

Imperialism

Imperialism is a policy (way of governing) in which **large or powerful countries** seek to **extend their authority** beyond their own borders. The policy of imperialism aims at the creation of an **empire**.

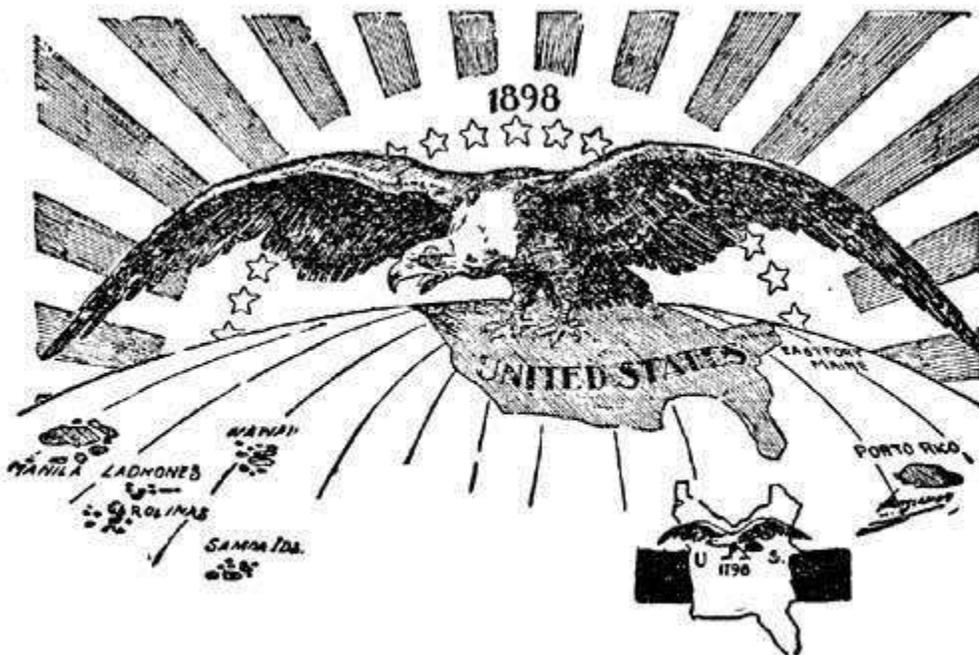
Imperialist countries **take control** of other countries. They may **use military force** to do this. However, they may also avoid using military force. They may simply establish economic and/or political control over the other country.

Imperialist policies are **expansive**. That is, imperialist countries always aim to create a bigger empire.

The ruler of an empire gains **resources** from where they conquer. Conquered peoples may be forced into **slavery** or into **low-wage work**. They may also be called into **military service** on behalf of the **empire**. **Trade markets** are also gained. The people under an imperial government **may be forced to buy products** from that government or from that government's industries.

Thus, a policy of **imperialism** can make the imperialist country **rich**. This benefit can extend over a long period of time.

During the **Age of Imperialism**, **modern, industrialized countries** competed for control **of pre-industrial parts of the world** (not yet modern). In pre-industrial areas, natural and human resources were widely and cheaply available. The imperialist countries that acquired the largest empires during the Age of Imperialism are The United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, and **the United States (which controlled countries such as the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam)**.



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

Monroe Doctrine

The Monroe Doctrine (Doctrine - a stated principle of government policy) was a **foreign policy** proclaimed by the United States in 1823 during the presidency of President James Monroe. It said that **European powers do not belong in The Americas**. For example, it would have been against the Monroe Doctrine for Spain to try to take back its colonies in South America.

Basically, it **warned European nations not to get involved** in political **matters in Central and South America**. The Doctrine was intended to show that the United States was the only country that could influence such political matters. Further, several countries in South America had recently experienced **revolutions** against their European colonial owners and ended up with **republican governments** (similar to the U.S.'s government). The United States agreed with their political philosophy and did not want to see those newly free nations become European colonies again.

The four major parts of this doctrine were as follows:

- 1) The United States **would not get involved in European affairs**.
- 2) The United States **would not interfere with existing European colonies** in the Western Hemisphere.
- 3) **No other nation could form a new colony** in the Western Hemisphere.
- 4) If a **European nation tried to control or interfere with a nation in the Western Hemisphere**, the United States would **view it as a hostile act against this nation**. In his Monroe Doctrine, he said that the peoples of the West "are henceforth **not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.**"



Big Stick Diplomacy

"**Speak softly and carry a big stick**—you will go far." **President Theodore Roosevelt** (1901–1909) used these words to describe his approach to foreign policy. The **press** made Roosevelt look like a **menacing ogre holding a club** as his **aggressive policies bullied smaller nations into obeying America's desires**. For the U.S., the "big stick" was a **large naval force** (the "white fleet") sent on a world tour by Roosevelt to display the strength of the United States.

The main idea behind this policy, was that the **United States should negotiate peacefully with other nations**, so that they would not have to fight, but, **the United States should also have a strong military** ("big stick") which would give the USA **more negotiating power**. Simply put, **it is better to negotiate from a place of strength than a place of weakness**.

If America had a strong military, other countries would be less likely to want to get into a conflict with America, and would want to have peace and trade with America. When dealing with conflicts between Europe and countries in the Americas, this policy made the United States a sort of **police officer** over North and South America.



Roosevelt Corollary

This corollary (**an add-on to an older policy**) expanded the **Monroe Doctrine**, which was a policy that said that **Europe should stay out of North and South America**. This Doctrine (policy) was not aggressive and more or less asked Europe to stay out of the Americas, in return for the **United States staying out of Europe**.

Convinced that all of Latin America was **vulnerable to European attack**, **President Roosevelt** dusted off the Monroe Doctrine and added his own corollary. While the Monroe Doctrine blocked further expansion of Europe in the Western Hemisphere (North and South America), the Roosevelt Corollary went one step further. **Should any Latin American nation engage in "CHRONIC WRONGDOING,"** a phrase that included large debts or civil unrest, **the United States military would intervene**, or get involved. Europe was to remain across the Atlantic, while America would police the Western Hemisphere.

This meant that whenever Europe and a country in the Americas had a conflict, USA would serve as the **police force** that would control the situation.

The **Latin American countries** were **not too happy** with this. By the end of the 20th century, the United States would send troops of invasion to Latin America over **35 times**, establishing an undisputed **sphere of influence** throughout the hemisphere.



Colony

A **colony** is a place **controlled by another country** (the **colonizer**). This happens when one country, or colonizer, which usually has a **strong military**, wants to **take over** other nations' territory. Most of the time, countries want to do this to **gain the resources of the land** (resources such as natural resources, trading markets, and workers, like slaves). Once they take over the land, the **colonizer has complete political control over the colony**, and often backs up its power with **military strength**.

A **colonizer** which has **many colonies** is often called an **empire**. By having a lot of colonies, a colonizer **can become very rich** by taking advantage of the colonies' resources. Often, this leaves the **colonies in a poorer state**, as the colonizers usually get most of the money the colonies produce.

Many countries today started out as colonies, such as Australia, Brazil, India, Canada, and of course, **the United States of America, which used to be Great Britain's colony**.



Political Cartoon

An editorial cartoon, also known as a **political cartoon**, is an **illustration** containing a **commentary (political or social message)** that usually relates to **current events or personalities**. Often times, this cartoon tries to use **metaphors** (symbols or things used to represent other things) to **prove a point**.

Cartoonists use specific devices to get their message across:

- Symbols (simple pictures that are understood to stand in for ideas or groups). Examples: Dove/Peace, Donkey/Democratic Party
- Caricatures (drawing of a person that exaggerates his characteristics for comic effect). Examples: Big ears, extra-long nose
- Stereotypes (generalization, usually exaggerated or oversimplified and often offensive, that is used to describe or distinguish a group.) Examples: Dishonest lawyers, Italian gangsters,
- Analogies (comparisons—this thing is like the other thing). Examples: a situation is compared to a well-known event, book, myth
- Irony (use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning, an outcome of events contrary to what was expected). Example: when someone says it is “beautiful” when they mean ugly or “as clear as mud”



An **alliance** is an **agreement** between **two or more parties**. It is made to **benefit** both parties.

The word "alliance" is **used mainly in war**. When two or more countries make an alliance, that means **they promise to help each other during war**. Countries that have an alliance are called **allies**. When talking about countries that have an alliance, people say they are **allied**.

Alliances can have multiple countries become allies. An example of an alliance with more than two countries is the Central Powers in World War I. This alliance was made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary, The Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.

Alliances can be **dangerous** however. If one part of the alliance **gets in a fight**, the **other allies have to fight** with the one part, even if they do not really have a good reason to be in the fight.

Throughout history, countries have made alliances. Often, these alliances are made so that two or more countries can **team up against a powerful country or another alliance**. This way, they have more **friends to support them** if they get in a fight.

Vocabulary Activity

Direction: For each of the words below, write a definition of the word based on the passage you read above.

1. Imperialism
2. Monroe Doctrine
3. Big Stick Diplomacy
4. Roosevelt Corollary
5. Colony
6. Political Cartoon
7. Alliance