**EOCT Review**

**Chapter 11: American Imperialism**

* America’s relationship with the rest of the world changed towards the beginning of the twentieth century.
* The United States entered the Spanish-American War in 1898 to prevent further atrocities by the Spanish government against Cubans. American newspapers stimulated public interest in Cuba, and most Americans blamed the Spanish government for the explosion of the *USS Maine* in Havana Harbor.
* During the Spanish-American War, U.S. troops defeated the Spanish army in Cuba, while the American Pacific fleet defeated the Spanish navy in the Philippines.
* U.S. forces occupied former Spanish colonies, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. A debate occurred in the United States on whether the country should annex any of these territories and become an imperial power.
* Imperialists argued that Americans needed to acquire these territories before a European power did so. They felt that the United States needed to have its own colonies to become a strong international power. They thought that having colonies would also promote American trade. Finally, they argued that Americans had a humanitarian responsibility to help less developed peoples.
* Anti-imperialists opposed American imperialism. They argued the United States should not acquire colonies, which violated American principles of self-government. They felt free trade was more profitable than owning colonies.
* In the end, the United States annexed most of these territories, including Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Guam and Samoa. The United States did not annex Cuba because Congress had promised it would not do so before the war. But even Cuba fell under indirect American control. The United States also annexed Hawaii at this time. The Spanish-American War thus led to the beginning of U.S. imperialism.
* Filipinos had already declared independence and written their own constitution. They did not expect to be annexed by the United States. When it became clear that the United States would annex the Philippines rather than grant them their independence, Filipino leaders began a war against the United States. This conflict lasted much longer than the Spanish-American War.
* U.S. leaders were especially interested in the Caribbean region, which was close to the United States. They did not want to see European powers establishing their own bases in this region. President Theodore Roosevelt announced the “Roosevelt Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine: The United States would not let foreign powers like Britain or France interfere in the Caribbean region. If a Caribbean or Central American nation owed money to a European power, Roosevelt announced the United States would step in and act as an international policeman by collecting the debt and repaying the European power.
* The Spanish-American War had showed the need for finding a faster route from the Atlantic to the Pacific so that the United States could join its two fleets in a military emergency. President Roosevelt wanted to build a canal through Panama, the narrow isthmus connecting North and South America.
* In 1903 the United States negotiated with the government of Colombia for control of a strip of land to build the canal, but the two countries could not agree on terms. When a group of Panamanian rebels declared independence, Roosevelt seized the opportunity to give them support in exchange for control of the Panama Canal Zone.
* Construction of the canal was very challenging and took more than ten years to complete. Engineers had to drain swamps to reduce yellow fever. They had to bring in steam shovels and build massive locks to raise and lower ships passing through the canal.
* Protecting the Panama Canal became an important goal of U.S. foreign policy.