

AQA Specification 1K; The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865-1920

Revision Guide 3; FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS I

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

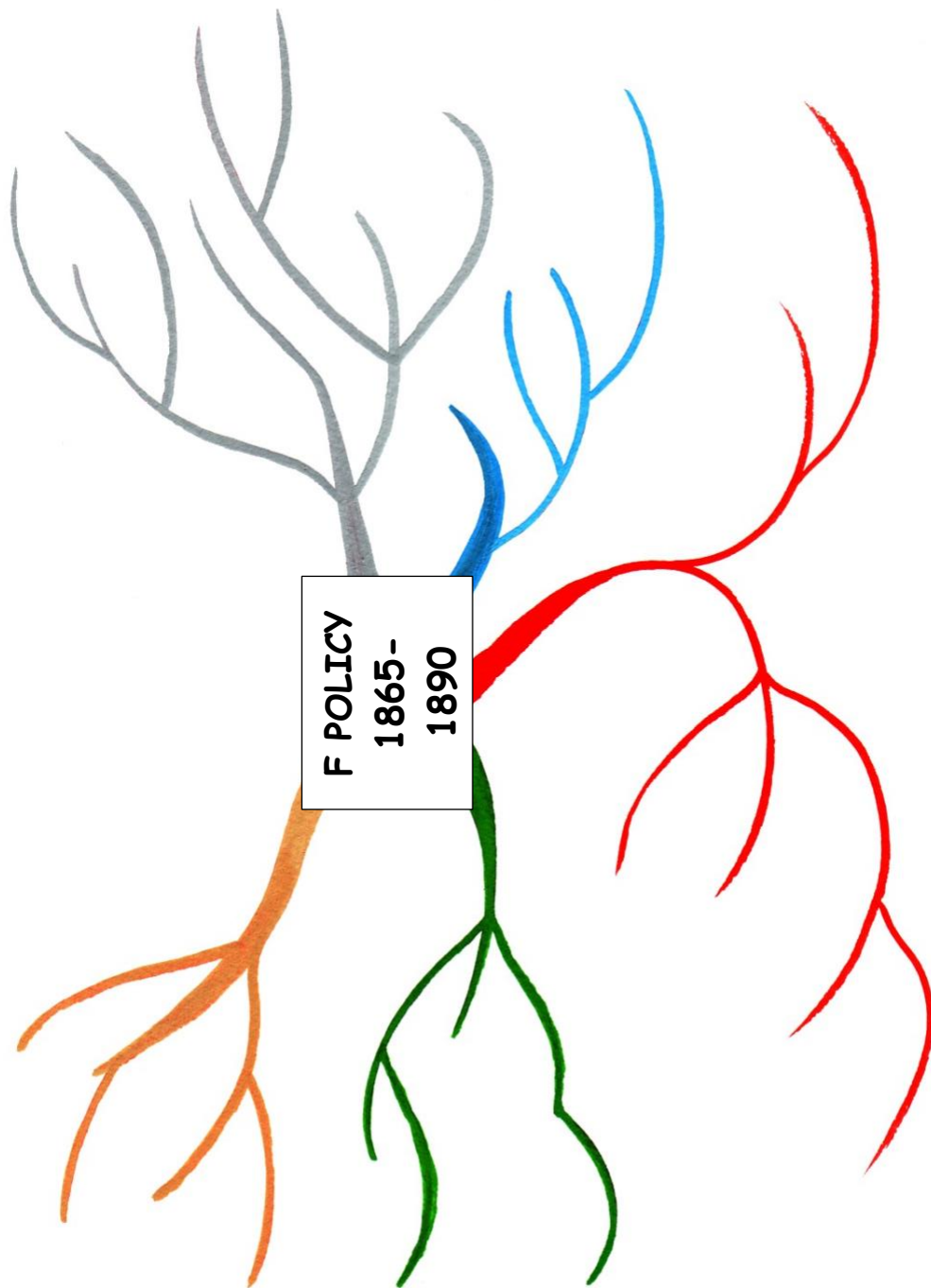
- How did the role of the USA in world affairs change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?

The Era of Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1890

- The limits of foreign engagement and continuation of isolationism: the continuation of the Monroe Doctrine; territorial consolidation (Alaska) and tensions over Canada

FOREIGN POLICY KEY ISSUES;

1. Limits of foreign engagement
2. Isolationism
3. The Monroe Doctrine
4. Territorial consolidation
5. Tensions over Canada



Foreign Policy 1865-1890

After the Civil War and reconstruction period, the US began to expand; economically and territorially - emerging as a world power. Most Americans in this time period still believed in avoiding 'foreign entanglements' - but territorial consolidation 1865-1890 prepared the way for a RISE in US Imperialism.

1. Limits of foreign engagement:

AGAINST FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT = MANIFEST DESTINY: a term associated with a journalist in 1845 to define the US' right and duty to become a **continental** power - from sea to sea; to dominate the continent. This ideal re-enforces **ISOLATION** from the European powers.

2. Isolationism:

Reasons for not having active relations/treaties with other countries;

1. Relations with Britain were strained due to the Canadian border dispute
2. Spain worried the US might interfere in her Empire
3. Conservative countries, like Austria-Hungary - feared US democracy
4. The French Emperor (Nap III) had interfered in Mexico

3. The Monroe Doctrine: 1823;

(pres James Monroe). It stated that further efforts by European nations to colonise land or interfere with states in America would be viewed as acts of aggression, requiring U.S. intervention. At the same time, the doctrine noted that the United States would neither interfere with existing European colonies nor meddle in the internal concerns of European countries.



WHY?

- Anti-colonialism
- Didn't need to have alliances when protected by 2 large oceans
- USA = Land of the Free

MEXICO: France and Austria both tried to establish an empire in Mexico. Nap III sent troops in 1863 to occupy Mexico City. Archduke Maximilian of Austria accepted Crown from Mexicans. USA worried about Europeans interfering in Mexico.

FOR FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT = William Seward, Sec of State, 1865>

Seward **was an interventionist** - wanted naval bases and Panama Canal idea. Bought Midway Island in the Pacific, bought Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Mexico; eventually Mexican rebels led by Benito Juarez executed Maximilian in 1867. It helped re-enforce the Monroe Doctrine though - no Europeans on US continent (or central/South America?)

Hamilton Fish took over after Seward - **continued interventionism, e.g. 1869-73 attempted to establish a protectorate over Dominican Republic. 1873 Trade treaty with Hawaii (annexed it in the 1890s) and Samoa 1878 = laid foundations for expansion later on in 1890s.**

4. Territorial consolidation;

Pre-1865; Louisiana purchase (land from France) 1803, Florida from Spain 1818, 1830s-1845; annexation of Texas, Mexican war 1846 California and South West, Oregon Trail took settlers across Plains to North Pacific North West. After-1865; Alaska, Great Plains, Far West, based on wars, treaties and government policy.



ALASKA;

Opportunistic. Russian-American Company too expensive for Russia so decided to sell Alaska, \$7.2 million. Denounced at the time by US politicians - called it 'Seward's Folly' - isolationists. But attitudes changed, strong commercial links - West Coast Ports like Seattle, San Francisco. Huge economic potential - logging, furs, mining. Gold.

WARS AND TREATIES WITH INDIAN TRIBES;

US 'National Myth' = settling of the empty West was a leap forward for progress etc. Native Americans were 'savages' in the way; seen as culturally inferior.

In reality; lots of Indian tribes, each with ancestral lands, culture, beliefs, and therefore white settlers had to make war and treaties to get their land.

VERY QUICKLY DONE; Fighting during Civil War, massacre at Sand Creek, Colorado 1864, and wars after until 1877. 101 battles in 1871 alone.

First phase; treaties, e.g. Treaty of Medicine Lodge Oct 1867, 3 treaties between Indian Peace Commission, Indian nations southern Plains and Comanche, Apache, Cheyenne-Arapaho. Gave new borders to Indian Territory. Treaty Fort Laramie similar 1868 - Great Sioux reservation West Mississippi.

Second Phase; under Grant. 'Reservation or assimilation'. Native Ams had to accept life in demarcated reservations or assimilate to US society. Hoped to protect Native Ams from exploitation from corrupt govt officials. But unsuccessful as white fought for power and N.Am caught up in it.

Third Phase (had ran alongside second phase); war. 3 main theatres of war; in South West, Great Plains, North West. Apache Wars ended 1874. Great Plains battles, Sioux and Cheyenne brutally suppressed 1876 (after Battle Little Bighorn), Comanche and Cheyenne defeated 1875. Northwest won by 1877.



By end 1877 American Indians defeated, (few rebellions afterwards 1881-1886, Geronimo). White settlers pushed Native Am to margins of society. 1889 Oklahoma Land Rush, 2 million acres Indian Territory free to whites.

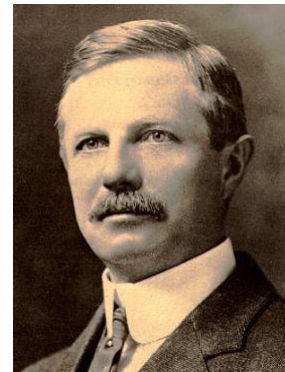
5. Tensions over Canada

US-Canadian border settled in 1842-6, at the 49th parallel but only covered eastern Canada from Great Lakes to Atlantic. West?? 3 main issues

1. **Fenian Raids**; 1866-1871 5 Fenian Raids into Canada by unofficial militias who supported Fenian brotherhood - Irish Am nationalists est 1858 fighting for independent Ireland. US turned blind eye as some people Canada and Britain had traded with South during Civil war and used a ship called the Alabama. Now they took action; arrested ringleaders. Canada worried about US interference and pushed Canadian provinces to join into a Confederation.
2. **Red River dispute**; Red River Colony - valley ripe for settlement so US could annex it. Tensions high but settled after Alabama Claims settled.
3. **British Columbia**; 1867 Seward had acquired Alaska. Opened way for further expansion? All that separated was British Columbia. Far way. Am annexationists and many Canadians thought Brit Col would decide to join the US voluntarily. Canadian govt tug-of-war by commitment to build railway to join Brit Col to rest of Canada (1886 completed). Canada now a continental nation also.

1871>tensions low.

1893 = *Frederick Jackson Turner* made speech in which he set out the '**Turner Thesis**'; idea that US democracy had been shaped by attitudes/values associated with the 'Frontier' = laissez-faire thinking (self-help, rugged individualism), highlighting values of free enterprise, hard work etc. = VERY AMERICAN, MASCULINE, WHITE. Frontier had now ended - continental power, ocean to ocean. Territory consolidated - railways linked whole USA, Am Indians defeated, Manifest Destiny fulfilled.



SUMMARY 1865-1890;

- By 1890 territorial consolidation complete
- Borders established
- Continental power
- New style American imperialism
- But also continuity if policy; Manifest Destiny

FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS II

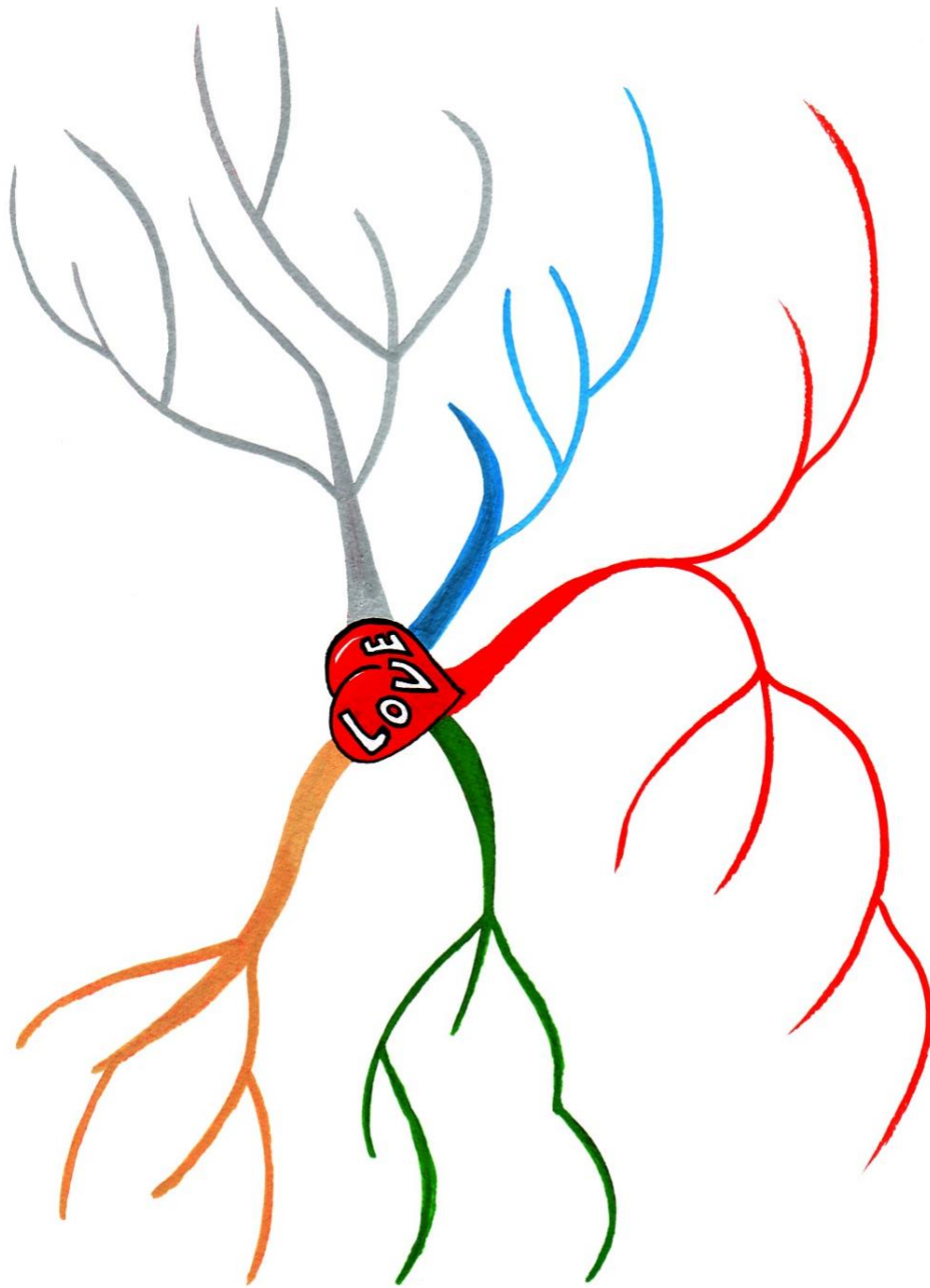
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Populism, progressivism and imperialism, 1890-1920

- Foreign affairs: imperialism; engagement in international affairs; Spain and the Philippines; the Panama Canal; the First World War, neutrality and entry

KEY ISSUES:

1. American Imperialism
2. War with Spain and the Philippines
3. Panama Canal and Open Door
4. Roosevelt Corollary and Dollar Diplomacy
5. Entry into WW1



1. American Imperialism

US had traditionally been defensive. Hostile to European style imperialism. But there were moves to expansionism; new markets needed, end of frontier so needed new horizons, age of imperialism across world, rise in nationalism etc. Felt culturally superior. Duty to civilise others.

PRO-IMPERIALISM = Theodore Roosevelt, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge; looked at importance of navy.

ISOLATIONALISTS = upheld Monroe Doctrine. William Jennings Bryan. Anti-Imp League 1898; also Grover Cleveland (ex-Pres), Andrew Carnegie, Samuel Gompers (union leader).

2. War with Spain and the Philippines

CAUSES: Cuban nationalists revolt against Spain 1895, Americans sympathised as Spain brutally repressed Cubans. Cuba's economy dependent upon exporting tobacco and sugar to US. Strategically close/important. American interests in Far East - looked at Spanish empire in Pacific. China unstable and rise of Japan in East - US bases would be useful. Feb 1898 USS Maine blew up in Havana harbour - started an hysterical media campaign for revenge on Spanish (Hearst and the 'Yellow Press'.)



CONSEQUENCES: US annexed Spanish colonies in the Caribbean and Pacific (Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam - also took the opportunity to annex Hawaii at same time). Many were against conquest of the Philippines; violent, racial prejudice, 1899-1902 US brutally repressed Filipino people. **1901 Platt Amendment** claimed to protect Cuban independence from foreign intervention but allowed US involvement; then extended to other parts of Latin America.

3. Panama Canal and Open Door

1900 McKinley re-elected. TR as VP, became Pres when McKinley assassinated. TR wanted Panama Canal.

The way to get the PC was to create a new country! When the government of Colombia (in charge of Panama region), were unco-operative, TR sponsored series uprisings in Panama against Colombia forcing Colombia to accept an independent Panama. Panama then negotiated the terms for the Canal zone.

In Far East China unstable; 1900 Boxer rebellion attacked foreigners in Beijing, seemed likely China would be carved up by European powers - US wanted **open door trade**

access (Sec State John Hay circulated note to powers). Concerned with rise of Japan also (defeated Russia 1905) and her new navy. TR mediated end of Russo-Japanese war.

TR - also settled Alaska border dispute with Canada 1903.

4. Roosevelt Corollary and Dollar Diplomacy

ROOSEVELT COROLLARY: 1904 TRoosevelt turned policy in Latin American into an actual theory. **Roosevelt Corollary added to the Monroe Doctrine** - saying the US had the right to exercise international police power in Latin America if cases of wrongdoing = US would intervene if trouble in her backyard.

This shows the US trying to expel European influence from Latin America - to ensure US exclusivity in the region.

DOLLAR DIPLOMACY: William Howard Taft 1909 Pres. TR had influence over Taft; Taft's way of dealing with foreign affairs was to avoid direct interventions by using US financial powers instead.

- 1909; Taft used Honduras debts to US to establish US financial control
- Similar in Haiti and Nicaragua - not 100% successful, as US troops had to be sent to Nicaragua 1914.
- Use DD in China - J. Pierpont Morgan + European financiers invested in railroads in China.



Wilson rejected Dollar Diplomacy - said it was not ethical.

5. Entry into WW1

WW - pacifist, peaceful, ethical

William Jennings Bryan - Sec of State, Christian, pacifist

POLICIES: Reinstated Open Door - away from Dollar Diplomacy, accepted new regime in China 1911, but also sent in marines to Mexico in 1914 to 'restore order' and in 1916 to hunt down Pancho Villa - fear of Mexican attack helped lead to intervention into WW1.



NEUTRALITY: WW1 broke out 1914. USA naturally supportive of Triple Entente (more democratic than Triple Alliance) but Wilson promised neutrality - didn't want foreign entanglements, resistant to idea of large US national army, didn't like European colonialism, war had to be morally justified, German-US immigrants etc.

ENTRY INTO WW1: GB and France under huge economic strain. WJB resigned in 1915, TR and Henry Cabot Lodge pushing for involvement, US trade with GB and France rose by 400% so not really neutral, German unrestricted submarine warfare sank Lusitania (suspended and then started again 1917 as Germans desperate), Russian revolution took Russia out of the war in 1917, Germany's Zimmerman telegram to incite Mexico into war forced WW's hand to declare war on Germany April 1917.

FIGHTING IN WW1: took months to prepare US troops so only a trickle of US soldiers into Europe at first. Then Jan 1918 250,000 arriving a month. WW issued 14 points in Jan 1918 also; principles on which peace should be established after the war. Germany's last push by Ludendorff failed - Ottoman Empire collapsed, A-H surrendered. 9th Nov, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated.

SUMMARY 1890-1920;

- Many Americans unhappy with involvement in WW1
- Did involvement break US principles of traditional foreign policy?
- But, US was fast becoming a world power - where would her place in the world be?