

## Unit 6

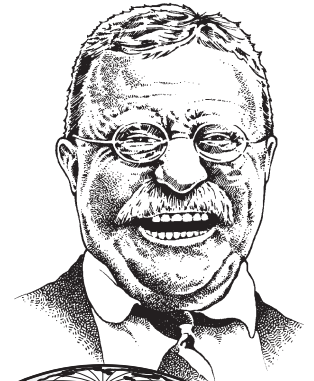
1890s –  
1910s

# America Becomes a World Power

As American business and industry grew in the late 1800s, trade with other nations around the globe was also increasing. Americans themselves developed a growing interest in what was happening around the world.

For business and industry, other nations represented new markets in which to sell products, as well as new sources of raw materials. For many Americans of that time, there was also a great hope that American ideas about democracy and human rights could be spread around the globe.

This unit tells the story of America's growing power in world affairs during the late 1800s and early 1900s. We'll see that often the United States brought great benefits to the world, as in the building of the Panama Canal. We will also see that in some cases, the spread of American power in these years created conflict.



Internet resources:

[www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap](http://www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap)

Words and people to know:



Spanish-American War

Cuba

Havana Harbor

USS *Maine*

yellow journalism

Theodore Roosevelt

Rough Riders

Philippines

Puerto Rico

Guam

imperialism

foreign policy

Big Stick Diplomacy

Panama Canal

Caribbean countries

Roosevelt Corollary

Western Hemisphere

economic

# Contents & References

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<b>Outline - America Becomes a World Power</b>	USII 5a, 5b	
<b>When Was the Spanish-American War?</b>	USII 5a	
<b>Map - America Grows Overseas</b>	USII 5a	
<b>Causes of the Spanish-American War</b>	USII 5a	
<b>Results of the Spanish American War</b>	USII 5a	
<b>The Panama Canal and “Big Stick Diplomacy”</b>	USII 5a	
<b>The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine</b>	USII 5b	
<b>Glossary for Unit 6 Vocabulary Words</b>		

**Internet Support Site: [www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap](http://www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap)**

**Notes:**

# Outline – America Becomes a World Power

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## 1. The Spanish-American War (1898) boosted the U.S. to a world power.

- A. The U.S. defeated Spain in a war over Spanish control of Cuba.
- B. The U.S. gained several territories around the world at the war's end.
- C. The U.S. continued to grow as an important world power, eventually becoming a “superpower” after the two world wars.



## 2. Reasons for the Spanish-American War.

- A. Americans' support for Cuban rebels who wanted independence from Spain.
- B. Protection of American businesses in Cuba.
- C. Sinking of the battleship USS *Maine* while it was anchored in Cuba's Havana Harbor.
- D. News reports, sometimes exaggerated, that inflamed public opinion against Spain.
  - \* yellow journalism - exaggerated, sensationalistic news reporting.

## 3. The Spanish-American War was a quick victory for the U.S.

- A. Spanish forces were defeated in Cuba, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico.
- B. It lasted from April to August of 1898.
- C. Theodore Roosevelt, later a U.S. president, played a small but very visible role as leader of a group of volunteer soldiers called the Rough Riders.

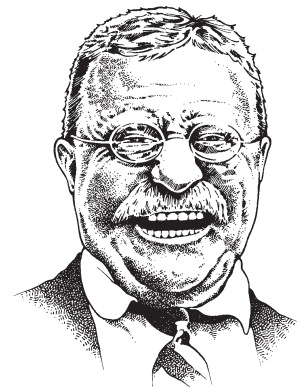
## 4. Results of the Spanish-American War.

- A. The U.S. became recognized as a world power.
- B. Cuba became independent of Spain.
- C. The U.S. gained possession of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico.
  - \* The U.S. was accused of “imperialism” for keeping control of those islands.

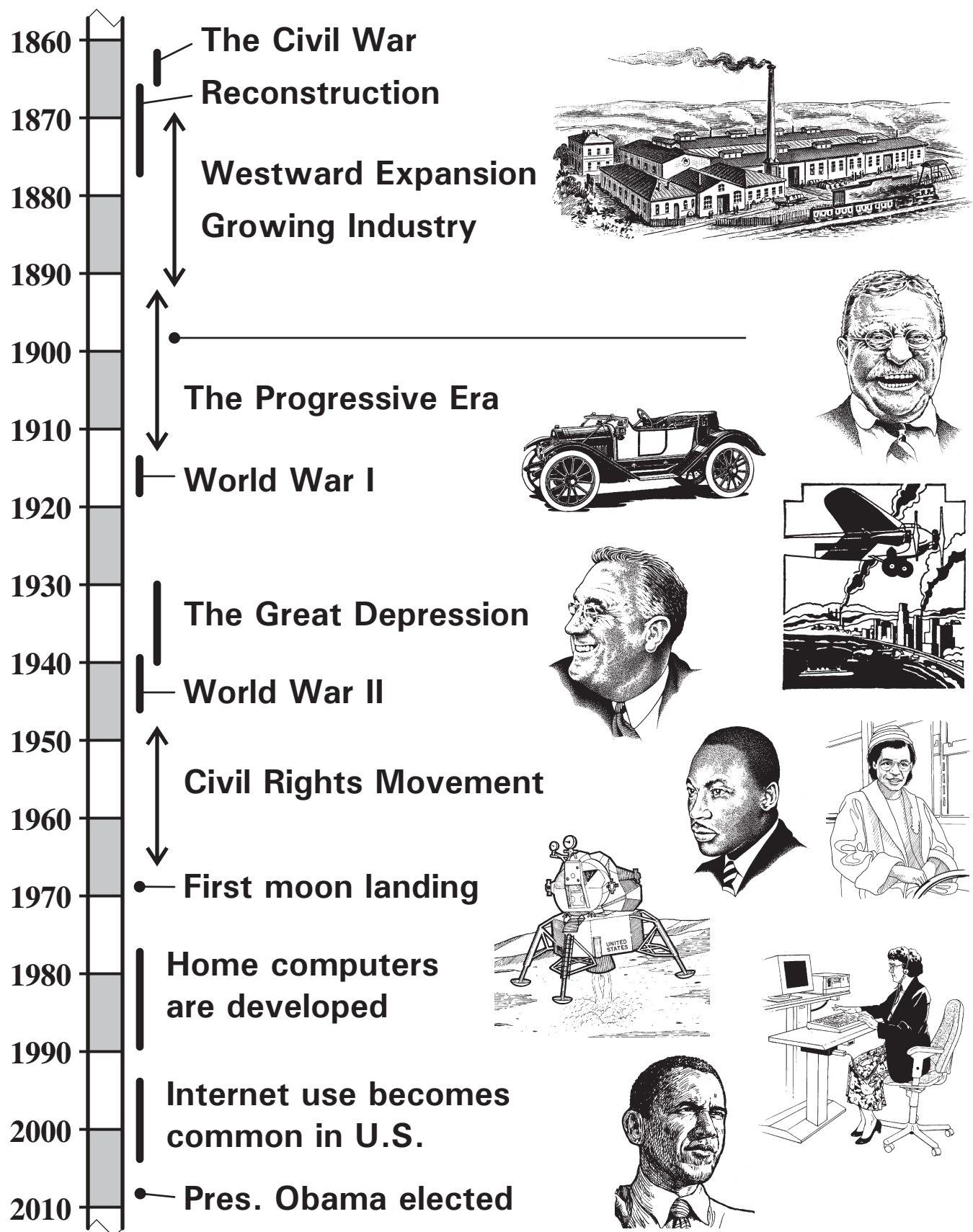


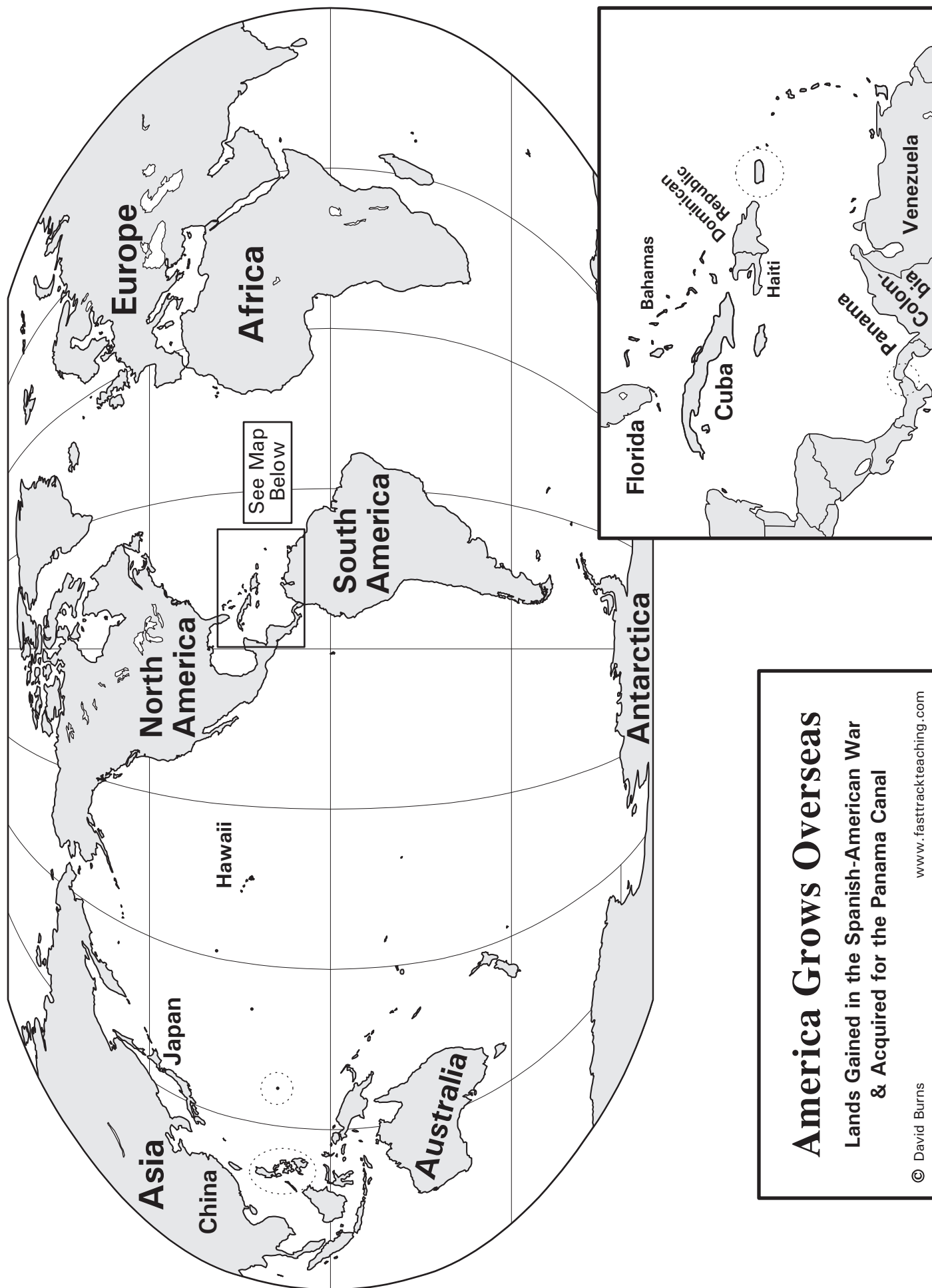
## 5. President Theodore Roosevelt pushed America to a much more active role in world affairs.

- A. He served as president from 1901 to 1909.
- B. He argued for “Big Stick Diplomacy” – using a show of military force to influence events when appropriate.
  - \* Example: the building of the Panama Canal.
  - \* Example: an expanded U.S. Navy to show American power.
- C. He added the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.
  - \* European countries should keep to their side of the Atlantic, while the U.S. would “police” the Western Hemisphere, if needed.
  - \* It also said the U.S. had the right to interfere in economic matters of other nations in the Americas, if necessary.



# When Was the Spanish-American War?





## America Grows Overseas

Lands Gained in the Spanish-American War  
& Acquired for the Panama Canal

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# Causes of the Spanish-American War

What were the main reasons the Spanish-American War began in 1898?





# Results of the Spanish-American War



What were the main results of the Spanish-American War for the United States?

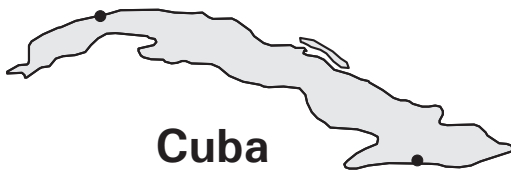
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Havana



Cuba

Santiago

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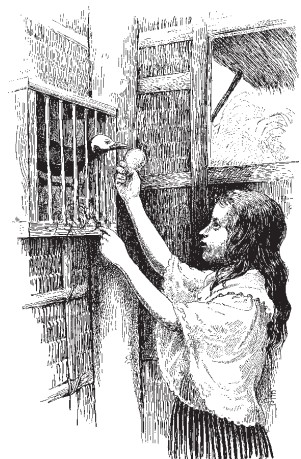
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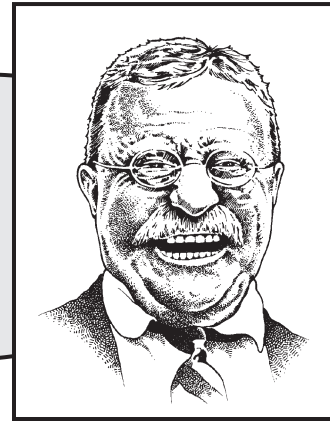
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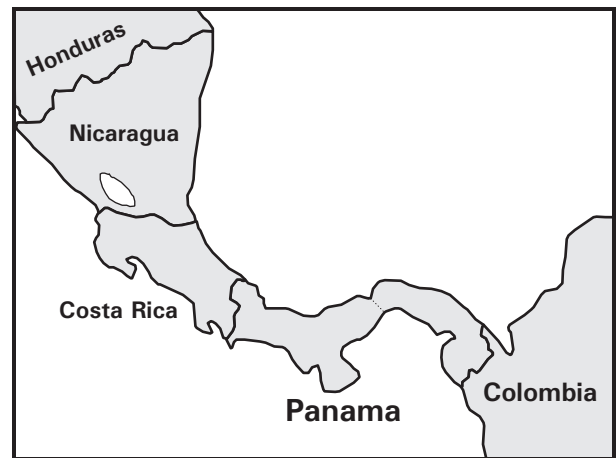


# The Panama Canal and “Big Stick Diplomacy”

The Panama Canal is an example of President Theodore Roosevelt’s use of “Big Stick Diplomacy.”



In 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt was trying to win permission from the country of Colombia to build a canal through Panama. At that time Panama was not a separate country, but was part of Colombia. When Colombia refused permission, Roosevelt encouraged a rebellion by Panamanians who wanted to form a separate country. He even sent warships to the area to discourage the Colombians from trying to stop the rebellion.



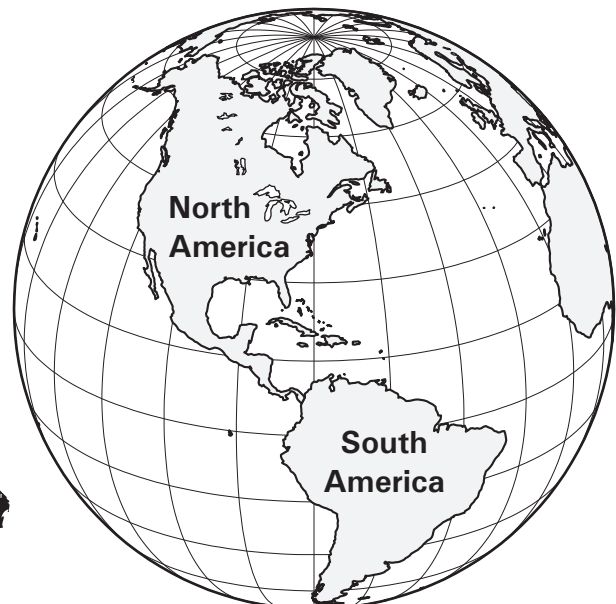
The warships never fired a shot, but sent a message that was unmistakable. Once Panama declared its independence, the U.S. quickly signed a treaty with the new nation to allow construction of the canal to go forward.

*Use the map above and the globe below to show the location of the Panama Canal.*

Roosevelt’s critics called his actions **Big Stick Diplomacy** – that is, using an implied threat of force to influence the outcome of issues involving other countries.

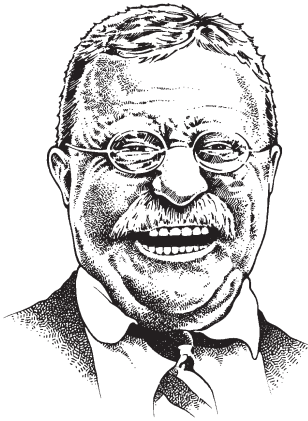
*Did you know?*

*Roosevelt expanded the U.S. Navy in these years, as a show to the world of growing U.S. power.*





# The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine



As president, Theodore Roosevelt claimed a much bigger role for the U.S. in the Western Hemisphere.

The United States had long insisted that European countries should not interfere with countries in the Western Hemisphere (also called the Americas). This policy was known as the **Monroe Doctrine**. President Theodore Roosevelt added a new twist to the old policy.

Some governments in Central and South America at that time did not have very good banking and financial systems. Who should step in to help if those countries could not pay money they owed to European nations? President Roosevelt's answer: The United States.

Roosevelt argued that if the United States did not step in when necessary, European countries might do so. To prevent that problem, he developed what was called **The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine**. The **Roosevelt Corollary** stated:



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**Big Stick Diplomacy** - a term for President Theodore Roosevelt's view that dealing with foreign countries sometimes requires reminding them of America's strength and ability to push back if not treated fairly. One example is his build up of the U.S. Navy in the early 1900s as a visible show of America's growing power.

**Caribbean countries** - countries that are in the area of the Caribbean Sea, such as Cuba.

**Cuba** - a large island nation about 90 miles off the coast of Florida that was a colony of Spain until freed in the Spanish-American War (1898).

**economic** - having to do with money, banking, finance, and investments, either in connection with a government or a private business..

**foreign policy** - the rules or guidelines a country has and follows in its dealings with other countries.

**Guam** - a small island in the Pacific controlled by Spain until the Spanish-American War (1898), when it passed into American control. Today it is a territory of the U.S.

**Havana Harbor** - the harbor of Havana, Cuba, where ships can dock.

**imperialism** - when a stronger nation holds or expands control or dominating influence over weaker foreign lands, but without settling population in those lands.

**Panama Canal** - a canal constructed in the early 1900s by the United States across Panama that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is considered one of the great engineering feats of modern times, and was an enormous benefit to world trade and travel. The U.S. gave ownership of the canal to Panama in 1999.

**Philippines** - a group of islands in the Pacific, near China, that was controlled by Spain before passing to American control after the Spanish-American War (1898). America kept control of the islands until after World War Two, in part to keep them from falling into the hands of any European nations. An uprising by the Filipinos who wanted immediate independence led to often brutal fighting on both sides.

**Puerto Rico** - an island in the Caribbean near Cuba that was controlled by Spain before passing to American control in the Spanish-American War (1898). Puerto Rico today is a territory of the U.S., but it is not a state. Its people are citizens of the U.S.

**Roosevelt, Theodore** - president of the U.S. from 1901–1909 who favored a strong, active U.S. presence in the world. Before becoming president, he played a highly visible role as leader of the "Rough Riders," a volunteer regiment that fought in the Spanish-American War. As president, he pushed for the building of the Panama Canal.

**Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine** - statements made by President Roosevelt that claimed the U.S. had a right, under certain circumstances, to step in and solve disputes affecting countries in the Americas. In effect, Roosevelt was claiming that the U.S. should be a kind of "international policeman" to protect countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America from bullying by countries in Europe.

**Rough Riders** - a volunteer cavalry (horse mounted) regiment of soldiers put together by Theodore Roosevelt that fought in the Spanish-American War.

**Spanish-American War** - a war in 1898 between Spain and the U.S. that began mainly to help free Cuba from an abusive Spanish government. As a result of the U.S. victory, Cuba was made an independent nation, and the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico came under American control.

**USS Maine** - a battleship sent by the U.S. to Cuba in 1898 to protect American citizens during a rebellion by Cubans against the Spanish government. When an explosion sank the ship shortly after it arrived, many Americans blamed Spain. "Remember the Maine!" became a rallying cry as the incident led the U.S. to declare war against Spain.

**Western Hemisphere** - the part of the globe that includes North and South America, including Central American countries and the Caribbean Islands.

**yellow journalism** - a term for the sensationalistic, often exaggerated style of news reporting commonly found in newspapers of the late 1800s and early 1900s.