

Imperialism

*An Age of Revolutions
(1750–1914)*



New Imperialism

India and Africa

Southeast Asia and the U.S.

Persian and Ottoman Empires

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about imperialism in Southeast Asia and the U.S., and be able to answer the following key questions:

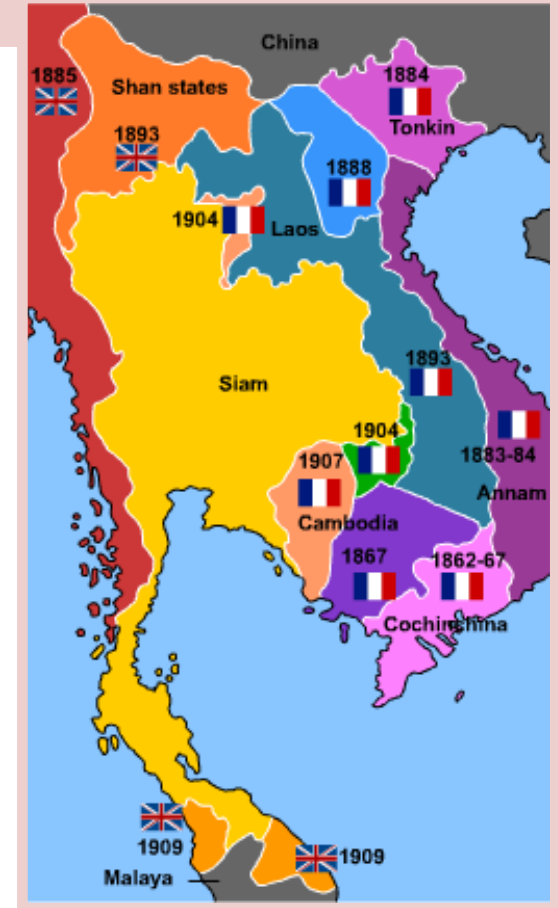
- What imperialist activity took place in Asia?
- To what extent was the United States involved in imperialist activity?
- How did the natives in colonized countries react to this activity?



Areas of Southeast Asia were very desirable, especially because of their rich soil and arable lands.

Europeans discovered that not only were the native crops profitable, but also new and more lucrative crops could be introduced and easily grown.

Commercially valuable crops such as tea, coffee, corn and rubber were **transplanted** into lands in Indochina, Burma, and Malaysia





Historically, much of Southeast Asia, especially the islands, had been under the control of the British and Dutch East India Companies.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the Dutch king was forced to seek refuge in Britain. He turned over much of his colonial land to the British in order to save it from French control.

By 1811, the British controlled the island of Ceylon, along with Cape Colony and Java, the most important of the Dutch possessions. Java was returned to the Dutch in 1814.



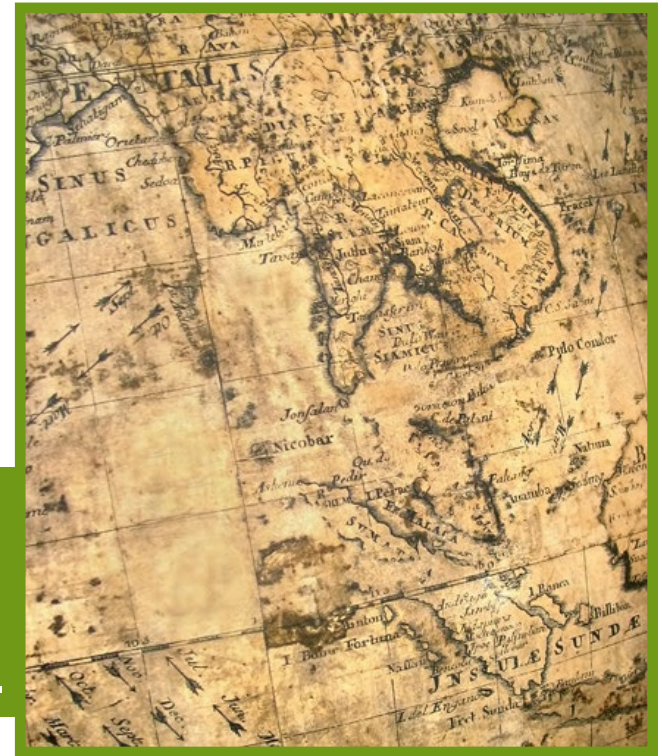


The Anglo-Dutch Treaty

After the Napoleonic wars, the **Anglo-Dutch Treaty** was signed in 1824, which settled land and trade disputes between Britain and the Netherlands. However, Britain continued to gain control in Asia.

In 1824 their control in Malaysia began with the establishing of a free port in Singapore.

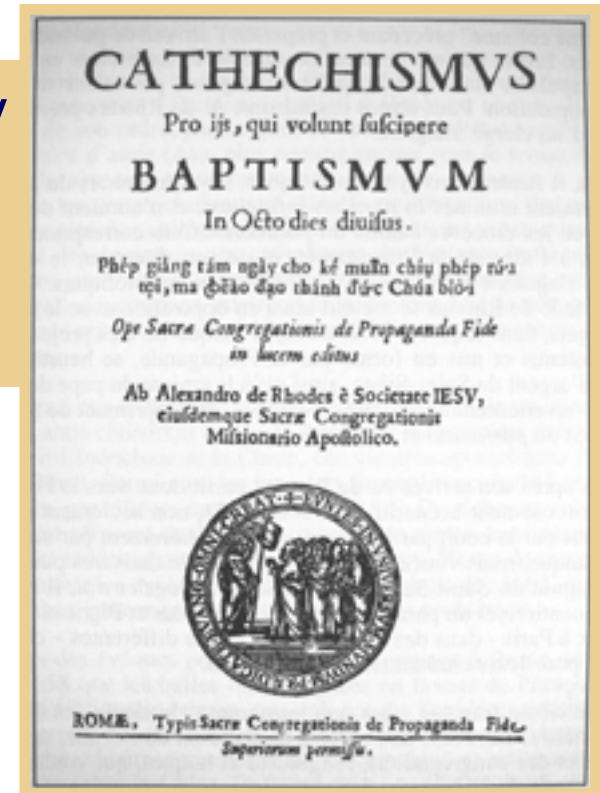
In 1852 Britain began to show interest in Burma, but they did not gain control of the country until 1889.



The earliest French involvement in Indochina was in the form of missionary work in the 17th century. This quickly expanded to trade in the area.

Although the missionaries were generally welcomed, their growing influence did concern the king of Vietnam who was dealing with local unrest.

This led to the government acting to reduce the control of the missionaries. Some were expelled, and some went into hiding in Thailand.





In 1858, **Napoleon** ordered French forces to attack Vietnam in order to defend the Catholic missionaries there. They were aided in the fight by pro-Catholic Vietnamese natives.

The French began to win territorial advantage in Vietnam. They gained a number of southern provinces through the **Treaty of Saigon**, and fought the Chinese and Vietnamese to control **Tonkin** in 1883.

The French did not gain full control of Vietnam until the **Sino-French War** between 1884 and 1885. The French fought against the Vietnamese and the ruling Chinese army. The end of this war saw the French gaining territories in Vietnam, which they united in 1887 and named **French Indochina**.





Siam and Cambodia



In 1863, the king of Cambodia requested protection from the French against the aggressive king of **Siam**.

France agreed to the **protectorate** status, and brokered a treaty with Siam ending the threat to Cambodia. The country maintained protectorate control of Cambodia for close to one hundred years.

Only Siam remained independent and avoided European colonization.





Complete the phrase



How much do you know about imperialism in Southeast Asia? Read each statement, and select the correct word or phrase to complete the sentence.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The United States expands

From the time of its inception, the United States had been expanding westward. In 1890 the frontier of America was considered closed. America had seemed to fulfil its **manifest destiny** of reaching 'from sea to sea'.

However, the United States continued to pursue its policy of economic and political influence in other areas of the world. During the 19th century, this policy even led to the political takeover of certain areas.





The Monroe Doctrine



As the United States began to grow as a nation, it began to look southwards towards Latin America. In 1823, the U.S. president James Monroe issued the **Monroe Doctrine** to protect their interests in the continent, and this was later amended by Theodore Roosevelt. Read the information in each tab to find out about how the U.S. government acted to protect their interests in Latin America.

Press **start** to begin.

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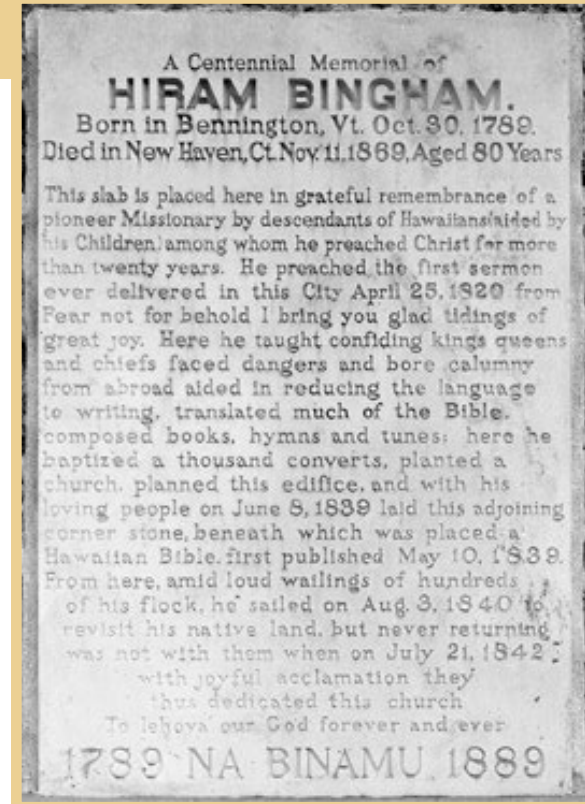




In 1820, the first missionaries arrived in Hawaii, bringing Christianity and western education to the island. Both were embraced by the natives.

In 1840, the king, under the influence of missionaries adopted a western constitution eliminating many traditional Hawaiian practices.

This led to the **Great Mahele** – a redistribution of land based on western policies rather than traditional island custom. Much of the land ended up in the hands of white settlers.





The Reciprocity Treaty



Hawaii soon became a place of interest for many colonial powers including France and Britain.

In 1875, the King Kalākaua signed the **Reciprocity Treaty**, which admitted Hawaiian sugar into the United States tax free. In return, the United States was given control of territory in the country, where they later built Pearl Harbor. This also gave the Hawaiians protection from the interest of colonial powers.



How do you think the U.S. benefitted from this treaty?



The 19th century was a time of great change for Hawaii, especially in its relationship with the United States. Press on the buttons to find out more about these changes.

Press **start** to begin.

start



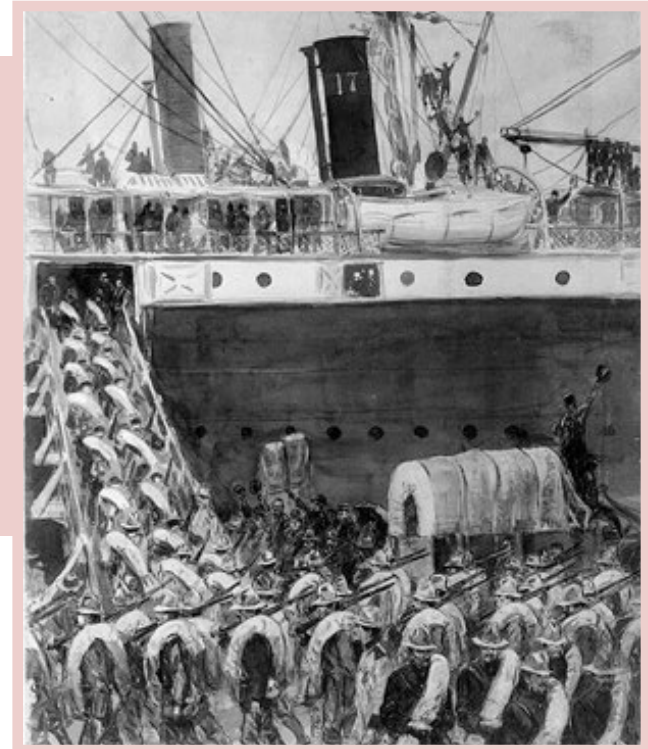


The Spanish-American War



In 1898, the battleship U.S.S. Maine mysteriously exploded in Havana Harbor. Tension between the United States and the Spanish Empire had been high, and this incident signalled the start of the **Spanish-American War**.

The areas of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and other Spanish-controlled areas had long been seeking their independence. They hoped supporting the U.S. in the war would lead to that end.



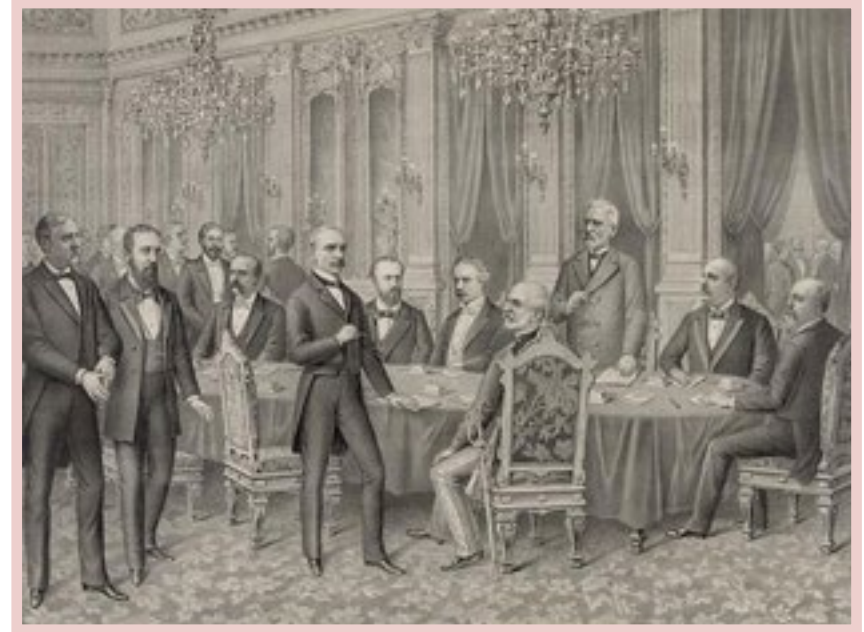


The collapse of the Spanish Empire



The Spanish-American War ended in 1898 with a victory for the United States, and this led to the collapse of the Spanish Empire.

Cuba was given independence, but remained economically and, to a certain extent, politically tied to the United States.



The U.S. and Spain also signed the Paris Treaty in 1898, in which Spain ceded the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States for \$20 million.



The Philippines

In 1898, Philippine independence was declared by revolutionary leader **Emilio Aguinaldo** after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in the Harbor of Manila.

However, this declaration was not recognized by Spain or the United States, and in 1898 Aguinaldo declared war on the U.S.. This war lasted from 1899 until 1902, when the United States reaffirmed their control of the Philippines.

Public dissent in America led to a plan being devised to create an independent Philippines, which was established in 1935.





Read the following statements
about U.S. imperialism in the
19th century, and decide whether
each one is true or false.

Press **start** to begin.

start

