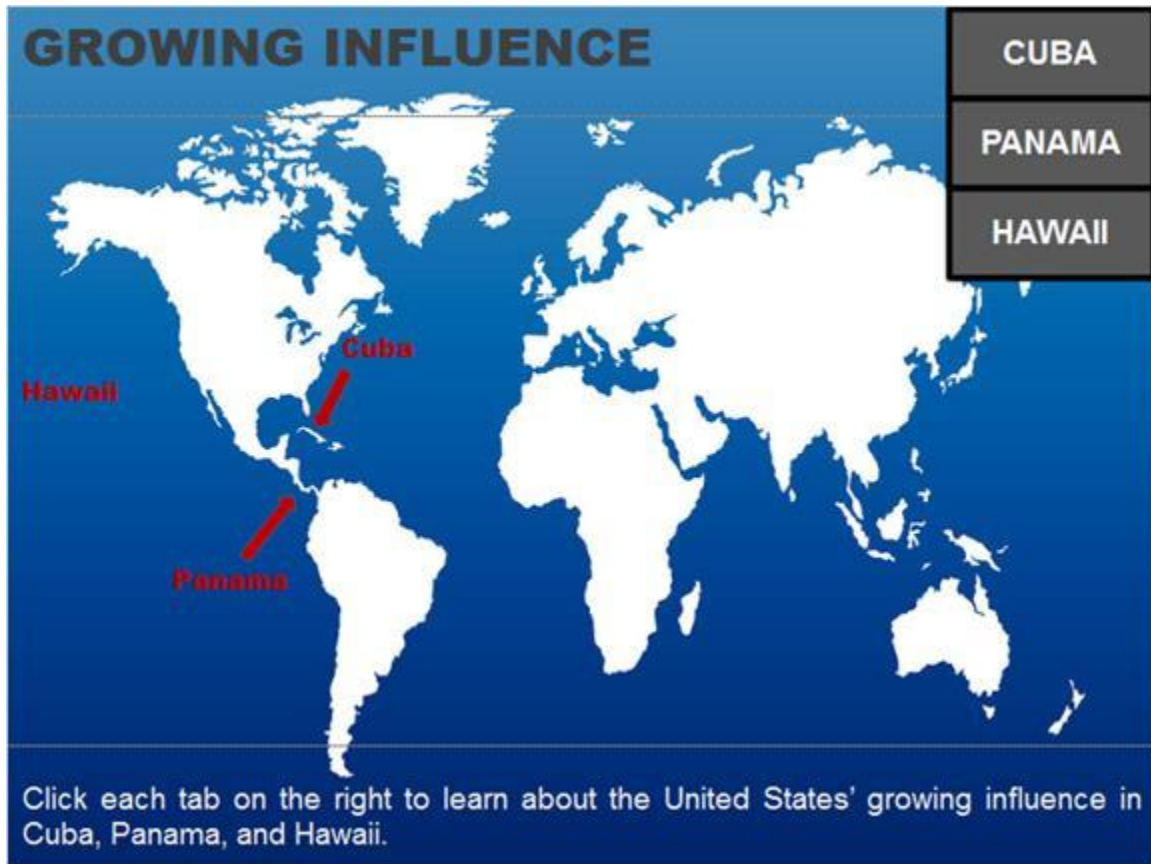


Module 7: America at the Turn of the Century – 1900 to the 1930s

Topic 1 Content: Growing Influence

Introduction



GROWING INFLUENCE

CUBA

PANAMA

HAWAII

Hawaii

Cuba

Panama

Click each tab on the right to learn about the United States' growing influence in Cuba, Panama, and Hawaii.

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Topic 1 Content: Growing Influence

Cuba



Since Cubans wanted to gain independence from Spain, they revolted. Although the Cubans were unsuccessful in attaining independence, slavery in Cuba was abolished, and American businessmen began investing on the island. When Cubans attempted a second war, American sympathizers rallied around the rebels. In early 1898, President William McKinley sent the battleship U.S.S. Maine to bring American citizens out of Cuba and away from the fighting. On February 18, 1898, the U.S.S. Maine exploded in the Havana harbor, and two hundred sixty men died. Although no evidence existed yet to hold Spain responsible, outraged Americans called for U.S. intervention in Cuba, and the Spanish American War began on April 20th. Battles commenced for several months with an army of seventeen thousand men, and a strong unit of volunteer soldiers called the Rough Riders led by Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Ultimately, the United States and Spain met in Paris to ratify the Treaty of Paris. This peace treaty established Cuba's independence, and ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States. The treaty also stated that the United States would buy the Philippines from Spain for twenty million dollars.

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Panama

The U.S. wanted to build a canal to make travel easier between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The United States, Panama, and Columbia negotiated a treaty to build a canal.

CUBA

PANAMA

HAWAII

Construction of the Panama Canal in 1913

The image is a composite. The top half features a world map with a dark blue background. On the right side of the map, there are three stacked rectangular boxes: the top one is grey with 'CUBA' in white, the middle one is red with 'PANAMA' in white, and the bottom one is grey with 'HAWAII' in white. On the left side of the map, there are two grey text boxes with white text. The bottom half of the image is a black and white historical photograph showing the construction of the Panama Canal in 1913, with a long, straight canal cutting through a hilly landscape.

The United States also had an interest in Panama because it wanted to build a canal that enabled boats to go between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans without having to inconveniently travel around the tip of South America. Therefore, the U.S. encouraged Panamanians to fight for their independence from Colombia, which they ultimately gained. Under the leadership of President Teddy Roosevelt, the United States and Panama negotiated a treaty to build a canal, and eventually worked together to ensure that the nations all had access.

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Hawaii



The last monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen Liliuokalani

CUBA

PANAMA

HAWAII

Hawaii was a strategic location for the United States.

Hawaiians asked the U.S. to help them overthrow their queen.

Because of its strategic location, another area of interest for the United States included Hawaii. This independent nation was ruled by a monarchy, and when local planters wanted to overthrow the queen, they asked the United States' military for help. The Marines forced the queen to vacate the throne, which left the island in America's hands. The new president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, did not support imperialism, and therefore prevented the annexation of Hawaii. When Cleveland left office and William McKinley came into the presidency, he signed a joint resolution that annexed Hawaii to the United States. The territory of Hawaii was granted statehood in 1959.