

New American Diplomacy

Guide to Reading

Connection

In the previous section, you learned how the United States expanded its territory by defeating Spain in the Spanish-American War. In this section, you will discover how President Theodore Roosevelt helped the United States increase its power and influence around the world.

Main Idea

- Theodore Roosevelt went from governor of New York to president in a few short years and supported the country's rise to a world power. (p. 311)
- The United States pursued an Open Door policy in China to allow all nations access to China's markets. (p. 312)

- Theodore Roosevelt pushed for construction of the Panama Canal and declared the intent of the United States to act as a police force in Latin American nations. (p. 313)

Content Vocabulary

sphere of influence, Open Door policy, dollar diplomacy

Academic Vocabulary

exploit, tension, intervene

Events to Identify

Boxer Rebellion, "Great White Fleet," Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, Roosevelt Corollary

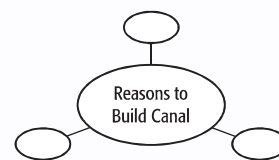
Reading Objectives

- **Critique** Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy as president.

- **Explain** the Open Door policy and its effects on relations between the United States and Asia.

Reading Strategy

Organizing As you read about the increasing presence of the United States in the world, complete a graphic organizer like the one below by listing the reasons President Roosevelt gave for wanting a canal in Central America.



Preview of Events



The following are the main History–Social Science Standards covered in this section.

11.4 Students trace the rise of the United States to its role as a world power in the twentieth century.

11.4.1 List the purpose and the effects of the Open Door policy.

11.4.2 Describe the Spanish-American War and U.S. expansion in the South Pacific.

11.4.3 Discuss America's role in the Panama Revolution and the building of the Panama Canal.

11.4.4 Explain Roosevelt's Big Stick diplomacy, Taft's Dollar Diplomacy, and Wilson's Moral Diplomacy, drawing on relevant speeches.

The Big Idea

America's military and economic strength made it a world power.

Following the death of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt became president. Roosevelt was an energetic and enthusiastic man who believed the United States should increase its power in the world. President Roosevelt established the Open Door policy with China to guarantee the United States would have the ability to trade with that nation. He also pushed for the construction of a canal through Central America and backed Panama in a revolt against Cuba. After Panama declared independence, the United States signed a treaty with Panama guaranteeing the construction of the canal. President Roosevelt declared that, if necessary, the United States would intervene in any Latin American country to ensure stability in the Western Hemisphere.

Theodore Roosevelt's Rise to Power

Main Idea Theodore Roosevelt went from governor of New York to president in a few short years and supported the country's rise to a world power.

Reading Connection Whom do you consider a person likely to succeed in anything he or she does? Read on to find out about one such charismatic person.

Theodore Roosevelt's exploits during the Spanish-American War made him famous and enabled him to win the election for governor of New York in November 1898. In 1900 President McKinley asked Roosevelt to run as his vice president. Less than a year later, a tragic turn of events thrust Roosevelt into the White House and international politics.

★ An American Story ★

Upon arriving in Panama in 1904, Dr. William Crawford Gorgas, a U.S. Army doctor and chief sanitary officer to the Panama Canal project, quickly realized that death awaited American workers. The United States was about to begin constructing the Panama Canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The task would be daunting because the dense jungles of Panama were home to swarms of mosquitoes that spread the deadly disease of yellow fever.

Gorgas set out to lessen the threat of disease by keeping mosquitoes from breeding. He and his crew drained swamps, gullies, and other sources of stagnant water, a main breeding ground for mosquitoes. On those areas of water they could not drain, they spread kerosene and oil, which killed the mosquito eggs before they hatched. They also fumigated nearly every home in the region and destroyed buckets, pots, and other outdoor containers that local residents let fill up with rainwater. In two years Gorgas and his crew had wiped out yellow fever in the area.

—adapted from *The Strength to Move a Mountain*

The construction of the Panama Canal might never have taken place had Theodore Roosevelt not become president. "Teddy," as the press called him, gained the presidency largely by accident.

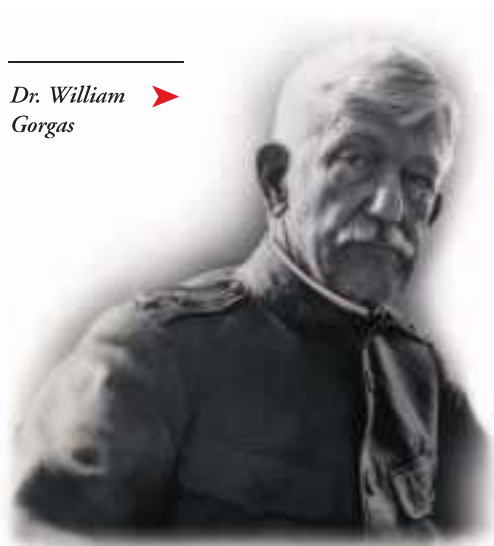
The Election of 1900 The election of 1900 once again pitted President McKinley against William Jennings Bryan. Bryan, an anti-imperialist, attacked the Republicans for their support of imperialism in Asia. McKinley focused on the country's increased prosperity. Employing the slogan "Four Years More of the Full Dinner Pail," the Republicans promised good times ahead if McKinley was reelected. He did indeed win the election by a wide margin, and Theodore Roosevelt became vice president.

On September 6, 1901, as President McKinley greeted the public during an appearance in Buffalo, New York, a gunman stepped from the crowd. The man was Leon Czolgosz, an avowed anarchist, who opposed all forms of government. Czolgosz fired two shots and hit the president. A few days later, McKinley died from his wounds. Czolgosz was executed on October 29, 1901.

Theodore Roosevelt, just 42 years old at the time, became the youngest person ever to become president. Roosevelt had been chosen as McKinley's running mate because Republican leaders knew his powerful charisma and heroic war record would be a great asset. They also hoped the relatively powerless position of vice president would quiet his reform-minded spirit. Now they cringed at the thought of Roosevelt in the White House. Republican senator Mark Hanna exclaimed, "Now look, that . . . cowboy is president of the United States!"

Roosevelt Becomes President Roosevelt brought to the presidency an energy and enthusiasm rarely seen before in the office. Such vigor stemmed in part from his childhood. Born into a wealthy New York family, Roosevelt was a sickly child who endured a host of ailments, including poor eyesight and asthma.

Dr. William Gorgas



Roosevelt pushed himself to overcome his frailties. He mastered marksmanship and horseback riding and could row up to 20 miles a day. He took up boxing and wrestling in college and continued with both throughout his life, practicing the belief that competition and conflict keep one healthy.

Roosevelt became a strong proponent of increasing American power on the world stage. Just as he refused to sit around idly in life, the president warned Americans not to “sit huddled” and become “an assemblage of well-to-do hucksters who care nothing for what happens beyond.” Roosevelt also accepted some of the ideas of Anglo-Saxonism. He believed that the United States had a duty to shape the “less civilized” corners of the earth. The new president intended to make the country a world power.

Reading Check **Summarizing** What was President Roosevelt’s opinion on the role of the United States as a world power?

American Diplomacy in Asia

Main Idea The United States pursued an Open Door policy in China to allow all nations access to China’s markets.

Reading Connection Why would the ability to sell goods to China be considered important? Read on to find out about trade with China in the late 1800s.

In 1899 the United States was a major power in Asia, with naval bases all across the Pacific. Operating from those bases, the United States

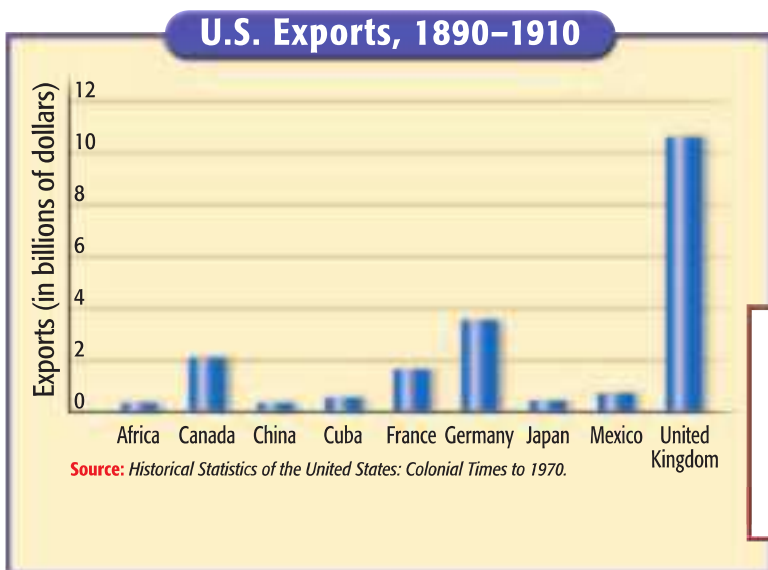
Navy—now the third largest in the world—was capable of exerting American power anywhere in East Asia.

The nation’s primary interest in Asia, however, was not conquest but commerce. Between 1895 and 1900, American exports to China increased by four times. Although China bought only about two percent of all the goods exported by the United States, the vast Chinese markets excited American business leaders, especially those in the textile, oil, and steel industries.

The Open Door Policy In 1894 war erupted between China and Japan over Korea, which at that time was part of the Chinese empire. European and American leaders expected China, with its massive armed forces, to defeat Japan easily. These Western observers were astonished when Japan, with a more modern army and a powerful navy, easily defeated China. In the peace treaty, China granted Korea independence. China also gave Japan territory in Manchuria that included the important city of Port Arthur. The war showed that Japan had successfully adopted Western technology and industry. It also demonstrated that China was far weaker than anyone had thought.

Japan’s rising power greatly worried the Russians. They did not want Japan to acquire the territory in Manchuria, because it bordered Russia. Backed by France and Germany, Russia forced Japan to give the part of Manchuria it had acquired back to China. Then, in 1898, Russia demanded that China lease the territory to Russia instead.

Leasing a territory meant that it would still belong to China, even though a foreign government would maintain overall control. Germany and France demanded leaseholds in China, and Britain insisted on several as well. Each “leasehold” became the center of a country’s **sphere of influence**, an area where a foreign nation controlled economic development such as railroad construction, mining, and other key industries.



Graph Skills

- Interpreting Graphs** Which country ranked third in total U.S. exports from 1890 to 1910?
- Making Generalizations** Why do you think that the vast majority of U.S. exports were going to the United Kingdom?

These events in northern China greatly worried the United States. President McKinley and Secretary of State John Hay both supported what they called an **Open Door policy**, in which all countries should be allowed to trade with China. In 1899 Hay sent notes to countries with leaseholds in China asking them not to discriminate against other nations that wanted to do business with the Chinese inside each leasehold. The Europeans and Japanese received the Open Door proposals coolly. Each power claimed to accept them in principle but refused to act on them unless all of the others agreed to do so as well. Hay refused to consider this a rebuff. Once he had received assurances from all of the great powers, he declared that the United States expected the other powers to abide by the plan.

The Boxer Rebellion While foreign countries debated who should control China, secret Chinese societies were organizing to get rid of foreign control. Westerners referred to one such group as the Boxers, because when translated their name meant “righteous, harmonious fists.” In 1900 the group rose up to wipe out “foreign devils” and their Christian converts, whom they believed were corrupting Chinese society. In what became known as the **Boxer Rebellion**, group members besieged foreign embassies in Beijing, killing more than 200 foreigners and taking others prisoner. In August 1900, an international force that included U.S. troops stepped in and quashed the rebellion.

During the crisis, Secretary of State Hay and British leaders worked to persuade European nations not to use the Boxer Rebellion as an excuse to partition China. In a second set of Open Door notes, Hay convinced the participating powers to back away from a full-scale retaliation against China. He urged them instead to accept compensation from China for any damage that the rebellion caused. After some discussion, China was never broken up into colonies. As a result, the United States retained access to China’s lucrative trade in tea, spices, and silk and maintained an increasingly larger market for its own goods.

Balancing Power in East Asia As president, Theodore Roosevelt supported the Open Door policy in China and worked to prevent any single nation from monopolizing trade there. This concern prompted Roosevelt to step in to help negotiate peace in a war between Japan and Russia in 1905. At a peace conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Roosevelt convinced the Russians to recognize Japan’s territorial gains and persuaded the Japanese



▲ *Imprisoned members of the Boxer society*

to stop fighting and to seek no further territory. For his efforts in ending the war, Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906.

In the years after the peace treaty, relations between the United States and Japan steadily grew worse. As the two nations vied for greater influence in Asia, they held each other in check through a series of agreements. They agreed to respect each other’s territorial possessions, to uphold the Open Door policy, and to support China’s independence.

In 1907 President Roosevelt sent 16 battleships of the new United States Navy, known as the **“Great White Fleet,”** on a voyage around the world to showcase the nation’s military might. The tour made a stop in Japan to demonstrate that the United States could and would uphold its interests in Asia. This visit did not help ease the growing tensions between the two countries throughout the early 1900s.

Reading Check **Explaining** What was the purpose of the Open Door policy?

A Growing Presence in the Caribbean

Main Idea Theodore Roosevelt pushed for construction of the Panama Canal and declared the intent of the United States to act as a police force in Latin American nations.

Reading Connection Have you ever tried to find a shortcut to save time when traveling from one place to another? Read on to learn about a canal that dramatically reduced travel and shipping time.

Theodore Roosevelt believed in a strong global military presence. He insisted that displaying American power to the world would make nations

think twice about fighting, thus promoting global peace. He often expressed this belief with a West African saying, “Speak softly and carry a big stick.” Roosevelt’s “big stick” policy was perhaps most evident in the Caribbean.

The Panama Canal One of Roosevelt’s most dramatic actions in the Caribbean was the acquisition of the Panama Canal Zone in 1903. Roosevelt and others viewed the construction of a canal through Central America as vital to American power in the world. A canal would save time and money for both commercial and military shipping.

As early as 1850, the United States and Great Britain had signed a treaty in which each nation had agreed not to build a canal without the other’s participation. Because of its strong interest in a canal, however, the United States negotiated a new treaty. In 1901, the United States and Great Britain signed the **Hay-Pauncefote Treaty**, which gave the United States the exclusive right to build and control any proposed canal through Central America.

A French company had begun digging a canal through Panama in 1881. By 1889, however, it abandoned its efforts because of bankruptcy and terrible losses from disease among the workers. The company was reorganized in 1894, but its operations practically ceased and its only hope was to sell its rights to digging the canal.

The United States had long considered two possible canal sites, one through Nicaragua and one through Panama. The French company eased this

choice by offering to sell its rights and property in Panama to the United States.

In 1903 Panama was still part of Colombia. Secretary of State Hay offered Colombia \$10 million and a yearly rent of \$250,000 for the right to construct the canal and to control a narrow strip of land on either side of it. The Colombian government refused the offer.

Revolt in Panama Some Panamanians feared losing the commercial benefits of the canal. Panama had opposed Colombian rule since the mid-1800s, and the canal issue added to the **tensions**. In addition, the French company was still concerned that the United States would build the canal in Nicaragua instead. The French company’s agent, Philippe Bunau-Varilla, and Panamanian officials decided that the only way to ensure the canal would be built was to declare independence and make their own deal with the United States. Bunau-Varilla arranged for a small army to stage an uprising in Panama.

On November 3, 1903, Bunau-Varilla’s forces revolted. President Roosevelt sent ships to Panama to prevent Colombian interference. Within a few days, the United States recognized Panama’s independence. Less than two weeks later, the two nations signed a treaty allowing the canal to be built.

Protesters condemned Roosevelt’s actions as unjustifiable aggression. The president countered that he had advanced “the needs of collective civilization” by building a canal that shortened the distance between the Atlantic and the Pacific by about 8,000 nautical miles (14,816 km).

The Roosevelt Corollary The growing American involvement in foreign affairs caused Roosevelt to expand his “big stick” diplomacy. In an address to Congress in 1904, the president defined what came to be known as the **Roosevelt Corollary** to the Monroe Doctrine. To prevent European nations from sending troops to the Caribbean or Central America, he announced that the United States would **intervene** in Latin American affairs when necessary to maintain stability in the Western Hemisphere:

“Chronic wrongdoing . . . may, in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly . . . to the exercise of an international police power.”

—quoted in *The Growth of the United States*



Analyzing Political Cartoons

American Imperialism This cartoon displays Roosevelt’s belief that the United States should “speak softly and carry a big stick” in foreign affairs. In what part of the world did Roosevelt’s quote originate?

The United States first applied the Roosevelt Corollary in the Dominican Republic, which had fallen behind on its debt payments to European nations. In 1905, worried that the Europeans were getting ready to send troops, Roosevelt sent American marines to the Dominican Republic to collect customs tariffs to make the debt payments. Roosevelt feared that European troops would hinder American trade with the Dominican Republic.

Latin American nations resented the growing American influence in the region. Roosevelt's successor, William Howard Taft, continued Roosevelt's policies, however, with an emphasis on helping Latin American industry. He believed that if American business leaders supported Latin American development, everyone would benefit. The United States would increase its trade, American businesses would increase their profits, and countries in Latin America would rise out of poverty and social disorder, and European nations would have no reason to intervene in the region. Taft's policy came to be called **dollar diplomacy**.


Although Taft described his brand of diplomacy as "substituting dollars for bullets," in Nicaragua he used both. In 1911 American bankers began making loans to Nicaragua to support its shaky government. The following year, civil unrest forced the Nicaraguan president to appeal for greater assistance. American marines entered the country, replaced the collector of customs with an American agent, and formed a committee of two Americans and one Nicaraguan to control the customs commissions. American troops stayed to support both the government and customs until 1925.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** What did the Roosevelt Corollary state?



 **Picturing History**

Bunau-Varilla Philippe Bunau-Varilla was instrumental in convincing President Roosevelt to build the canal through Panama instead of Nicaragua. As a representative of Panama to the United States, he also negotiated the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which gave the United States control of the Panama Canal. Many people viewed Roosevelt's actions in Panama as unjustifiable aggression. Roosevelt later defended his actions in the Roosevelt Corollary. **Why did Roosevelt believe that U.S. involvement in Latin American affairs was so important?**

HISTORY  **Study Central**
Online

For help with the concepts in this section of *American Vision: Modern Times* go to tav.mt.glencoe.com and click on **Study Central**.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

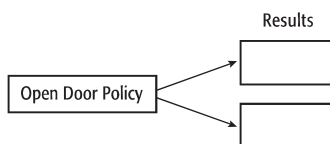
- Vocabulary** Define: exploits, sphere of influence, Open Door policy, tensions, intervene, dollar diplomacy.
- People and Terms** Identify: Boxer Rebellion, "Great White Fleet," Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, Roosevelt Corollary.

Reviewing Big Ideas

- Interpreting** Why do you think Latin American nations resented American influence in the region?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** How did the Open Door policy and dollar diplomacy affect U.S. relations with other countries?
- Organizing** Use a graphic organizer to summarize the results of the Open Door policy in China.



Analyzing Visuals

- Analyzing Graphs** Examine the graph on page 312. Why do you think such a small number of U.S. exports went to China and Japan?

Writing About History

- Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are Theodore Roosevelt, and write a speech justifying the actions that led to the building of the Panama Canal. Be specific in your reasons.

CA 11WS1.2; 11WS1.3