

Unit 3. Foreign Affairs: Imperialism to Post-World War I (1898-1930)

Learning Target 15

Analyze the circumstances which enabled the United States to emerge as a world power in the early 1900s.



The 1890 U.S. Census led many Americans to conclude that there was no longer a frontier line in the West. With the closing of the western frontier, Americans developed positive attitudes toward foreign expansion.

The primary factors that led to American imperial expansion were global competition for markets and prestige, an expanded navy, and a sense of cultural superiority. The growth of industrialization demanded more natural resources (raw materials) and new markets for products. An expanded naval fleet and overseas ports were also believed to be essential to economic prosperity and security of the nation. The belief in “manifest destiny,” first used to defend westward expansion, was now used to argue that the U.S. had a right and duty to extend its influence and civilization in the Western Hemisphere and across the Pacific.



What factors contributed to the development shown in the cartoon above?

The United States engaged in a series of overseas actions which contributed to its increasing status as a global power. In 1898, the U.S. annexed Hawaii. American sugar planters wanted to annex Hawaii to eliminate tariffs. Control of Hawaii was also important strategically to serve as a mid-Pacific naval base.

U.S. support for Cuban independence and protection of U.S. commerce and trade led to war with Spain in 1898. The Spanish-American War ended Spain's empire in the Western Hemisphere. U.S. victory in the war produced a peace treaty that required the Spanish to give up claims on Cuba, and to hand over control of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the U.S.

In 1917, the U.S. entered World War I on the side of the Allies. With its entry into war, the United States mobilized a large army and navy to help the Allies achieve victory. After the war, European countries were forced to concentrate their resources on rebuilding their countries. However, the United States enjoyed a brief period of economic prosperity and was able to assert authority as a world power.

1. What does the phrase "closing of the American frontier" mean?

2. What were the three primary factors that led to *American imperial expansion*?

1.
2.
3.

3. How was *industrialization* connected to American imperial expansion?

4. The belief in " , " first used to defend ,

was now used to argue that the U.S. had a and to extend its

and civilization in the and across the .

5. Identify four places that came under U.S. control by the end of the *Spanish-American War*:

1.	2.	3.	4.
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6. Why did the United States come out ahead of other countries who fought in World War I?

Learning Target 16

Explain why and how the United States moved to a policy of isolationism following World War I.



After World War I, the United States emerged as a world leader and pursued efforts to maintain peace in the world.

President Wilson's efforts partially helped shape the Treaty of Versailles. As part of his Fourteen Points, Wilson proposed the League of Nations as a means of ensuring world peace. However, many who opposed joining the League argued that the United States would lose its independence. Debate over the League and the desire to avoid foreign entanglements led to its defeat in the Senate. The United States did not join the League of Nations.

Desires to avoid another major war led to treaties addressing arms limitation and territorial expansion. In the Four-Power Treaty, the United States, France, Britain, and Japan agreed to consult with each other in the event of a crisis in East Asia before taking action. Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France, and Italy signed the Five Powers Treaty, agreeing to limits on naval tonnage and restrictions on building ships and bases. The Nine-Power Treaty promised that each of the parties—the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and China—would respect the territorial integrity of China.

In 1928, the United States signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact. The pact outlawed war as “an instrument of national policy.” In taking a leading role in these later treaties, the United States sought to limit its involvement in international affairs.

Note: You will not be asked to provide specific treaty names and/or details. You are expected to understand the concept of a treaty if presented with a name and specific details.



Why did the U.S. Senate reject the League of Nations? How did this reflect a movement toward isolationism?

1. What was the purpose of the *League of Nations*?

2. Why were some Americans opposed to the United States joining the *League of Nations*?

3. Why were treaties addressing *arms limitation* and *territorial expansion* written?

4. What was the stated purpose of the *Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)*?

For vocabulary activities, video tutorials, and additional assessment practice for this unit, go to: <http://www.ohiotestprep.com/american-history.html#Unit3>.

Unit 3. Checking for Understanding

Use the highlight text tool on the toolbar above to select the correct answers.

1. In the late 1800s, the United States began to assert itself politically and militarily beyond North America. For example, the United States took over the independent kingdom of Hawaii and fought a war against Spain in the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean.

Identify two reasons the United States participated in the expansionist policies such as these.

2. What foreign policy did the United States pursue after its involvement in World War I?
 - A. The United States limited its involvement in international affairs.
 - B. The United States led the League of Nations to promote peace.
 - C. The United States paid for the rebuilding of Great Britain and France.
 - D. The United States seized territories from its European rivals to build its empire.

3. After World War I, the United States signed treaties with other nations in an attempt to prevent future wars.
- A. Move the phrases that describe how these actions attempted to prevent future wars into the blank boxes in part A.
 - B. Move the policy of the United States that was reflected by these actions into the blank box in part B.
 - You do not need to use all the phrase or policies.

Post-World War I Treaties

Ways these actions attempted to prevent war

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U.S. policy these actions reflect

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Limit of naval arms	Limit territorial expansion
Stop the spread of Nazism	Bick Stick Diplomacy
Containment Policy	Isolationist Policy