

US History

Topic 3.5-3.7

Content Quiz: (Nov) Wednesday the 8th/Thursday the 9th

Test- (Nov) Wednesday the 15th / Thursday the 16th

Study the following for the quiz.

What you need!

-3.5-3.7 Key Terms

-Reading and questions

Topic 3.5 – 3.7 Key Terms

1. **Imperialism** – The process by which one nation dominates another militarily, socially, or economically.
2. **Alfred T. Mahan** – Author of “The Influence of Sea Power Upon History”, which convinced American policy makers to create a much stronger navy for the United States
3. **Social Darwinism** – Argued the certain races and nations were destined to rule of inferior people and cultures.
4. **Frederick Jackson Turner** – Theorized that the frontier played a major role in shaping the American psyche, and that the closing of the frontier would be a detriment to the US.
5. **Commodore Matthew Perry** – Forced Japan to open up trade with the US
6. **Sanford B. Dole** – Lawyer and jurist who helped forcibly annexed Hawaii in 1898.
7. **William Randolph Hearst** – newspaper owner who published many “yellow journalism” stories the turned public opinion against the Spanish.
8. **Yellow Press** – stories that exaggerate the truth, feature scandals and sensational headlines
9. **Jingoism** – aggressive nationalism
10. **George Dewey** – Admiral who led the American Fleet against the Spanish in an overwhelming American victory to open the Spanish American War
11. **Rough Riders** – Group of volunteer soldiers led by Theodore Roosevelt during the Spanish American war.
12. **Treaty of Paris (1898)**- Ended the Spanish American War, Spain granted Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the US, the US gave Spain \$20 million, and Cuba received conditional independence.
13. **Guerrilla Warfare** – non-traditional style of warfare featuring hit and run tactics
14. **Spheres of influence** – areas of China where colonizing countries had sole access to the resources and consumers of that area.
15. **John Hay** – announced the “Open Door Policy” with China
16. **Boxer Rebellion** – Chinese nationalist rebellion against foreign influence within China
17. **Open Door Policy** – argued that nations should have equal access to Chinese consumers and resources.
18. **Russo-Japanese War** – Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Prize for negotiating the treaty between the two.
19. **“Gentleman’s Agreement** – Agreement between Japan and US. US agreed to stop segregating Japanese schoolchildren, Japan limits it’s immigration to the US.
20. **Great White Fleet** – new armada of American battleships that sailed around the world in 1907, promoting American naval power.
21. **Platt Amendment** – addendum to Cuban independence that allowed for American approval of treaties, American Naval bases on Cuban soil, and American intervention in Cuban affairs if needed.

22. **“Big stick” diplomacy** – President Roosevelt’s policy of using military force, or the threat of military force to achieve foreign policy goals.
23. **Panama Canal** – Canal through the Isthmus of Panama that cut intra-coastal shipping times in half.
24. **Roosevelt Corollary** – addition to the Monroe Doctrine that stated the US could intervene whenever its interests were threatened.
25. **“dollar diplomacy”** – President Taft’s policy of using American financial aid and business investment as an incentive to comply with American foreign policy
26. **“Moral diplomacy”** – President Wilson’s foreign policy promoting human rights, national integrity and opportunity instead of territorial expansion.
27. **Francisco “Pancho” Villa** – Mexican rebel supporter of governmental reforms. Raided across the border in the US, Killing 18 Americans.

PREFACE

OK, now, you just knew deep down that America couldn't stop its expansion just because the Pacific Ocean was in the way. This was (and still is) a well-known fact; Johns Hopkins and University of Wisconsin history professor **Frederick Jackson Turner** stated as much in his 1893 classic essay "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" when he declared that the American frontier, as of 1890, was officially closed. As a consequence America would have to find another outlet for its expansionist character as defined by the gospel of Manifest Destiny. Besides, sitting on a pat hand when there's still cards on the table, well, that's just not our style. We always think we 'have an ace in the hole.

American global expansion is a monumental factor in the history of the WORLD as well as in America's history; consequently the birth of American global expansion adds a totally new dimension to this course. Welcome to the birth of YOUR America, an America whose interests and influences are prevalent in practically every country on earth, from energy to politics, from Levis and Tommy Hilfiger to (GASP!!!) Larry the Cable Guy (which is, I suppose, appropriate . . . this expansion was initiated and nurtured by an American president whose life was the manifestation of GITTIN' 'IT DONE!!).

First of all, let's briefly consider the state of American foreign policy during the **antebellum** period; we have to set the precedent here, right? With the exception of the 1848 conflict with Mexico, the United States had few foreign interests, save for southern desires for a Cuban/Central American slave society (Jeopardy time: Who was the "Grey Eyed Man of Destiny?") Remember to phrase your answer in the form of a question). In short: American foreign policy existed subservient to the controversy over slavery, and consequently was based on internal, *domestic* issues. (1: Do you agree? 2: Do you see the basis for this contention?)

FOREIGN POLICY INFLUENCES

Americans did not simply wake up one day and decide to flood the world with American culture, influence, and, of course, products. In fact, the prevailing foreign policy attitude of the immediate post-Civil- War years was one of isolationism. **Isolationism** was easy and convenient for the United States: we were sandwiched between by two great oceans, sort of a "natural defensive moat," and were surrounded by weak neighbors, none of whom posed a threat to our security . . . unless, of course, you drank their water. However, as the Gilded Age progressed this began to change. Politicians and businessmen saw enormous economic potential for overseas markets (CHA-CHING!), and mid-level American producers, such as farmers, saw increased markets for their goods. Consequently, by the late 19th century, Americans began to look away from home for their future. There had to be reasons for such an outward interest. Let's look at those reasons, and pay close attention: you'll see some of these again.

I. Manifest Destiny. HA! And you thought this ended with Wounded Knee. Referring back to Turner's **Frontier Thesis** by 1890 America had expanded as far as geography would allow (in other from sea to shining sea), and as a consequence **the frontier was officially considered closed.** Uh oh . . .

OK, Dr. Turner, anything else? C'mon, guys, give me a break, of course there was. This guy was a historian, and as you all know by now, we have an answer for everything.¹ According to Turner, America's unique spirit and success was a direct result of the country's westward expansion. The bold challenge of the wide open West, as opposed to the stagnant atrophy of the congested East, was where the distinct American national identity and characteristic emerged. The forging of this unique and rugged American identity occurred at the transference juncture between the civilization of settlement

¹ This drives my wife crazy. I suppose it IS notable that she points out that while I have AN answer for everything, in matters non-historic it is seldom the CORRECT answer for anything.

and the savagery of wilderness. This interaction produced a new type of citizen, one with the power and will to tame the wild and one upon whom the wilderness experience had conferred strength and individuality. As each generation of pioneers moved fifty to one hundred miles west, they abandoned traditional, old, and useless European practices, institutions and ideas, and instead found new solutions to new, American problems created by their new, American environment. Over multiple generations this frontier experience produced distinct characteristics of informality, violence, crudeness, rampant “Jacksonian-on-steroids” Democracy and initiative that the world recognized, and sometimes cursed, as “American.”²

This is powerful medicine when broaching the idea of expansion. American social momentum was forged and defined by this overwhelming Frontier Experience, and was a positive consequence as long as there was frontier left to contain it. However, absent an adequate environment in which this grand design would reach fulfillment, American social inertia and momentum would turn upon itself (sort of a social black hole), and result in internal, social upheaval and unhealthy class distinction. This is exactly what Turner feared would result as a result of the closing of the Frontier in 1890, and his paranoia sustained itself when the lack of a place in which this momentum could fulfill its destiny began to push America’s expansionist buttons.

When Americans began to look abroad, they did so for a number of reasons, not the least of which was a desire to continue this search for the Holy Grail we know as **Manifest Destiny**. Remember this little jewel? It is the contention of many Americans (influential, powerful Americans) that American expansion is the result of God’s mandate that White, Anglo-Saxon Protestant, American culture rule the world. Wow, that’s a mighty big determination for a relatively young country to make. So . . . what gave American expansionists this idea?

II. Social Darwinism. Many Americans applied Herbert Spencer’s theory of Social Darwinism to nations as well as individuals. Darwin himself stated that “there is much truth in the belief that the progress of the United States, as well as the character of her people, is the results of natural selection.”³ Looking abroad, many Americans drew inspiration from growing imperialistic powers such as Britain, Germany, and Russia by determining that they became increasingly powerful because they were stronger than the peoples they conquered. In other, they were wealthy and powerful because they won “Survivor: World.” Such are the fruits of emerging on top in the “Survival of the Fittest.”⁴

Do not disregard the role of religion in Social Darwinist theory. By virtue of Manifest Destiny, many Americans argued that white Anglo-Saxon Protestantism was the **ONLY** mandated, appropriate religion, consequently it was America’s secular duty to spread Christianity to those millions of red, brown, yellow, and other peoples who were drowning in their own paganism. Congregationalist (yeah, they’re still around, having survived the First Great Awakening somewhat intact) minister **Josiah Strong** spoke for millions when he wrote “the Anglo-Saxon embodies two great ideas: civil liberty and pure spiritual Christianity . . . as such, he is divinely commissioned to be his brother’s keeper.”⁵ Hmmm: I suppose this depends on just what one considers the appropriate role of societal and cultural “keeper;” we do not seem to have learned very much from Cortez . . . or Custer, for that matter.

III. Expansion Theory and Policy. Although America was isolationist, like everything else in the Gilded Age this was bound to change. Many American politicians became proponents of an expansionist foreign policy, the most radical being **Theodore Roosevelt, Senator Albert Beveridge (R-In), and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass)**.⁶ These influential men were fervent followers of the leading expansionist theoretician of the day, **Captain Alfred Thayer**

² Turner, Frederick Jackson. *The Frontier in American History*. 5th Edition, New York: Holt, 1921.

³ Darwin, Charles *The Descent of Man* 1871.

⁴ I get the image of Queen Victoria of England, Otto van Bismarck of Germany, and Czar Alexander of Russia running around the palace wearing those ridiculous big foam fingers and chanting ‘We’re Number One!’

⁵ Strong, Josiah *Our Country :Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis* (1885)

Mahan. Mahan outlined historical precedent for the predominance of the existing world powers his classic *The Effects of Sea Power upon History 1660-1783*.⁷ In this book, Mahan showed that national greatness and prosperity flowed from and was protected by sea power, which was of fundamental economic importance. In short, whoever controlled the seas controlled the means of transit which provided modern nations with their economic sustenance. Think this guy ever heard of mercantilism? This “control” consisted of **(a) a powerful navy, (b) strong merchant marine, (c) healthy foreign commerce, and (d) overseas colonies for raw materials and naval bases**. Simply put: If America wished to compete economically and politically on a global scale, she would have to place priority on constructing a state-of-the-art navy, and then become adept at using it. She did, and she did.

In addition to this new navy, America would have to acquire remote possessions to serve as **coaling stations**. You see, 19th century vessels could only travel short distances before needing to refuel. These remote outposts, located primarily in the Pacific Ocean, would serve as trans-oceanic “Buckees:” in other words, refueling stations where naval ships could replenish their coal bunkers and fresh water supply. As such, this need gave strategic importance to garden spots such as Guam, the Samoan Islands, the Philippines . . . and Hawaii.⁸

IV. Global Trade. AH, NOW to the meat of the issue; you just KNEW that, at the heart of the matter, money had to be an issue. And it makes perfect economic sense: why limit your products at home when the entire world beckons? With a domestic *laissez faire* economy, a touch of mercantilism might be a healthy thing. Many Americans believed that by establishing world trade partners and markets, America would rise as a global economic power. (Guess what?? They were right.) Besides, knowing what you do about politics in the Gilded Age and the “effectiveness” of the Presidency and Congress . . . who’s REALLY calling the shots here?

Now, if you are going to trade with the rest of the world, and the rest of the world lies across massive expanses of ocean . . . **COMMON SENSE ALERT!!!!!!** . . . what do you need to carry out and protect such trade?

V. Naval Power: AMERICA NEEDED A MERCHANT MARINE AND NAVY. At the close of the Civil War, America possessed a pitiful navy, most of which was designed for the “Brown Water” (or riverine) operations of the Civil War. Consequently, in 1880, Congress gave permission for the United States to upgrade her naval forces by building modern, ocean-going, ironclad ships. Now, please understand that, in the late 19th century, these ugly behemoths⁹ did not operate on nuclear power, nor did they use sails, nor were they propelled by diesel power. They ran (badly, I might add) and depended (heavily, I might add) on **coal, hence the need for coaling stations**. Jeez, these monstrosities did not get very good mileage (ie miles per chunk of coal), and could not make it across the Pacific Ocean on only one bunker of coal (or on only one tank of drinkable water, for that matter). They were good for about 3,500 nautical miles or so, at which point the captain started looking for Buckees.³

One Last Thought . . . The transit from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean had historically presented nations with a logistic nightmare.¹⁰ The only way to complete this transit was around the tip of South America, a long and arduous journey that was incredibly time-consuming. Since the 1840s, England (and some Americans) dreamed of a short cut to the Pacific by way of cutting a canal across Central America; this desire lay at the heart of British support for the 1824 Monroe Doctrine. In such an eventuality, and by virtue of geography, the Caribbean would become geo-politically and economically strategically vital to the United States. Consequently, after the Civil War, Americans renewed their interest in a **trans-isthmian canal**. The result would be one of the most notorious foreign policy episodes in American history.

⁶ Notice that they are all Republicans?

⁷ This classic is right up there with the Bible for naval historians. See the kind of stuff I read on weekends? Don’t complain to me about your reading list.

⁸ While few can argue that Hawaii is truly a garden spot, whether Guam, the Samoan Islands, or the Philippines are depends on whether or not you served there during World War II. It’s all a matter of perspective.

⁹ Look, I am a sailor and naval historian who loves and appreciates the aesthetic beauty of naval vessels, but outside of CSS *Stonewall*, these were the ugliest ships ever built. We’re talking butt-ugly.

Knowing what you now know about American history, you have to feel that this is going to be good.

Cuba and Yellow Journalism

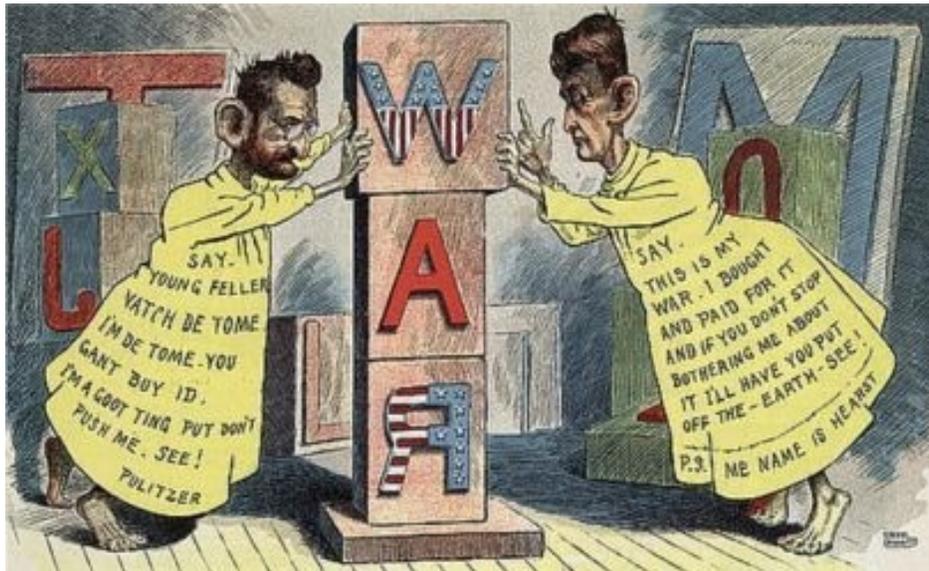
Yellow Journalism The events in Cuba gave newspapers cause to assault (and influence) public opinion. Led by **Joseph Pulitzer** (*The New York World*) and **William Randolph Hearst** (*The New York Journal*), American papers engaged in a contest of one-upsmanship. The war in the press was, as one journalist aptly described, “a battle of gigantic proportions, in which the sufferings of Cubans merely chanced to provide some of the most convenient ammunition.”¹¹ Knowing that Americans sympathized with the Cuban revolt because of their similar colonial experience with Britain, these publications not only reported the war, but also fed the flames with sensationalistic stories of brutality, rape, and other indignities. It worked.¹²

THE HEARST-PULITZER YELLOW Journalism EXTRAVAGANZA!

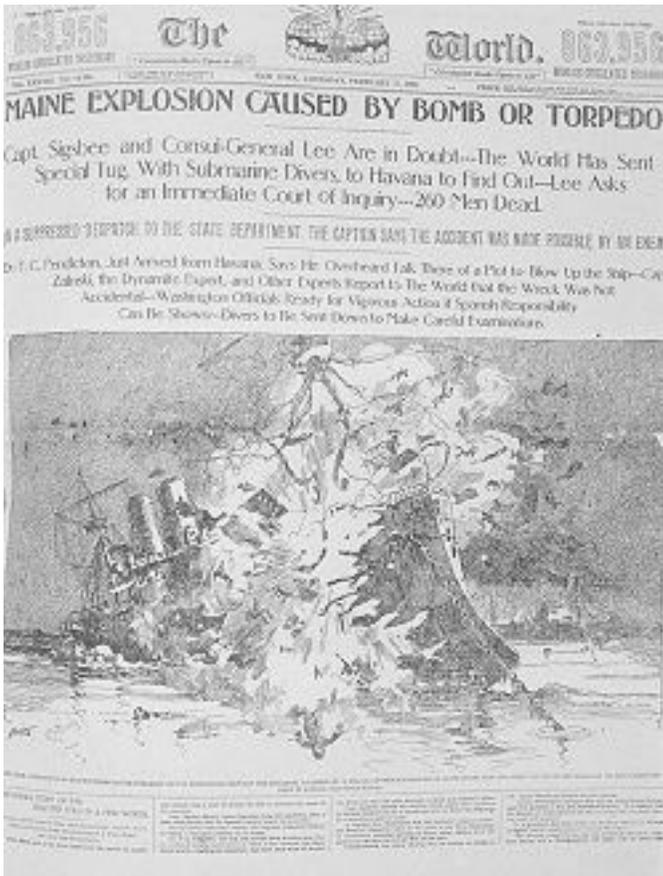
¹⁰ Remember the passage around the tip of South American at Cape Horn in the movie *Master and Commander*, you know, when the young lieutenant learns that cannon balls don't float? That's not a cinematic stretch; take it from someone who has been there. Its terribly rough for modern vessels, impossible and wanton waste of life for 19th century ships.

¹¹ Anonymous, *New York World*

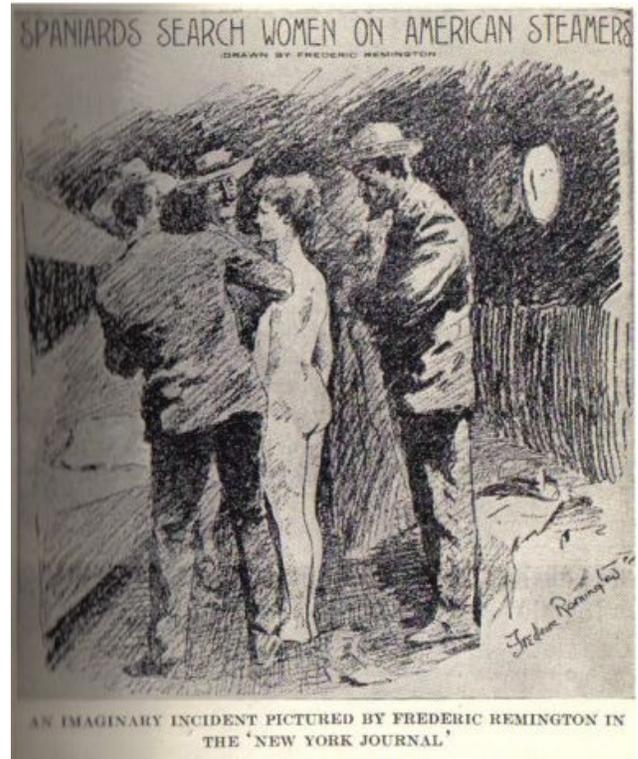
¹² It worked all too well. Because photography was till in its infancy, newspapers relied on illustrations to document the war. When Hearst's illustrator, Frederick Remington, complained to Hearst that he was wasting time in Cuba because there was nothing to draw, Hearst wired back “You furnish the pictures. I'll furnish the war.” Rather chilling, especially since Hearst delivered on his promise.



Pulitzer (left) and Hearst (right) fight over “their” war.



Pulitzer Plays the Blame Game



Hearst's Brand of Yellow Journalism

Reading questions

Foreign Policy Influences

1. What was the prevailing foreign policy attitude in the immediate post Civil-War years?
2. For what TWO reasons does the author say that isolationism “easy and convenient” for the United States?
3. Why were politicians, businessmen, and farmers interested in foreign countries?

Manifest Destiny

4. What was Frederick Jackson Turner’s argument in his “Frontier Thesis?”
5. What did Turner say would limit American expansion?
6. What happened in 1890 that proved Turner’s theory?
7. According to Turner, what would happen to America once her natural expansion had reached its limit?

Social Darwinism

8. What did Charles Darwin say about Spencer’s theory?
9. From what three world powers did expansionist Americans draw influence and precedent?
10. What was Josiah Strong’s argument with regard to expansion?

Expansion Theory and Policy

11. Name the THREE most radical proponents (supporters) of American expansionist foreign policy.
12. Who was Alfred Thayer Mahan, and what classic book did Mahan write?
13. What was Mahan’s argument in this book?
14. What FOUR factors did Mahan list as necessary for “control” of the seas?
15. What is a coaling station, and why were they necessary for Mahan’s theory to work?
16. What FOUR places does the author list as having strategic importance due to the desire for coaling stations?

Global Trade

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

Naval Power

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

One Last Thought . . .

19. For what reason was a trans-isthmian canal desirable?

20. How would the presence of a canal in Central America affect the Caribbean?

Yellow Journalism

21. What is meant by the term “yellow journalism?”