



# Imperialism in the American History

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Imperialism occurs when a strong nation rules over a weak nation and takes control of its economic, cultural, or political life. It was mainly performed on the basis of industrialization, meaning that the dominant country would take control of the weaker countries industrialization, as well as nationalism factors. Each country wanted to be superior over the other, a condition that led to imperialism of the US. This policy was practiced by European nations and Japan in the 1800s and early 1900s. However, America was not exceptional. It carried out its imperialism after the Spanish-American war. This war was delayed by the American's lack of troops, since it had to wait for the troops through a ground physical attack. Similarly, Dewey had no troops and could not evade the Briton and Germans. The two countries were not directly involved in the war, but sent ships, claiming the vacation of the fleets. Later, the American troops arrived through Philippine. Germany and Briton assumed misunderstandings, since each of them wanted to unite with the sturdy America. America's dominance was a result of industrialization and two countries wanted to use the union opinion, in order to overrule America. The US recognized the tactics and blew the American-Spanish war, which made it more superior.

The US used imperialistic tactics during its struggle to independence. This was pointed out by the 13 colonies in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, in which the US had itself into. During the revolution against Britain and the civil war in 1861, the young nation went through a period of storms, both socially and politically. Britain was back then known to be a superior nation; hence the



US had to apply useful tactics, in order to evade the Civil War. The colonization of Africans is thought to be one of the factors that led to the outbreak of the Civil War. After the Civil War, the US took parts of the Pacific islands, which led to the Philippine-American war. The Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico had been acquired by the US, and after the war broke out, the US decided to leave the islands and concentrated on regions, like the Caribbean islands that were adjacent to their country. It was during this period that the US learned new methods of dominance, commonly known as the neo-imperialism. Afterwards, the US lost its imperialism and remained neutral, in order to avoid conflicts with other countries.

The Civil War was succeeded by the reconstruction era that brought change in the general atmosphere, leading to growth in a number of areas. For instance, slavery ended, states broke off from the union that had been readmitted, and the national administration became stronger. The 48 neighboring states were admitted in 1912. Hawaii and Alaska were later added in the mid of 20<sup>th</sup> century. This period did not last for long before the commencement of the First World War in 1914. It was accelerated by the imperialistic nature of Germany. The US was not imperialistic during this time and decided to remain neutral, as stated by Woodrow Wilson. Wilson made attempts to keep the US out of the war but relented and declared war when Germany used old politics on the US citizens. The people were getting tired of the waste, corruption and disturbance by the Germans.

After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, there came a decade of prosperous living. The years that followed marked an international great depression that lasted for a decade. Roosevelt and other politicians presented a form

of relief that was called the New Deal. The relief brought in various types of programs that encompassed relief, recovery, and reform. This aligned the political landscape that created the Democratic Party, huge political machines in the major cities, and the white south. As a result of these attempts by the US during the great depression, the country became stable and was able to apply imperialistic tactics on the countries that were attacking it. Towards the conclusion of the First World War, the US gained strength militarily and industrially. They were recognized for global control and, therefore, did not sign in to the Treaty of Versailles. This earned the country the character of being isolationists.

In 1898, when the Europeans wanted to colonize America, the acts of the US showed imperialism in a fresh and unique empire. The US rejected the European anti-colonialism of the early republic, even though it had a conscious choice that was based on economic motivations that had been prevailing long before 1898. The imperialism was not indicated by the rejection of the anti-colonialism, but the stabilization of America in the industrialization area. For a country to be stable and to reduce the chances of being victimized by the domineering nations, it was to be independent in the economic field. This would make it difficult for weaker nations to overpower it. However, America used these imperialistic tactics to become industrialized first before engaging in treaties with countries like Britain and Germany.

Americans also aimed to access foreign markets, in order to boost its production, leading to dominance in the economic field. It was focused on trade, rather than political issues. In those earlier days of colonization, numerous nations sought for colonies as a way of getting wealth from the productive countries. Since America had earlier recognized the concept, it

sought to boost its production rather than engaging in the colonization issue. Although the country that would colonize numerous states was termed as dominant, industrialization and nationalism were the leading factors. Therefore, America used these factors to acquire dominance, a condition that made it dominant over Britain and Germany. In addition, America wanted colonies that would keep foreign markets accessible and open. In this, Philippine was their perfect example, a condition that led to America capturing some parts of the islands from Philippine. In this, the US knew that they would get huge benefits from the imperialism; consequently, the industrialization and the nationalism side.

