## Four Presidents and Imperialism

### William McKinley

**“Open Door” Policy**

- No nation trading with China should try to exclude other nations from commerce
- Aimed to maintain peace among the powers interested in trading there
- These powers included France, Germany, and Britain.
- American policy was based on their American interests there
- Ensured China would enjoy the benefits of America trading with them
- Everyone can share China; it’s big enough for everyone
- Trade should be uninterrupted, no military intervention by one country in order to exclude others
- Peaceful and friendly while exploiting—economic imperialism

- John Hay sent China another message telling them and all countries to follow the policy and do what the United States insisted.
- John Hay called on major powers to allow China to be open to foreign trade.
- China rebelled against the open door policy. Chinese had Boxer Rebellion to get all foreigners that were exploiting China out of the country.
- The message was sent out to all countries saying not to take China’s land.
- US had economic motives
- Hay was reflecting traditional friendship between the U.S. and China

- The US would have liked to colonize Asia, especially China, but there wasn’t much left to colonize.
- They called for an “open door” policy to try and make room for themselves. This worked out well for everyone except China, who was being exploited
- The end results are everyone but the Chinese people happy, their government is getting money though, so they don’t rebel.

### Theodore Roosevelt

**“Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.”**

- Worked on American strategic security (Strategic imperialism)
- Roosevelt is great diplomat with a keen understanding of the nations worldwide interests
- U.S. has emerged on the world scene and a military and economic powerhouse second only to great Britain
- Roosevelt kept on good terms with the British
- For the first time in its history the United States took on a global role
  - American wielded influence around the world
  - The navy sailed the seas
  - American economic interests spanned the globe

### Roosevelt’s Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

- Venezuela issued bonds to countries (some of the Great Powers) and when it came time to pay back, they couldn’t
- So countries like France, Britain, and Germany blockaded the country
- Roosevelt was worrying that they would soon occupy the country, breaking the non-intervention part of the Monroe Doctrine
- Roosevelt spoke strongly to Germany saying they can’t invade
- Roosevelt forced an arbitration settlement (because Germany threatened to temporarily occupy it)
- So Venezuela had to pay everyone back because they were ordered to by the tribunal
The US is intervening with European affairs (acting as "police state") to help
Motives and justification—economic factor, military, Monroe Doctrine ("protecting just claims of European countries")
Effect – changed the Monroe Doctrine in a very important way
The non intervention part now read something like this
In order to prevent European intervention in the western hemisphere The United States will intervene in the western hemisphere on their behalf and in their interests.
The United States prevents European powers from having to exercise a military presence by assuming "international police power” to discipline “wrongdoing in the western hemisphere”

William Howard Taft

"Dollar Diplomacy"

- Taft and Wilson used the United States and its power to promote American business abroad
- This was especially marketed towards Asia and Latin American
- Government Department heads were told to find new markets and ways to increase profits for American businesses
- This is called “dollar diplomacy”
- Some people saw this development as evidence that Government was being controlled by big business because the government used its power to push America corporations onto other countries
- Others saw this as way to project American power and pride using American businesses (instead of military or diplomacy)

The Era Of Dollar Diplomacy in Central American and the Caribbean

- American economic influence dominated the Caribbean
- US companies were there because of good economic conditions.
- US companies: dominant in Central America became more powerful than governments of the countries they were in.
- United Fruit Company dominated Central America
- American sugar refining company dominated Cuba
- If anyone messed with the company, they messed with US government, and the US would send marines
- US intervention to guarantee the companies power and stability became a recurring event in the region
- American companies that operated in the region wanted governments in place throughout the region that would guarantee their assets, keep political order, and maintain unrestricted trade.
- They also expected the US government and military to support and protect them.

Nicaragua

- Dictator threatens to cancel a US mining lease and permit Japanese to build a canal. Good examples of Economic, strategic imperialism
- Taft decides to try to overthrow the regime with justification of protecting American business interests.
- Two US citizens are caught bombing ships in the San Juan River and executed. Cause for intervention → Humanitarian factors, Jingoism and nationalism
- Taft financed a make shift government dominated by the US
- NYC bankers regulated the country's finances → Economic imperialism
- Taft sends marines to keep order → They stay two decades → Military imperialism
- Treaty in 1916: US gets exclusive right to build canals and lease naval bases all over Nicaragua
**Woodrow Wilson**

### Haiti
- US was interested in Haiti.
- There was terrible political instability on the island.
- The president of Haiti defaults on $24 million in debts owed to Europeans and Americans.
- There was a revolt against the government that resulted in mass killings and the president of Haiti getting ripped to pieces.
- President Wilson sends in the Marines and the U.S. came in to control the revolt against government.
- US organized a local government for Haiti and signed the treaty that gave the US control of foreign policy.
- US crushed Haitians that revolted against the change in government.
- Humanitarian factors of imperialism influenced the intervention of the US.
- US controlled yet another republic that was not happy with their intervention.

### Mexico
- Díaz - A dictator, Porfirio Díaz, had ruled Mexico since 1876.
- Nationalists objected to economic concessions that had given away oil and mining rights to companies based in Britain and the United States.
- Diaz retired and confusion followed.
- Power drifted into the hands of Francisco I. Madero. He was unable to give direction to an emerging revolution.
- Regional leaders assembled armies south and north of the capital.
- Worried by this growing threat to their economic interests, foreign companies appealed for help to the United States ambassador.
- Huerta - The country’s ambitious military chief, Victoriano Huerta Organized a palace revolt, took control of the regional armies, and installed himself as lifetime President of Mexico.
- His agents murdered Madero and imposed a military dictatorship over most of the country.
- Wilson refused to talk with Huerta's diplomats, arguing that from now on the United States would deal only with republican governments based upon law, not irregular force.
- This novel policy, which judged a nation’s morality, departed from past recognition procedures, which required only that a regime be in control of its territory.
- Wilson hoped to isolate Huerta. The British followed his lead. A diplomatic standoff ensued.
- Huerta used “Yankee phobia” to prop up his altering regime.
- Barely a month after Wilson assumed office, Mexican authorities arrested a group of United States sailors in Tampico. The arrests were legitimate.
- Commander, Admiral Henry T. Mayo, demanded an apology and a twenty-one gun salute to the Stars and Stripes.
- Wilson delivered an ultimatum: salute the flag or face the consequences.
- Huerta's government was now sustained on feeling against the Yankees and he refused.
- President ordered Marines to occupy Mexico's chief Gulf port, Veracruz.
- Street fighting ensued and the marines occupied Veracruz for six months.
- The Tampico incident and the Marine occupation of Veracruz humiliated Huerta, his power disintegrated.
- Carranza - Another potential leader, Venustiano Carranza, gathered an army and occupied Mexico City.
He was a vigilante and not regarded as a legitimate ruler
Chaos continued to dominate Mexico
The diplomatic deadlock with the Wilson administration continued
Then Pancho Villa shows up, raises an army and a rebellion against Carranza
His crew is called the villistas
They called for revolution and economic reform. They were violent and lawless.
On January 11, 1916 Pancho attacked a train and killed 16 American in the process
Two months later he invaded the United States, raided the New Mexico town of Columbus. He killed 17 people and burned the town to the ground
He was hoping that by messing with the United States he could incite an American military intervention against Carranza
Wilson ordered general John Pershing and 6,600 troops to pursue Villa
The villistas evaded the army
Wilson then called out 150,000 National Guardsmen to seal off the southwestern border
Pershing pursued the villistas without result
Carranza held on to power
Early in 1917 war in Europe began to demand U.S. attention
Wilson withdrew federal troops from Mexico and granted Carranza recognition
This series of events left a strong animosity between the countries. Mexicans resenting American intervention, and Americans finding no satisfaction for the attacks on its territory and citizens