



What idea or concept is displayed by this picture?

Hint: it's an important sounding term you learned last year.

American Imperialism



Territorial Growth to 1853

Manifest Destiny - sea to shining sea. Comes true, what's next.

Isolationism vs. Imperialism

Isolationism - keep to yourself, stay out of the affairs of other countries

Imperialism – a larger country controls a smaller country (a colony) usually by superior force

PROBLEM : Can the US be an expansionist or imperialist nation since our history is based on fighting for independence and self rule.

ANSWER : Money is more important than principles and the US economy needs new customers.

Three Reasons for Imperialism

1) Resources: Other areas of the world can provide natural resources not found in the home territory, like rubber.



2) Customers and competition - by controlling a country, you have customers for your products. Also keep out competitors, they must buy from you.

3) White Man's Burden - excuse for imperialism – advanced cultures= whites= Europe and America; have a burden , obligation, responsibility to teach the savages of the world how to be civilized. “Our religion and culture is better than yours, so we’ll teach you”

We’ll enslave you, rob you of your culture by force, force you to do what we want, take all your resources, ***but really we’re doing it for your own good.***



Japan - Island nation that isolated itself from the rest of the world as a form of protection. Kept out Americans and Europeans, but also their ideas and technologies.

US sees Japan as a nation of customers and suppliers.

1853 – Commodore Perry enters Tokyo Bay with 4 steam powered warships. US asks Japan to begin a trading relationship – 1 year to think about it.

1854 – Perry returns with 7 warships – Japan is scared – sign Treaty of Kanagawa and start trading with US.

U.S. = Bully

Seward's Folly (Ice box)

1867 – Annexes Midway Island

1867 – Seward buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million or 2 cents an acre.

Increases the size of the US by 20 percent!

Seward is called a fool for buying a chunk of frozen uninhabitable land but Alaska turn out to be one of the richest areas on earth in terms of natural resources.

U.S. Needs a Strong Navy

Alaska, Midway, Japan – all accessible by sea, US needs Navy to protect its interests in these areas.

Great White Fleet – brand new fleet of steel, steam powered ships, that have the latest weapons, really powerful ones. Fleet goes around the world.

Message = “Don’t mess with us!”

Samoa – small islands in the South Pacific, good place for a Naval base. Germany, Britain, and US all want it – almost leads to war – US and Germany get Samoa, Britain gets other islands.

***We barked at the big
dogs and they
flinched!!!!!!***