

Topic 3: Benchmark Key Terms (Group 2) – American Expansion and World War I

Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny: This 19th-century belief held that the expansion of the United States across the American continent was both justified and inevitable. It played a significant role in U.S. territorial expansion.

Roosevelt Corollary

Roosevelt Corollary: An extension of the Monroe Doctrine articulated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904, it asserted the U.S. right to intervene in Latin America to maintain stability and prevent European interference. This policy shaped U.S. foreign relations in the Western Hemisphere.

Sphere of Influence A region where a country has exclusive rights to trade and investment, often influencing local politics. In the context of U.S. history, it often refers to areas in Latin America and Asia where the U.S. sought to exert control.

Annex To add a territory to an existing political unit, such as a country or state. The U.S. annexed several territories, most notably Texas and Hawaii, expanding its borders significantly.

Protectorate A state that is controlled and protected by another. In U.S. history, Cuba became a protectorate after the Spanish-American War, allowing the U.S. to intervene in its affairs.

Yellow Journalism A style of journalism that exaggerates or sensationalizes news to attract readers. This type of reporting played a significant role in stirring public support for the Spanish-American War.

USS Maine An American naval ship that exploded in Havana Harbor in 1898, leading to heightened tensions between the U.S. and Spain. The incident was a catalyst for the Spanish-American War, famously prompting the rallying cry "Remember the Maine!"

Rough Riders A volunteer cavalry regiment led by Theodore Roosevelt during the Spanish-American War. They gained fame for their charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba.

Treaty of Paris The agreement that ended the Spanish-American War in 1898, where Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the U.S. This treaty marked a significant expansion of American territories.

Panama Canal A man-made waterway completed in 1914 that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It greatly facilitated maritime trade and military movement, solidifying U.S. influence in Central America.