

# American Imperialism:



## from the Monroe Doctrine to WWI

This project is about imperialistic policies of the United States during the so called 'Age of Imperialism' throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Your job will be this **web quest** that you use for a preparing a presentation in forms of posters about your topic.

### TASKS: TUESDAY

1. We read the information text about **Imperialism** first, in order to give you an overall basic idea of that historical period. **MIND YOU:** This project covers the necessary information for your possible *Abitur* exam in History, so take it seriously and prepare yourselves thoroughly.
2. Inform yourselves with the [opening video](#) about your assigned topic and take down first notes.
3. Use the web links below to **broaden your knowledge** and for a **creative yet informative presentation** of your assigned topic in the form of posters for our great exhibition tomorrow afternoon.
4. Technical **equipment** and other necessary **material** will be provided by me. If you have special ideas that require extra material, let me know soon, so that I can provide it for you if possible. If you need color prints for your posters you should print that at home, because the school can't provide that.

### TASKS: WEDNESDAY

1. Continue working on your presentations/posters.
2. After the second break your work should be finished and ready to be put up in the 'Aula'. Before that you will listen to a lecture (Vortrag) of Professor **Winfried Speitkamp** from the University of Kassel who will speak to us about **Imperialism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**.
3. After this lecture we will have time to visit the exhibition and see what the other groups can present.

## TOPICS TO WORK ON

- A. The **Monroe Doctrine** was articulated in President James Monroe's seventh annual message to Congress on December 2, 1823. The European powers, according to Monroe, were obligated to respect the Western Hemisphere as the United States' sphere of interest. The president's successor added his idea of the **Roosevelt Corollary** to it and opened new possibilities for American imperialistic policies.

TASK: Find out more about the Doctrines and present its main ideas using your choice of countries as examples.

- B. The idea of **Manifest Destiny** was not only important for settling the west of the American continent but paved the way for further imperialistic approaches.

TASK: Find out more about this idea and present its main ideas using your choice of countries or regions as examples.

- C. **The example of Cuba**

The main part of the acquisition of land for the United States results from the **Spanish - American War** in 1898. Its outcome was the cornerstone of American imperialistic ideas.

TASK: Use the following links to highlight and present the **Cuban example**.

The following videos ( **No. 1** and **No.2**) provide you with more information. Find more information, pictures, and other material on the Internet to round up your presentation.

- D. **The example of the Philippines**

The main part of the acquisition of land for the United States results from the **Spanish - American War** in 1898. Its outcome was the cornerstone of American imperialistic ideas.

TASK: Use the following links to highlight and present the **Philippines example**.

The following **video1** and **video 2** provide you with more information. Find more information, pictures, and other material on the Internet to round up your presentation.

- E. **The example of Panama**

The main part of the acquisition of land for the United States results from the **Spanish - American War** in 1898. Its outcome was the cornerstone of American imperialistic ideas. Concentrate on the *political* and *economic "involvement"* of the U.S. in Panama especially in respect to the country and the newly built **canal**!

TASK: Use the following links to highlight and present the **19th century Panama example** .

The following **videos (No.1 and No. 2)** provide you with more information. Find more information, pictures, and other material on the Internet to round up your presentation.

F. **The example of Hawaii**

The main part of the acquisition of land for the United States results from the **Spanish - American War** in 1898. Its outcome was the cornerstone of American imperialistic ideas. Concentrate on the *political and economic “involvement”* of the U.S. in Hawaii

TASK: Use the following links to highlight and present the **Hawaii example** .

The following **videos (No.1 and No. 2)** provide you with more information. Find more information, pictures, and other material on the Internet to round up your presentation.

G. **Imperialism, War and the Yellow Press – William Randolph Hearst**

The main part of the acquisition of land for the United States results from the **Spanish - American War** in 1898. Its outcome was the cornerstone of American imperialistic ideas and was largely influenced by a new form of journalism.

TASK: Use the following links to find out more and present the causes and consequences of the **“Yellow Press” in America.**

Find more information, pictures, and other material on the Internet to round up your presentation.

H. **Imperialism, and the Gilded Age of Industrial Revolution**

The main part of the acquisition of land for the United States results from the **Spanish - American War** in 1898. Its outcome was the cornerstone of American imperialistic ideas. At the same time a boost in American industry and general wealth let people call the times **The Gilded Age** largely influenced by new inventions, technical progress and forming an American lifestyle supporting imperialist ideas.

TASK: Use the following links to find out more and present the causes and consequences of the that **“Age”**

This **video** provides you with more information. Find more information, pictures, and other material on the Internet to round up your presentation.

## **How to create a good POSTER:**

- Not too much text and not too less. Information flows via visual components better.
- If key elements are not clearly stated everyone who is not an insider on your subject will not understand why your poster is relevant (and why he/she should spend time on it).
- Inappropriate structure. Many people blindly apply the standard structure of a written report, thereby using their poster as a sort of miniature article, which almost automatically leads to a lot of text. AVOID THAT !
- Information overload. Many presenters overload their posters with too many data, and greatly overestimate the time that the average visitor is willing to spend on the poster.
- Eye catcher. Think of an element that keeps your audience reading. It can be the skillful use of pictures, tables and other objects that demand the viewers' attention and keep them there.

**HAVE FUN WORKING !**