

U.S. History: 1865 to the Present

USII.4 – The Changing Role of the United States (Late 19th Century – WWI) – 2023 Standards

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STANDARD USII.4A— THEODORE ROOSEVELT’S LEGACY

- a) Explain the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, including conservation, progressivism, the Panama Canal, and the Spanish-American War

💡 KEY CONCEPTS

Theodore Roosevelt became a national hero during the Spanish-American War when he led the Rough Riders in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba.

As **president**, Roosevelt was known for:

- **Conservation:** He established national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges to protect America’s natural resources.
- **- Progressivism:** He supported reforms to improve public health, regulate big business, and protect workers and consumers.
- **- Foreign Policy:** Use of **Big Stick Diplomacy**
 - Example: Building the **Panama Canal**, a vital shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans that boosted U.S. trade and naval power.
 - Grew the United States **Navy** as a show of **American power**
 - Boosted **U.S. trade**



Roosevelt balanced domestic reforms with international power building, making him one of the most impactful U.S. presidents of the early 20th century.

STANDARD USII.4B— SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY

- b) Explain the causes and results of the Spanish-American War and Roosevelt’s addition to the Monroe Doctrine.

💡 KEY CONCEPTS

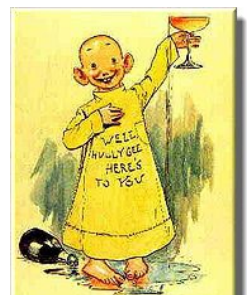
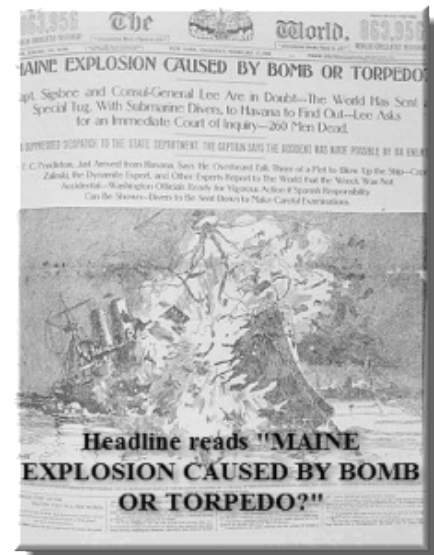
Theodore **Roosevelt** became a **national hero** during the **Spanish-American War** when he led the **Rough Riders** in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba.

Reasons for the Spanish American War

- Protection of American **business interests** in Cuba
- American **support** of **Cuban rebels** to gain independence from Spain
- **Rising tensions** between Spain and the United States as a result of the sinking of the **USS Maine** in Havana Harbor
- **African American troops** participated in the Spanish-American War although their contributions were **ignored**.
 - An example was the credit the Rough Riders were given in taking San Juan Hill when it was the **24th Infantry and the 9th and 10th Cavalry** units that helped to take the hill.
- **Yellow journalism**, or exaggerated newspaper stories, stirred public anger after the USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor. Results of the Spanish American War

Results of the war:

- The United States emerged as a **world power**.
- Cuba gained **independence** from Spain.
- The United States gained possession of the Philippines, **Guam**, and **Puerto Rico**.



"The Yellow Kid", a newspaper cartoon character, gave its name to the sensational journalism of the time.

The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

- Roosevelt expanded the **Monroe Doctrine** by issuing the **Roosevelt Corollary**, which claimed the U.S. had the right to intervene in Latin American nations to preserve order and protect interests.
- Europe was warned **not to interfere** in the affairs of the **Western Hemisphere**; the United States would exercise **"international police power"** in the Americas
- The **Roosevelt Corollary** asserted the right of the United States to **interfere in the economic** matters of other nations in the Americas.
- Roosevelt's Corollary gave the U.S. **greater authority** in the Western Hemisphere and **justified future interventions**.

STANDARD USII.4c - WORLD WAR I: CAUSES AND KEY LEADERS

c) Analyze the causes and consequences of World War I and identify key leaders and groups.

The United States' involvement in World War I set the stage for it to emerge as a global superpower later in the twentieth century

💡 KEY CONCEPTS

Reasons for United States involvement in World War I



- Inability to remain **neutral**
- United States economic and political **ties to Great Britain**
- German **submarine warfare** (e.g., sinking of the Lusitania)



- The **Zimmermann Telegram**, in which Germany encouraged Mexico to attack the U.S.
- The immediate trigger was the **assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand** of Austria-Hungary.

African Americans in WWI

- The **369th Infantry Regiment**, formerly known as the 15th New York National Guard Regiment ("Harlem Hellfighters") distinguished themselves during the war.
- WWI was the first war in which the **U.S. Navy** was **segregated** (African American men relegated to corpsmen or messmen).

United States leadership as the war ended

- U.S. involvement helped turn the tide in favor of the Allies.
- Wilson's leadership shaped global politics after the war.
- At the end of World War I, President **Woodrow Wilson** prepared a **peace plan** known as the **Fourteen Points** that called for the formation of the **League of Nations**, a peacekeeping organization.
- The United States Senate did **not ratify** the **Treaty of Versailles** because of a desire to resume prewar isolationism.
- The United States **did not** become a member of the **League of Nations**.

Major Allied Powers

British Empire, France, Russia (until 1917), Serbia, Belgium, United States

Central Powers

- German Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria, Ottoman Empire



STANDARD USII.4D - WARFARE TACTICS AND TECHNOLOGY IN WWI

d) Examine the evolution of warfare tactics and technological advancements.

💡 KEY CONCEPTS

- **New technologies** changed warfare dramatically:
 - **Trench warfare** led to long, deadly stalemates.
 - **Machine guns, barbed wire, and chemical weapons** increased the brutality of combat.
 - **Tanks, airplanes, and submarines (U-boats)** introduced new threats on land, air, and sea.
- These innovations made WWI one of the **deadliest wars** in history
- Modern weapons and tactics reshaped military strategy.
- Soldiers faced **new forms of danger** unlike anything seen before.



Trench warfare led to long deadly stalemates

STANDARD USII.4E - THE U.S. BECOMES A GLOBAL POWER

e) Explain how WWI helped the U.S. gain international influence.

💡 KEY CONCEPTS

- The U.S. chose **isolationism** over international commitments—until WWII.
- By helping the **Allied Powers** win WWI, the U.S. proved its strength on the global stage.
- America began playing a bigger role in **international diplomacy**, economics, and security.
- The war boosted **U.S. manufacturing** and **military power**, setting the stage for its 20th-century dominance.

STANDARD USII.4F - POST-WAR CHALLENGES AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

f) Examine post-war sanctions and the failure of the League of Nations

💡 KEY CONCEPTS

President Wilson's Fourteen Points promoted peace, self-determination, and open diplomacy.

- The **Treaty of Versailles (1919)** ended the war but punished Germany harshly.
- Wilson's idea for a **League of Nations** aimed to prevent future wars.
- The U.S. Senate **rejected joining the League**, fearing it would drag the country into foreign conflicts.
- Harsh post-war sanctions and unresolved tensions in Europe eventually led to **World War II**.
- The failure of the League and the Treaty's terms sowed the seeds of future global conflict.



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