for and against U. S. imperialism?
5. What were some of the short-term and long-term results of American acquisition of the Philippines and Puerto Rico?
6. How was U. S. overseas imperialism in 1898 similar to and different from earlier American expansion across North America, or "Manifest Destiny"? (See especially Chapter 13.) Was this "new imperialism" a fundamental departure from America's traditions, or simply a further extension of "westward migration"?