• Why did the United States abandon its traditional isolationist foreign policy?

• How did the United States expand its influence in the world?
Some Key Ideas:

- Many 20th Century American foreign policy issues have their origins in America’s emergence as a world power at the end of the 19th Century.
- American intervention in WWI ensured its role as a world power.
- Growth of international trade displayed American urge to build, innovate and explore new markets.
William McKinley (1897-1901)

Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)

William Taft 1909-1913

Imperialist Presidents
Isolationism vs. Imperialism

- The idea that the U.S. should not be involved in affairs of other nations
- The "new world' was to be left alone by Europe was the significant statement of the Monroe Doctrine

- Expand to acquire new lands/ materials/ markets
- Generally refers to colonization
- Powerful statement of Roosevelt Corollary ("Big Stick Diplomacy") - the U.S. would intervene in the Western Hemisphere
“Speak softly and carry a big stick…” -- Roosevelt proclaimed the U.S to become the police of the West.
REASONS FOR EXPANSION:

- Compete economically with Europe
- Expansion as a natural right -- including belief in cultural superiority
- Need for new markets and new raw materials.
Imperialism in Latin America
Spanish American War (1898):

“A splendid little war”

- Caused by yellow journalism and economic interest in Cuba
- Puerto Rico was annexed by U.S.
- Cuba became a “protectorate” of the U.S.

Yellow Journalists often exaggerated to “hype” the news in order to sell papers!

Wreck of the U.S.S. Maine, 1898; accusations against Spain encouraged U.S. to declare war.
Panama Canal (1903):

- President **Roosevelt** wanted it built
- Would assist U.S. in trade and with Navy by connecting the Atlantic and Pacific
- U.S. encouraged (backed) Panama’s independence from Colombia in order to get access to the canal zone
- U.S. gained right to build and run canal
Dollar Diplomacy:

- **President Taft** urged banks and businesses to invest in Latin America.
- He promised U.S. would step in if civil unrest threatened American investments.
- This was a more passive imperialism.
Hawaii:

- U.S. interests were in Chinese trade, sugar plantations and a naval base.
- U.S. efforts deposed Hawaii’s monarch and created a new government.
- U.S. annexed Hawaii in 1898.

Queen Liliuokalani was the last monarch of the islands. She was loved by her people and opposed the Americanization of her society.
Philippines:

- Annexed after Spanish American War
- Struggled as U.S. needed to fight Filipino Freedom Fighters who wanted independence
- U.S. finally granted Philippine independence!

“Our boys entrenched against the Filipinos.” Ca. 1899-1900
Open Door Policy (1899):

- European nations had carved China into "spheres of influence"—places of political and economic domination—forbidding free trade.
- U.S. wanted a piece of the trade action.
Open Door Policy (1899):

- Secretary of State John Hay proposed a policy that would give equal trading rights in China.
- Open Door policy also urged all foreigners to obey Chinese law.
- This was a move to enhance fair competition.
GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OCCURRED FROM THE LATE 1800'S TO WWI. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE "GLOBAL ECONOMY".