

Entering the World Stage

Roosevelt and Latin America

Section 3



MAIN IDEA

The United States began to exert its influence over Latin America in the wake of the Spanish-American War.



HSS 11.4

Students trace the rise of the United States to its role as a world power in the twentieth century.

Key Terms and People

Platt Amendment amendment to Cuba’s constitution giving the United States the right to intervene in Cuba’s affairs and acquire naval bases and fueling stations

protectorate a country under the control and protection of another country

Foraker Act law that allowed the United States to appoint Puerto Rico’s governor and legislature

Roosevelt Corollary addition to the Monroe Doctrine pledging that the United States would use force to keep Europe out of Latin America

dollar diplomacy reliance on economic power instead of military force

Section Summary

CUBA AND PUERTO RICO

To restore order after the Spanish-American War, President McKinley set up military governments in Cuba and Puerto Rico. Yellow fever was a serious problem in Cuba. U.S. Army doctors proved that mosquitoes caused it. They got rid of breeding places for mosquitoes. To keep other nations from taking over Cuba, the United States forced Cuba to include the **Platt Amendment** in its constitution. This amendment made Cuba a U.S. **protectorate**. It gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuba’s affairs. It also required Cuba to sell or lease land to the United States for naval bases. This was how the United States acquired the base at Guantánamo Bay. The **Foraker Act** allowed the United States to appoint the upper house of Puerto Rico’s legislature as well as its governor. In 1952 Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth.

How did U.S. Army doctors help Cuba?

What gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuban affairs?

THE PANAMA CANAL

The French were the first to try to build a canal across Panama. This would allow ships to go to Asia without sailing around South America. The United States took

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over the project. Colombia, which ruled Panama, would not allow the United States to build a canal. The United States supported Panamanian rebels in their struggle to break away from Colombia. When the rebels won, they gave the United States control over a 10-mile-wide Canal Zone. Work on the canal began in 1904. Building the canal posed great technical problems. In addition, malaria slowed construction. Sanitation workers had to drain swamps and clear vegetation to get rid of the mosquitoes that caused malaria. The canal finally opened in 1914.

Who ruled Panama before the Panamanians rebelled?

THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY

The Monroe Doctrine had said that the Western Hemisphere was off limits to European nations. However, the United States did not back this up. Europeans and Americans made large loans to Latin America. Latin American countries had a hard time paying these off. President Roosevelt issued the **Roosevelt Corollary**. This said that the United States would use military force to keep Europe from seizing Latin American territory for payment of debts. Later the United States used the Roosevelt Corollary to justify other intervention in Latin American affairs.

What was the Monroe Doctrine?

What was the Roosevelt Corollary?

RESHAPING U.S. DIPLOMACY

President William H. Taft believed in **dollar diplomacy**. This was a policy that relied on economic power instead of military force. Taft suggested that Americans buy out European loans to Latin America. Some Latin American countries disliked this policy. After American banks made loans to Nicaragua, U.S. leaders had to send troops to stop a revolt. President Woodrow Wilson disagreed with dollar diplomacy. He preferred to protect U.S. interests by strengthening constitutional governments.

How did dollar diplomacy affect Nicaragua?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Identify Cause and Effect Cuba and the United States have been in opposing sides of many issues since Castro took power. What causes for this situation can you find in this chapter? Write two paragraphs explaining your answer.