THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S BIG-STICK POLICY
- In 1901, only a few months after being inaugurated president for a second time, McKinley was killed by an anarchist
- Succeeding him was the vice president—the young expansionist and hero of the Spanish-American War, Theodore Roosevelt
- Describing his foreign policy, the new president had once said that it was his motto to "speak softly and carry a big stick"
- The press therefore applied the label "big stick" to Roosevelt's aggressive foreign policy
- By acting decisively in a number of situations, Roosevelt attempted to build the reputation of the U.S. as a world power
- Imperialists liked him, but critics of the big-stick policy disliked breaking from the tradition of noninvolvement in global politics

THE PANAMA CANAL
- As a result of the Spanish-American War, the new American empire stretched from Puerto Rico to the Philippines in the Pacific
- As a strategy for holding these islands, the U.S. needed a canal in Central America to connect the Atlantic & Pacific Oceans

REVOLUTION IN PANAMA
- Roosevelt was eager to begin the construction of a canal through the narrow but rugged terrain of the isthmus of Panama
- He was frustrated that Colombia controlled Panama & refused to agree to U.S. terms for digging the canal through Panama
- Losing patience with Colombia, Roosevelt supported a revolt in Panama in 1903
- With U.S. backing, the rebellion succeeded immediately and almost without bloodshed
- The first act of the new govt of independent Panama was to sign a treaty (the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty of 1903) granting the U.S. long-term control of a canal zone

HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY (1901)
- One obstacle to a canal built & operated by the U.S. had been removed earlier in 1901 with the signing of a treaty with Britain
- Britain agreed to cancel an earlier treaty of 1850 in which any canal in Central America was to be under British-U.S. control
- Now, as a result of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, the U.S. could begin to dig the canal without British involvement

BUILDING THE CANAL
- Started in 1904, the Panama Canal was completed in 1914 as hundreds of laborers lost their lives in the effort
- The work was completed thanks in part of two Army colonels-George Goethals, the chief engineer of the canal, and Doctor William Gorgas, whose efforts eliminated the mosquitoes that spread deadly yellow fever
- Most Americans approved of Roosevelt's determination to build the canal
- Many Americans, however, were unhappy with the tactics employed to secure the Canal Zone
- Latin Americans were especially resentful
- To compensate, Congress finally voted in 1921 to pay Colombia $25 million for its loss of Panama

THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY TO THE MONROE DOCTRINE
- Another application of Roosevelt's big-stick diplomacy involved Latin American nations that were in deep financial trouble and could not pay their debts to European creditors
- In 1902, for example, the British dispatched warships to Venezuela to force that country to pay its debts
- In 1904, it appeared that European powers stood ready to intervene in Santo Domingo (the Dominican Republic) for the same reason
- Rather than let Europeans intervene in Latin America—a violation of the Monroe Doctrine—Roosevelt declared in Dec. 1904 that the U.S. would intervene instead, whenever necessary
- This policy became known as the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
- It meant that the U.S. would send gunboats to a Latin American country that was delinquent in paying its debts
- U.S. sailors & marines would then occupy the country's major ports to manage the collection of customs taxes until European debts were paid
- Over the next 20 years, presidents used the Roosevelt Corollary to justify sending forces into Haiti, Honduras, Dominican Republic & Nicaragua
- The long-term result of such interventions was poor U.S. relations with the entire region of Latin America

EAST ASIA
- As the 20th century began, Japan & the U.S. were both relatively new imperialist powers in East Asia
- Their relationship during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, though at first friendly, grew increasingly competitive

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
- Imperialist rivalry between Russia and Japan led to a war between these nations from 1904 to 1905, which Japan was winning
- Theodore Roosevelt arranged for a diplomatic conference between representatives of the two foes at Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1905
- Although Japan & Russia agreed to the Treaty of Portsmouth, Japan blamed the U.S. for not giving their country all they wanted from Russia
GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT
- A major cause of friction between Japan & the U.S. concerned the laws of California, which discriminated against Japanese-Americans
- San Francisco’s practice of requiring Japanese American children to attend segregated schools was considered a national insult to Japan
- In 1908, President Roosevelt arranged a compromise by means of an informal understanding, or "gentlemen’s agreement"
- Japan secretly agreed to restrict the emigration of Japanese workers to the U.S. in return for Roosevelt persuading California to repeal its discriminatory laws

GREAT WHITE FLEET
- To demonstrate U.S. naval power to Japan and other nations, Roosevelt sent a fleet of battleships on an around-the-world cruise (1907-1909)
- The great white ships made an impressive sight, and the Japanese gov't warmly welcomed their arrival in Tokyo Bay

ROOT-TAKAHIRA AGREEMENT (1908)
- An important agreement was concluded between the U.S. and Japan in 1908
- Sec. of State Elihu Root & Japanese Ambassador Takahira exchanged notes pledging mutual respect for each nation’s Pacific possessions & support for the Open Door policy in China

PEACE EFFORTS
- The purpose of the great white fleet and all other applications of Roosevelt’s big-stick policy was to maintain the peace between rival nations
- President Roosevelt consistently promoted peaceful solutions to international disputes
- For his work in settling the Russo-Japanese War, Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906
- In the same year, he helped arrange the Algeciras Conference in Spain, which succeeded in settling a conflict between France & Germany over claims to Morocco
- The president also directed U.S. participation at the Second International Peace Conference at the Hague in 1907, which discussed rules for limiting warfare