

- AMH 2010 & AMH 2020: AMERICAN HISTORY
- DR. ANDREW GOTTLIEB

8 – AMERICAN IMPERIALISM



Miami Dade
College

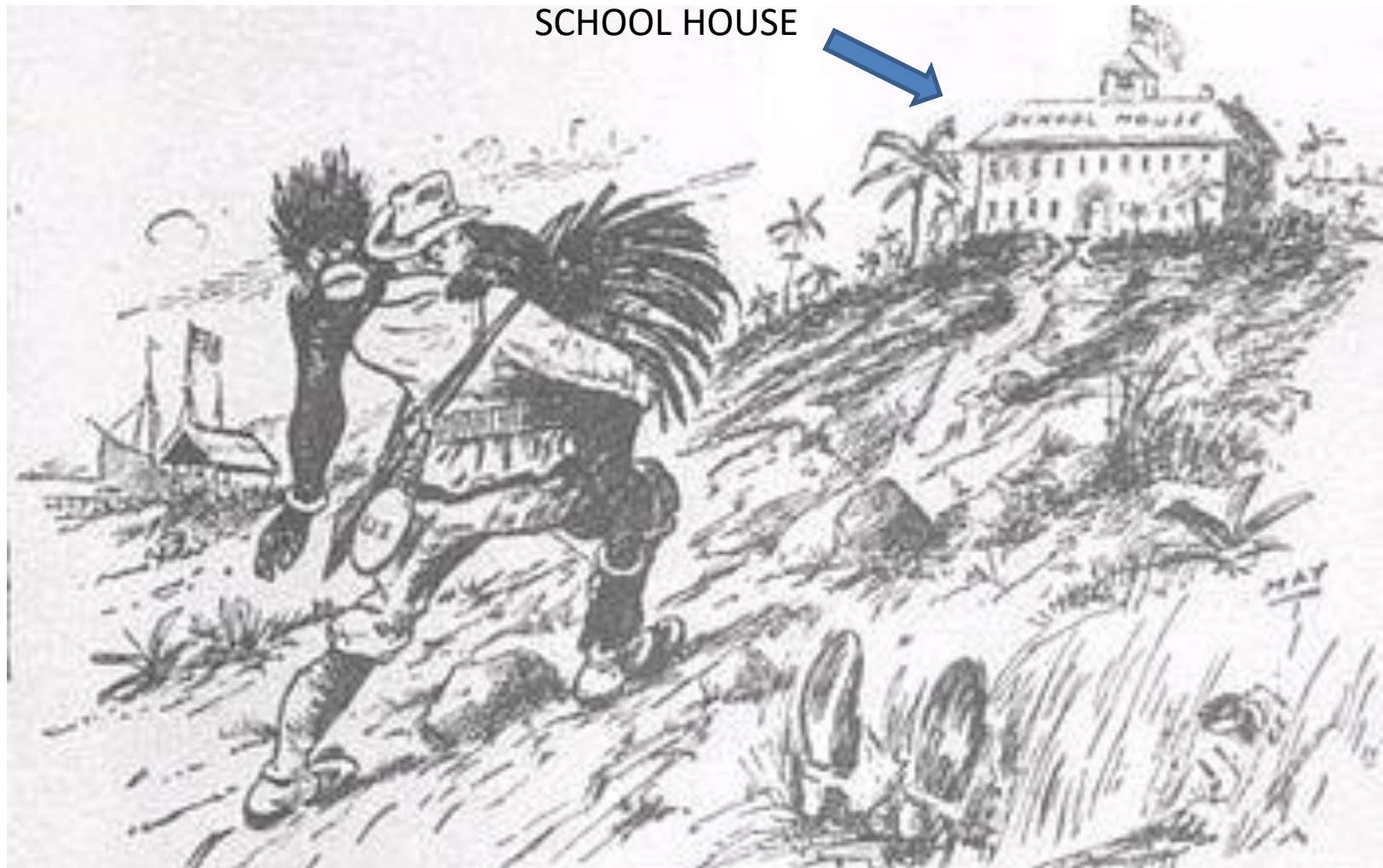
West Campus



American Imperialism



The *White Man's Burden* proposes that white people have an obligation to rule over, and encourage the cultural development of people from other cultural backgrounds until they can take their place in the world economically and socially.



I. Background to Expansion.



First, I should tell you that this section is always a deviation in American History, much like when we stopped to cover the “last of the West and the new South” after Reconstruction. Clearly, the most important theme of the last two decades of the 19th c. and the first two decades of the 20th includes Industry and the growth of Cities. However, this is that point where all courses such as ours need to stop and discuss the concurrent, yet indirectly related theme of foreign relations and imperialism.

Today we’re going to talk about many different countries and regions, and how we conquered them. But at the time, this was justified in the minds of many Americans with a moral argument (today many of us would call it a morally bankrupt argument). But my role is to try to give you a glimpse into the mindset of (mostly white protestant) America at the time. To share this with you, let’s think about Rudyard Kipling—the British writer who spent a great deal of time in British-controlled India.

WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

(LET'S READ AND DISCUSS THE POEM)



Take up the White Man's
burden—
And reap his old reward:
The blame of those ye better
The hate of those ye guard—

*ss is
urate*

Rudyard Kipling

A. From the Civil War to the “White Man’s Burden”

1) While the US Civil War put a strain on US-European relations (few nations will to commit to choosing sides in another country’s civil war), this sentiment continued during the Gilded Age, and the U.S. became inward-focused and isolationist.

2) However, in 1880 the U.S. population was 50 million and it was the second leading industrial nation in the world. Our “need” to look beyond our borders became inevitable. And the *White Man’s Burden* provided moral justification. So . . .



B. A Tentative Start to Expansion

The purchase of Alaska in 1867 marked the end of Russian efforts to expand trade and settlements to the Pacific coast of North America, and became an important step in the United States rise as a great power in the Asia-Pacific region.

1) The U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, though it was nicknamed "Seward's Folly" at the time.

2) Pres. Cleveland halted an American takeover by the sugar interests in Hawaii in 1890, claiming it was out of spirit with America's non-interventionist tradition



C. A Commitment to Economic Expansionism



As America's economy surged, companies began building factories overseas

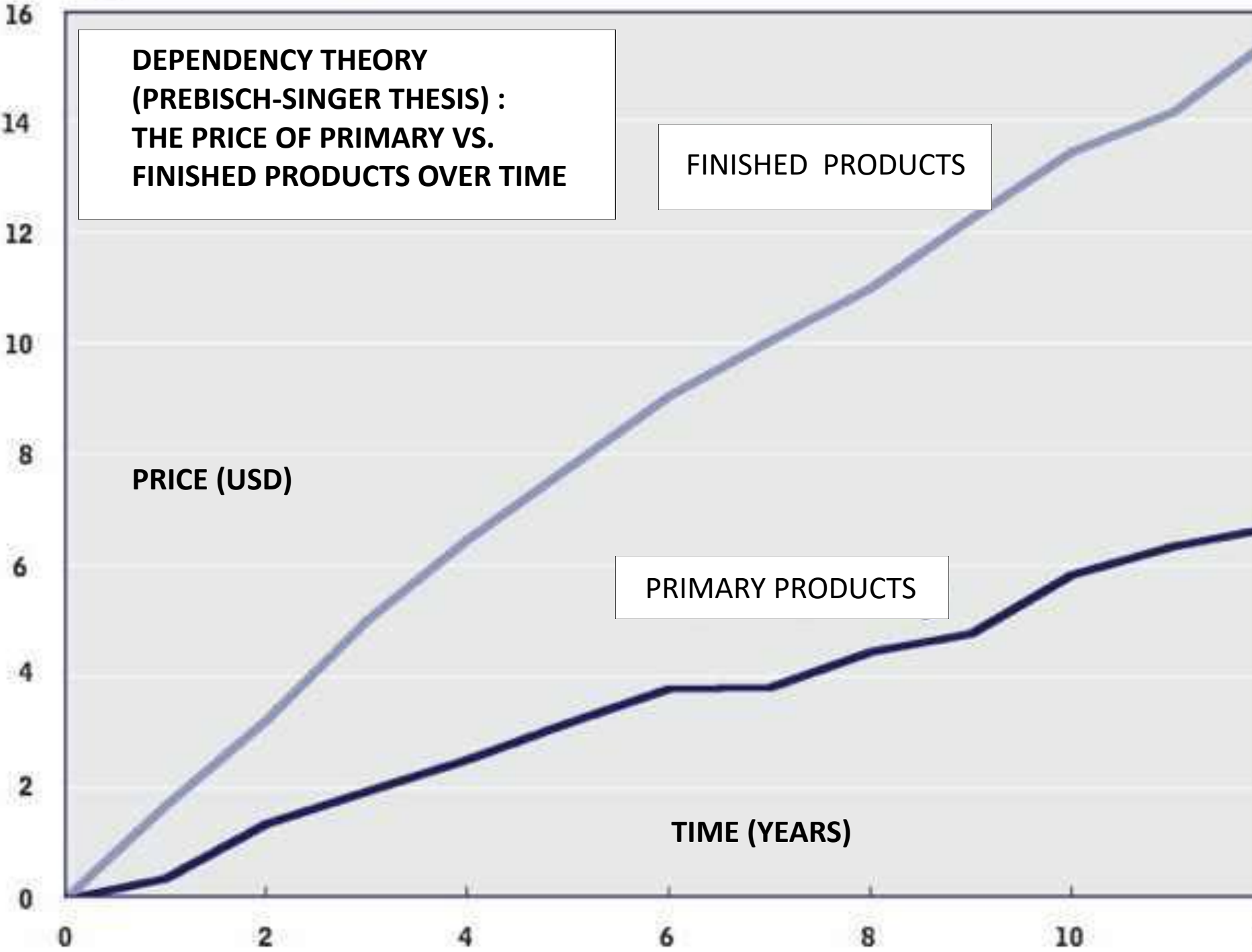
**DEPENDENCY THEORY
(PREBISCH-SINGER THESIS) :
THE PRICE OF PRIMARY VS.
FINISHED PRODUCTS OVER TIME**

FINISHED PRODUCTS

PRICE (USD)

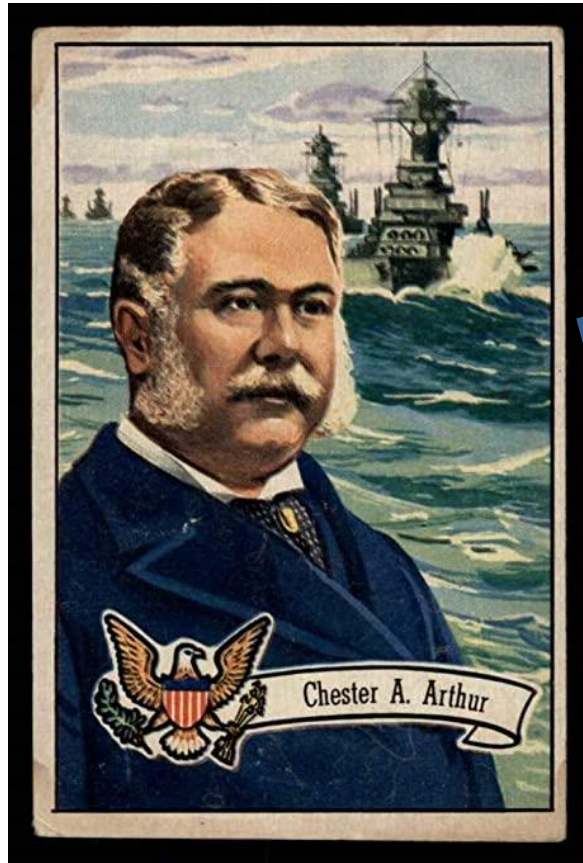
PRIMARY PRODUCTS

TIME (YEARS)



II. Creation of U.S. Foreign Policy

Chester A. Arthur.
(pres. 1881-1885)



It's as if Arthur had a crystal ball, predicting Mahan's research!



THE INFLUENCE
OF SEA POWER
UPON HISTORY

1660-1783

By

A. T. MAHAN, D.C.L., LL.D.

Author of "The Influence of Sea Power upon the French Revolution and Empire, 1793-1816," etc.



TWELFTH EDITION

BOSTON

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY

1883-Pres. Arthur—"Father of the Steel Navy," sought the construction of steam-powered steel cruisers, steel rams, and steel-clad gunboats.

III. Sources of Imperialist Ideology

A. Social Darwinism 2.0—if the U.S. wants to survive, it needs to expand.



"We shall be inclined to pronounce the voyage that led to the way to this New World as the most epoch-making event of all that have occurred since the birth of Christ."

John Fiske

- A. Social Darwinism 2.0—if the U.S. wants to survive, it needs to expand. The Beta version was domestic (Manifest Destiny).
- Belief in the inherent superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race and the thought that with privilege comes responsibility (Kipling's *White Man's Burden*)
 - related, new manifest destiny strain develops from John Fiske, suggesting that every nation should be English in language, religion, and customs (achieved in int'l flight).
 - Turner Thesis suggested that as the American frontier closed, interests would continue outward to foreign frontiers

IV.

Spanish-American War
(Cuba & Philippines)

see *Spanish-American
War Chart*

DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY.

\$50,000!
\$50,000 REWARD!
 For the Detection of the
 Perpetrator of
 the Maine Outrage!

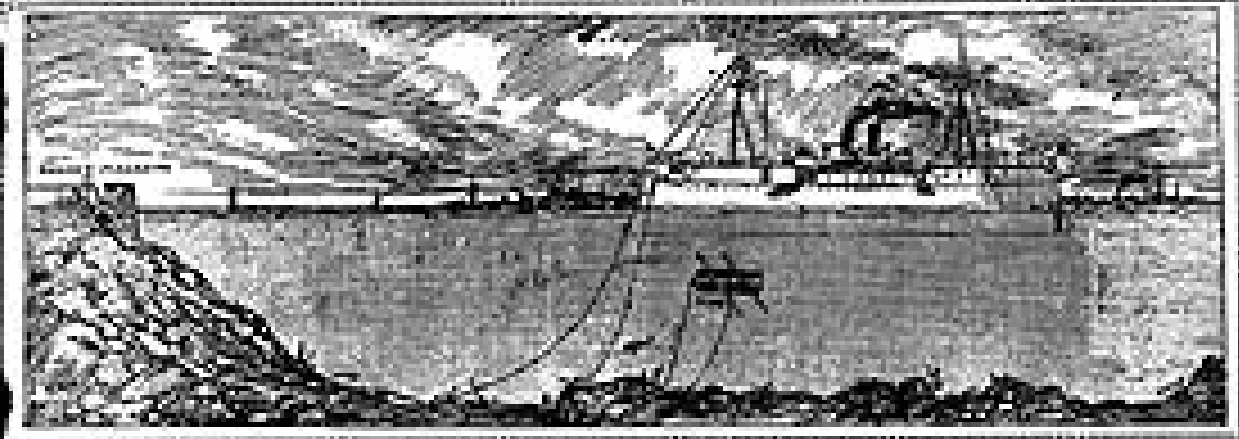
The New York Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for the detection of the perpetrator of the Maine outrage. The reward will be paid to any person who shall furnish reliable information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals who destroyed the Maine. The reward will be paid to the person or persons who shall furnish reliable information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals who destroyed the Maine. The reward will be paid to the person or persons who shall furnish reliable information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals who destroyed the Maine.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt
 Convinced the Explosion of
 the War Ship Was Not
 an Accident.

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the
 Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent
 258 American Sailors to Their Death.
 Naval Officers Unanimous That
 the Ship Was Destroyed
 on Purpose.

\$50,000!
\$50,000 REWARD!
 For the Detection of the
 Perpetrator of
 the Maine Outrage!

The New York Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for the detection of the perpetrator of the Maine outrage. The reward will be paid to any person who shall furnish reliable information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals who destroyed the Maine. The reward will be paid to the person or persons who shall furnish reliable information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals who destroyed the Maine. The reward will be paid to the person or persons who shall furnish reliable information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals who destroyed the Maine.



NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.
Naval officers believe the explosion of the Maine was caused by a Spanish mine. The ship was destroyed on the night of February 15, 1898, in Havana harbor. The explosion killed 268 men and wounded 378 others. The ship was the flagship of the United States fleet in the Caribbean. The explosion was the result of a mine planted by the Spanish. The mine was destroyed by the explosion. The mine was destroyed by the explosion. The mine was destroyed by the explosion.

Hidden Mine or a Sunk Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Main-of-War—Officers and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Fought to Keep West Coast of the Ship of Accidents—Smith Official Pro-

V. Filipino Insurrection

- Following the Spanish-American War, the U.S. did not want to return the Philippines to Spanish rule, to have complete U.S. colonial rule, or to let the Filipinos govern themselves.**
- Treaty of Paris provided that the U.S. pay \$20 million for the Philippines, though anti-imperialists argued that the U.S. should not conquer and subjugate alien peoples**
- U.S. soldiers were attacked by Filipino insurgents (1899-1902), leading to the U.S. to place rebels in an early 20th century version of the Guantanamo detention ctr. (bjpershing)**
- In 1916 the Jones Act committed the U.S. to granting Philippine independence. This did not occur until after the Japanese surrendered in 1945.**

VI. Teddy Roosevelt on the World Stage



- TR's motto: "Speak softly and carry a big stick" (especially a big navy)
- TR helped Panama break free from Colombia. "I took the canal zone and let Congress debate." Canal completed in 1914
- Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine—"Latin America is our backyard."

VII. Open Door Policy in Asia

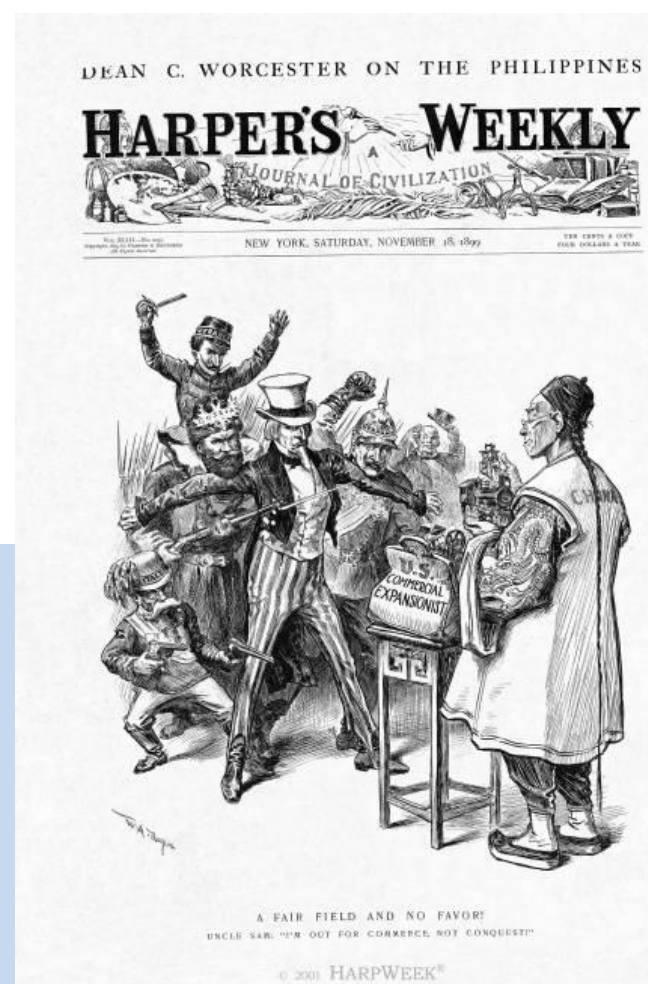
A. In 1890 Secretary of State John Hay sent the European powers the “Open Door” note, claiming the U.S. had the right to equal trade in China.

In 1890 Secretary of State Hay sent the European powers the “Open Door” note, claiming the U.S. had the right to equal trade in China

Boxer* Rebellion—1900. The U.S. joined European powers in resisting the Chinese Boxers (nationalists) attack on the pro-West Manchu govt. and against foreign embassies in Peking.

*Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, Chinese who had lost livelihoods due to int'l trade and imperialism

Dollar Diplomacy in Asia. The Boxers are successful in 1911 in overthrowing the Manchu govt. Instead of fighting, the U.S. simply bought off the Boxers. J.P. Morgan arranged the construction of a Huguang-Canton RR.



VIII. Woodrow Wilson and Mexico

A. Opposing dollar diplomacy as a bullying tactic and as an unfair support to American businesses, Wilson insists that U.S. foreign policy should follow democratic principles.



<http://www.google.com/imgres?q=wilson+and+mexico&hl=en&tbo=d&biw=1366&bih>

- 1) When Mexico's dictator—Porfirio Diaz—was overthrown by Madero, Wilson wanted to help Madero establish democracy. But he was murdered by Huerta in 1913, and Wilson refused to recognize Huerta.
- 2) The U.S. began to support Huerta's opponent, Carranza, and occupied Veracruz.
- 3) These efforts failed, however, but the U.S. continued to try to support democracy in Latin America.

Unfortunately, this has not worked out, and Mexico is a shining example. At least we can say something that is largely true around the world. We have supported some “not so good” dictators, but most of them have been kinder and less brutal than those who we have NOT supported, (ie most Nicaraguans will tell you that Anastasio Somoza was better than the socialist Sandinistas,

Cubans=Batista better than Castro,

Vietnamese= Diem better than Ho Chi Minh,

Iranians=Shah better than Ayatollah,

Egyptians=Mubarak better than Muslim brotherhood.

All of this was well summed up a generation later by FDR in his assessment of our allies in Latin America. He said of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, “he’s a son of a bitch, but he’s our son of a bitch.”

4) Wilson also wanted desperately to stay out of the GREAT WAR (WWI).

His reelection campaign slogan was "he kept us out of the war." But we will cover this in more detail when we get to the next unit.