

**READING GUIDE:  
KARMA: THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM 1890-1908**

**Foreign Policy Influences**

1. Why were politicians, businessmen, and farmers interested foreign countries?

**Social Darwinism**

2. Did Charles Darwin agree or disagree with Spencer's theory?
3. Who was Josiah Strong (what did he do for a living)?
4. What was Josiah Strong's stance on American overseas expansion?

**Global Trade**

5. By what means did many Americans believe America would rise as a global economic power?

**Naval Power**

6. What TWO things did the United States require in order to become a global economic and political power?

**Expansion Theory and Policy**

**NOTE: Keep in mind that the theories of Alfred Thayer Mahan were accepted and studied on a global basis. In other words, the US is not the ONLY country abiding by his principles.**

7. What classic book did Mahan write; what was Mahan's primary argument in this book?
8. What FOUR factors did Mahan list as necessary for "control" of the seas?
9. Why were coaling stations necessary for Mahan's theory to work?
10. What FOUR places does the author list as having strategic importance due to the desire for coaling stations?

**The Canal**

11. For what reason was a canal desirable?
12. How would the presence of a canal in Central America affect the Caribbean?

## Part II: Expanding into the Pacific – War with Britain?

### Samoa

1. What were the FOUR parts of the attractive treaty offered by the United States to Samoa?
2. What does “extraterritoriality” mean?
3. **Mahanian Conflict:** What TWO countries had similar arrangements with other islands in the Samoan group?

### Hawaii

**NOTE: Notice the conflicting ideals of the Manifest Destiny factors of economics and national security.**

4. What was the fear regarding the “possessor of the island group” of Hawaii?
5. What does the author say was the primary motivator for American interest in Hawaii?
6. What did American planters force upon the Hawaiian king in 1877? Why did they do this?
7. Why were Hawaiians upset at the McKinley Tariff of 1890?
8. Why did American sugar and pineapple planters resist Liliuokalani?
9. What reason did the American minister give for calling in the US marines? What was the result of this revolt?
10. What was the result of the new Hawaiian government’s request for annexation?
11. For what reason was William McKinley able to annex the islands in 1898? (Note: this answer is evidence of the global impact of Mahanian theory.)

### Cuba

#### Cuba Libre!

1. What did the Wilson-Gorman Tariff do that affected Cuba? What was this effect?
2. Who was “Butcher” Weyler?

### Yellow Journalism

3. Who were Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, and what interest did they have in common?
4. What is meant by the term “yellow journalism?”

## **War with Spain**

5. What did the DeLome Letter say that infuriated so many Americans?
6. What happened on 15 February 1898 that stirred American passions for war?
7. What did the **Teller Amendment** say, and for what reason was it passed?
8. What does the opening battle of the SPAM war tell you about US intentions in the SPAM War?

## **“Rough Riders”**

9. Who were the Rough Riders, and what was the significance of the US victory at San Juan Hill?

## **Peace**

10. What were the four provisions of the **Platt Amendment**?

## **The Filipino Insurrection**

11. Who was Emilio Aguinaldo, and for what reasons did the Filipinos revolt in 1898?
12. What led to the formation of anti-expansionist organizations such as the American Anti-Imperialist League?
13. What were the results of the Philippine Government Act of 1901?

## **China**

### **Downfall**

14. What did the results of the 1894-1895 Sino-Japanese War reveal about both Japan and China?
15. What are spheres of influence, and what effect did the Sino-Japanese War have on their creation?

### **The Open Door**

16. Why did John Hay feel it necessary to issue the Open Door Policy?
17. What were the provisions of the Open Door Policy?
18. For what reason did the occupying nations of China (primarily Japan) practically ignore the Open Door Policy?

## **TR and the Big Stick**

### **Makin' the Dirt Fly**

19. What was the *strategic* need for a canal across Central America?

## **Positioning and Politics**

20. Why was the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty of 1901 necessary for construction of an American trans-isthmian canal?

## **Uh oh . . .**

21. What prompted TR to travel to Panama to oversee construction of the canal?

22. What action by the Colombian senate infuriated TR to take punitive action?

## **Panama Libre!**

23. What message did Phillippe Bunau-Varilla deliver to Panamanian rebels regarding an American reaction to a Panamanian revolution against Colombia?

24. What action did Hay take upon hearing of the proclamation of Panamanian independence that solidified American control of the Canal?

## **Not Through with Latin America Yet.**

25. What was the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, and what action by European powers made it necessary?

## **Dollar Diplo.**

26. What was the guiding philosophy behind William Howard Taft's Dollar Diplomacy?

## **TR and Japan**

### **The Initial Era of Good (Diplomatic) Feelings**

27. What were the provisions of the Taft-Katsura Agreement of 1905 and the Root-Takahira Agreement of 1908 that indicated the growing mistrust between Japan and the United States? With regard to the relationship between the two powers, and for the sake of CONTEXT, you need to know the sum of the agreements.

### **The Era Begins to Sour**

28. What act by the San Francisco School Board resulted in the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907?

### **TR's Navy**

29. What was the purpose behind TR's support for the Great White Fleet?

