Problems of an Empire

1. PHILIPPINES
2. DEBATE OVER PHILIPPINES
3. PHILIPPINE WAR
4. PUERTO RICO
5. CUBA
Imperialists and Anti-Imperialists were split over whether to annex the Philippines.

The US paid $20 million to Spain in order to add the Philippines to the ceded territories in the Treaty of Paris.

Election of 1900 saw McKinley win over Bryan again.

Bryan was a fervent anti-imperialist, but since he lost, McKinley decided to go ahead and annex the Philippines.
### Annexation

- Imperialists such as Roosevelt believed colonies reinvigorate nations
- Very easy to annex because military was already positioned on the island
- US could dominate Oriental trade with a base in the Philippines
- Spread Christianity to natives
- US was the only power that did not possess colonies
- Returning the islands to Spain would be “cowardly and dishonorable”
- Granting Filipinos independence would be irresponsible because the natives were unfit to govern themselves

### Returning Philippines to Spain

- Believed imperialism was immoral
- Fear of introducing “inferior” Asian foreigners to America
- Fear that outsourcing would steal jobs from American workers
- Sugar growers feared unwelcome competition
- Large standing army and aggressive foreign policy required to hold Philippines might undermine democracy
- Powerful magnates such as Carnegie opposed annexation
Philippine War

- The conflict was one of the least remembered American wars
- Filipinos accused America of hypocrisy and revolted under the strong leadership of Emilio Aguinaldo
- Brutal guerilla warfare and massacres by both sides left 220,000 Filipinos and 4300 American Marines dead
- Soldiers often killed unarmed POW’s en masse and stormed villages killing men, women, and children
- Fighting ended four years later in 1901 with the capture of Aguinaldo who peacefully surrendered and retired
- Philippines became stable and increasingly autonomous until their independence granted by the US in 1946
Puerto Rico

- Annexed by Spain in 1521
- Diseases soon killed off most of the natives; the rest became slaves to coffee and sugar planters
- Lares Rebellion of 1868 was the first revolt but it was crushed
- After the Spanish American war, US made Puerto Rico a commonwealth with American governor and bicameral legislature with Foraker Act of 1900
- Jones Act of 1917 made all Puerto Ricans citizens
- To this day, Puerto Ricans are split on whether to accept statehood or fight for independence
Cuba was the hardest colony to govern. Constant revolts against “Yankee imperialism” required a standing army. The Platt Amendment passed by Congress in 1901 attempted to force more restrictions on Cuba by banning it from making treaties and giving the US permission to build a naval base at Guantanamo. However, after a few years, Cuba stabilized and became an extremely prosperous and wealthy territory until the Revolution of 1958.
When Theodore Roosevelt became President in 1901, he was determined to build a canal through the Isthmus of Panama. An Isthmus in a narrow strip of land connecting larger bodies of land. Panama was the perfect place for canal because of its location. Roosevelt knew that a canal would greatly benefit the American commerce and military capability. It would also reduce the cost and shipping goods. A revolution between Columbia and Panama began. The people of Panama revolted against the Columbian’s this made it very hard for Roosevelt to build the isthmus. Soon, Panama won their independence from Columbia. The United States recognized the new nation. Panama and then agreed to let the United States build a canal.
In building the Canal, tropical heat at mosquitoes made it very difficult. Two tropical diseases were very common; Yellow Fever and Malaria. Under the supervision of army engineer Colonel George Geothals, more than 40,000 workers struggled to dig the canal. Finally in 1914, the first coach and steamship traveled through the Panama Canal. In 1904, Roosevelt announced an important addition to the Monroe Doctrine. In the Roosevelt Corollary, he claimed the right of the United States to intervene in Latin America to preserve law and order. Over the next twenty years, all the President’s including Roosevelt, used this police power.
Roosevelt successor, William Howard Taft, also favored a strong American role in Latin America. He urged American bankers to invest in Latin America. This policy of building strong economic ties to Latin America became known as the dollar diplomacy.

American investors responded eagerly. They helped build roads, railroads, and harbors in Latin America. The United States Army built a force to keep order in Latin America. Woodrow Wilson, elected President in 1912, disliked the heavy handed foreign policies of his past predecessors. He proposed instead a policy of moral diplomacy. Wilson’s goals were to condemn imperialism, spread democracy, and promote peace. Nevertheless, Wilson ordered military intervention in Latin America more than any other President.
Mexican President Diaz was the Mexican President from 1884 to 1911 welcomed American investments. Meanwhile, most Mexicans remain poor. These harsh conditions led to widespread discontent. In 1910, Mexicans rebelled against Diaz. Francisco “Pancho” Villa led the resistance in a Civil War in Mexico. To capture Villa, President Wilson sent General John J. Pershing with an army of several thousand soldiers. In 1917, after failing to capture Villa, Wilson ordered Pershing’s army to withdraw.