

America Becomes a World Power

Part Three



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.

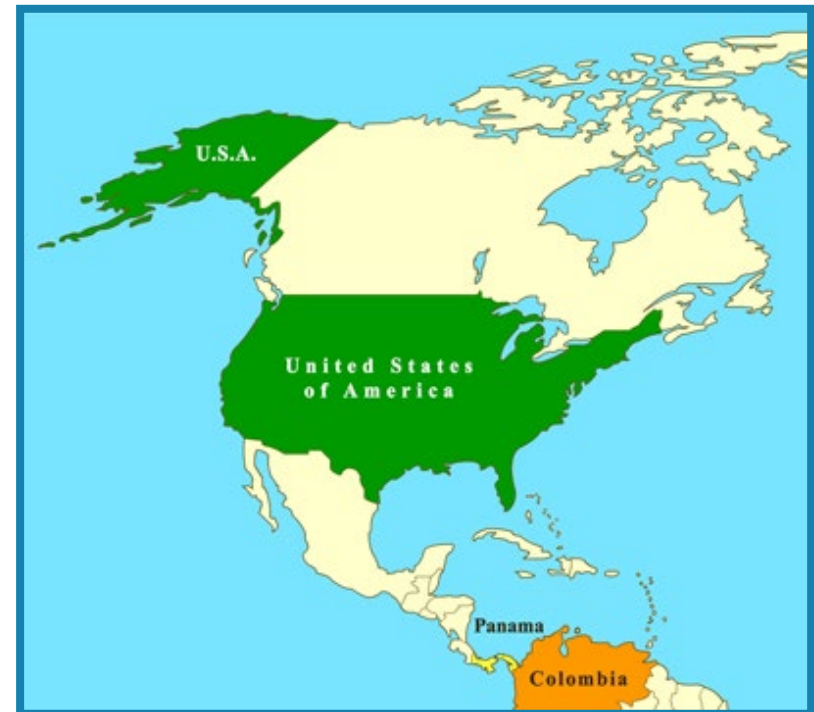




Although the U.S. has coasts on both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the distance to travel between them by sea is huge. Ships had to navigate around the bottom of South America.

A **canal** cutting through Central America was deemed to be of importance to the U.S. so President Theodore Roosevelt set about trying to construct one.

Panama, then part of Colombia, was deemed a suitable location and is where the canal was built.



Why was creating a canal to connect the Atlantic and the Pacific considered so important?





The Panama Canal



In 1901, Roosevelt sought to **lease** land from Colombia to build the canal. Colombia rejected the terms, which were to relinquish all claims to the land.

Roosevelt then encouraged Panamanians to **revolt** for independence, paying some of them off, and informing them that the U.S. would support them in this bid.

In return, Panama signed the treaty, granting the U.S. control of the canal zone. Construction took place from 1904 to 1914.



The Mexican Revolution





China was another target for U.S. commercial interests. As a large country with a potentially large market for foreign goods, China was interesting to many expansionist nations.

In 1899, John Hay, the U.S. Secretary of State, asked the major powers for an **Open Door policy**, ensuring that no country trading in China would restrict the trade of any other country.



This policy was agreed and worked well because the U.S. had little claim to China otherwise.





The Russo-Japanese War





Different presidents in this period had different approaches to international relations:

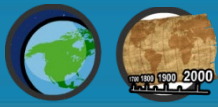
- **Big Stick diplomacy:** Theodore Roosevelt believed in the U.S.'s supremacy. He used military force to intervene in international conflicts and to protect U.S. interests.
- **Dollar diplomacy:** William Taft allowed U.S. business interests to fuel diplomatic affairs. Successful business ventures in other countries carried American values and culture with them.
- **Moral diplomacy:** Woodrow Wilson refused to interact with regimes he deemed immoral and would only have diplomatic relations with other democracies.

How are these similar or different to U.S. foreign policy today?



Different forms of diplomacy





Territorial acquisitions



In the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century, the U.S. became a key player on the world stage.



The U.S. changed from a policy of isolation to one of expansion. It acquired new territories for economic, moral and imperial reasons. It also intervened in the affairs of other nations. This is significant in showing America's rising power and influence.

How would you describe America's position in the world at the start of the 20th century?

