

**U.S. Imperialism****Lesson 3**

# Acquiring New Lands

**Key Terms and People**

**Foraker Act** Law which ended military rule in Puerto Rico

**Platt Amendment** Provisions in the Cuban constitution that gave the United States broad rights in that country

**protectorate** A country that is partly controlled by another, stronger country

**Emilio Aguinaldo** Filipino rebel leader

**John Hay** U.S. secretary of state

**Open Door notes** Message sent by John Hay to other countries to protect U.S. trading rights in China

**Boxer Rebellion** Chinese rebellion against Western influence, 1900

**Before You Read**

In the last lesson you learned how the United States and Spain fought over Cuba and the Philippines. In this lesson you will read how the United States continued its imperialism.

**As You Read**

Use a chart to take notes on the key events relating to the relationships between the United States and Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines, and China.

**RULING PUERTO RICO****How did Puerto Ricans feel about U.S. control?**

Puerto Rico had become an American territory as a result of the Spanish-American War. American forces landed in Puerto Rico in July 1898. The commanding officer declared that the Americans were there to protect the Puerto Ricans. But other U.S. military officials insulted the Puerto Ricans. They spoke to them as children and set limits on their personal freedom. Many Puerto Ricans began to resent the military government.

Puerto Rico was strategically

important to the United States, both for maintaining a U.S. presence in the Caribbean, and for protecting a future canal that American leaders wanted to build across the Isthmus of Panama. In 1900 Congress passed the **Foraker Act** that ended military rule in Puerto Rico and set up a civil government. The act gave the president of the United States the power to appoint Puerto Rico's governor and members of the upper house of its legislature. Puerto Ricans could elect only the members of the lower house.

The United States kept strict control over the Puerto Rican people and their

**Lesson 3, continued**

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government. In 1917, however, Congress made Puerto Ricans U.S. citizens. It also gave them the right to elect both houses of their legislature.

1. Why did some Puerto Ricans resent U.S. control of their government?

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**CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES****How did the United States keep control over Cuba?**

Cuba was officially independent after the war. The U.S. army, however, remained in Cuba for four years. It punished Cubans who did not like this American occupation.

In 1900 the new Cuban government wrote a constitution. The United States insisted they add the **Platt Amendment**. The amendment limited Cuba's rights in dealing with other countries. It gave the United States special privileges, including the right to intervene to preserve order.

Cuba became a U.S. **protectorate**—a country whose affairs are partially controlled by a stronger power. The United States insisted on these rights because of its economic interests in Cuba's sugar, tobacco, and mining industries, as well as its railroads and public utilities.

2. What did the United States do to protect business interests in Cuba?

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**FILIPINOS REBEL****Why did the Filipinos rebel against the United States?**

Filipinos had been fighting for independence for years. They were angry

that the United States had annexed their islands. Rebel leader **Emilio Aguinaldo** believed that the United States had betrayed the Filipinos after helping them win independence. The rebels believed that the United States was doing the same thing Spain had done—imposing its authority and infringing on the freedom of the people.

In 1899 Aguinaldo started a rebellion, which lasted three years. After winning the Philippine-American War, the United States set up a government similar to the one it had set up in Cuba.

3. Why did Aguinaldo feel betrayed by the United States?

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**FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN CHINA****What were U.S. interests in China?**

By 1899 many countries had economic interests in China. The United States wanted to be able to trade with China. China was seen as a vast potential market for American products.

The Secretary of State **John Hay** sent a series of policy statements to the leaders of other nations proposing that the nations share their trading rights with the United States. His policy statements were called the **Open Door notes**. They called for China's ports to remain open, and for China to remain independent. No country would have special trading rights. The other countries agreed.

Although China kept its freedom, Europeans dominated most of China's cities. In 1900 a secret society in China started a rebellion protesting the influence of Western countries. This group was known as the Boxers because members practiced martial arts.

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Troops from many countries, including the United States, fought against the Chinese rebels. After the **Boxer Rebellion** was defeated, the United States issued more Open Door notes to make sure that other countries did not try to make colonies in China.

4. Why did Secretary of State John Hay issue the Open Door notes?

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**THE IMPACT OF U.S. TERRITORIAL GAINS**

***How did Americans feel about U.S. imperialism?***

President William McKinley was reelected in 1900. His opponent had been an anti-imperialist, William Jennings Bryan. The outcome of the election suggests that most Americans disagreed with Bryan. Imperialism was popular.

Before McKinley was reelected, an Anti-Imperialist League formed. The league included some prominent Americans: former president Grover Cleveland, industrial leader Andrew Carnegie, labor leader Samuel Gompers, social worker Jane Addams, and author Mark Twain. They all had different reasons for being against imperialism. For example, Gompers was concerned about the impact of imperialism on U.S. workers. Carnegie worried that U.S. imperialism would lead to endless wars with European countries. But all Anti-Imperialist League members agreed it was wrong for the United States to rule other people without their consent.

5. What did McKinley's reelection show about American attitudes toward imperialism?

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**Lesson 3, *continued***

As you read about America's relations with lands under its influence, write notes to answer the questions below. Some answers have already been filled in for you.

	<b>Puerto Rico 1898–1916</b>	<b>Cuba 1898–1903</b>	<b>The Philippines 1898–1945</b>	<b>China 1900</b>
1. What was its relationship to the U.S.?	very similar to that of a colony or protectorate		very similar to that of a colony or protectorate	
2. Why did the U.S. try to control its affairs?			to provide the U.S. with raw materials and new markets	
3. What laws and policies affected its relationship with the U.S.?				
4. What violent events affected its relationship with the U.S.?	Spanish-American War			

John Hay's "Open Door notes" paved the way for greater U.S. influence in Asia. Note three factors concerning the Open Door policy.

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