

**U.S. Imperialism****Lesson 4**

# America as a World Power

**Key Terms and People**

**Panama Canal** A channel across Central America, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, opened in 1914

**Roosevelt Corollary** Roosevelt's 1904 extension of the Monroe Doctrine, stating that the United States has the right to protect its economic interests in South and Central America by using military force

**dollar diplomacy** The policy of intervening in other countries to protect U.S. business interests

**Francisco "Pancho" Villa** Mexican revolutionary

**Emiliano Zapata** Mexican rebel

**John J. Pershing** U.S. general who led troops to capture Villa

**Before You Read**

In the last lesson you learned about the growth of American imperialism. In this lesson you will learn how Roosevelt and Wilson used American military and economic power.

**As You Read**

Use a chart to take notes on how Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson used American power around the world.

**TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND THE WORLD****How did Roosevelt use American power?**

In 1901 President McKinley was assassinated, and Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt became president. Roosevelt continued the policies of American imperialism. He first used the influence of the United States to help settle the Russo-Japanese War.

The war began in 1904. Both Russia and Japan wanted to control Korea. Japan captured Korea and also invaded Manchuria, which was controlled by Russia.

Then Japan wanted to stop the fighting because they were running out of soldiers to fight and money to pay for the war. The Japanese secretly asked President Roosevelt to mediate the conflict. As a result, in 1905 representatives of Russia and Japan met. Roosevelt used his personal charm to help them negotiate a compromise. They signed a treaty, and Roosevelt received the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

Roosevelt also used his influence to help build the **Panama Canal**. The idea of a canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans had been discussed for

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some time. Such a canal would cut travel time for military and commercial ships. Ships would no longer have to go all the way around South America in order to get from one ocean to the other.

The narrow Isthmus of Panama was a logical place to cut a canal. Political problems stood in the way, however. Panama was a province of Colombia. When Colombia did not agree to the canal, the United States helped Panama to rebel against Colombia. Panama became independent. Then the United States got Panama's permission to build the canal.

Construction of the Panama Canal was one of the world's greatest engineering accomplishments. Work began in 1904 and took ten years. In 1913 there were 43,400 workers on the project. The work was hard and dangerous.

On August 15, 1914, the canal opened for business. It was a success from the start. More than 1,000 ships passed through during its first year. However, relations between the United States and Latin America had been damaged by the takeover of Panama.

President Roosevelt wanted the United States to be the major power in the Caribbean and Central America. He declared his policy in a message to Congress in 1904. His statement was called the **Roosevelt Corollary**. A corollary is a logical result of another statement, in this case the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. That doctrine had said the United States would not allow European influence in the Western Hemisphere. Roosevelt now said that the United States had the right to intervene in Latin American countries to protect U.S. business interests.

In 1911 President Taft used this policy in Nicaragua. A rebellion had left the

country in debt. Taft arranged for U.S. bankers to loan Nicaragua money. In exchange, American business took control of the railroads and banks in the country. They also collected Nicaragua's custom duties.

Nicaraguans did not like this arrangement. They rebelled. The United States then sent troops to Nicaragua to preserve the peace. Those who did not like this kind of intervention called it **dollar diplomacy**.

1. What are two ways Roosevelt used U.S. power in other countries?

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**WOODROW WILSON'S  
MISSIONARY DIPLOMACY****Why did President Wilson send troops to Mexico?**

President Woodrow Wilson took a step beyond Presidents Monroe and Roosevelt by adding a moral tone to Latin American policy. He said that the United States must act in certain circumstances.

This so-called "missionary diplomacy" meant that the United States could not officially recognize governments that were oppressive, undemocratic, or opposed to U.S. business interests. The new doctrine put pressure on countries to have democratic governments. A revolution in Mexico tested this policy.

In 1910 Mexican peasants and workers rebelled against their military dictator. Two new governments followed, the second headed by General Victoriano Huerta.

Wilson refused to support the Huerta government because it came to power through violence. However, the president looked for an opportunity to intervene.

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That opportunity came through a minor incident. One of Huerta's officers arrested a small group of American sailors in Tampico, on Mexico's eastern shore. The Mexicans released them and apologized, but Wilson used the event as an excuse to order in American troops. As a result, 18 Americans and at least 200 Mexicans died in the fighting. The incident brought the United States and Mexico close to war. When the Huerta regime collapsed and a new leader, Venustiano Carranza, took power in Mexico, Wilson withdrew the troops and formally recognized the Carranza government.

Mexico remained in turmoil. Under the leadership of **Francisco "Pancho" Villa** and **Emiliano Zapata**, rebels revolted against Carranza. Some of Villa's followers killed Americans. The United States wanted to capture Villa.

Finally the Mexican government gave permission to send in troops. Wilson sent General **John J. Pershing** with 15,000 soldiers to capture Villa dead or alive. A year later, Villa was still free. Wilson then stationed 150,000 National

Guardsmen along the border.

Mexicans were angered by the U.S. invasion. In 1916 U.S. troops fought with Carranza's army. In 1917 Wilson withdrew U.S. troops, in part because he was facing possible war in Europe. Later that year Mexico adopted a constitution that gave the government control of the nation's oil and mineral resources and placed strict regulations on foreign investors.

American intervention in Mexico showed how far the United States was willing to go to protect its economic interests.

In the early 20th century, the U.S. pursued several foreign policy goals. It expanded its access to foreign markets. It built a modern navy to protect its interests abroad. It used its international police power to influence Latin America.

2. What were two reasons Wilson sent troops to Mexico?

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### Lesson 4, *continued*

As you read this lesson, write notes summarizing the effects of American military, diplomatic, and economic power around the world.

#### ROOSEVELT'S "BIG STICK" DIPLOMACY

American action taken		Consequences of that action
1. Treaty negotiated between Japan and Russia	→	
2. The United States helped Panama rebel against Columbia	→	
3. Panama Canal built	→	
4. Roosevelt Corollary adopted	→	

#### WILSON'S "MISSIONARY" DIPLOMACY

American action taken		Consequences of that action
5. Wilson used a minor incident with Mexico as an excuse to send in troops	→	
6. Wilson recognized the Carranza government	→	
7. Wilson refused Carranza's demand to withdraw U.S. troops sent into Mexico to capture Villa	→	