

Directions: Read the assigned pages and use them to answer the following questions. You must include facts and details to complete a short paragraph at least 5-6 sentences long.

Use your textbook pages and the following reading to help answer questions 1 and 2.

Americans and Europeans wanted to build a canal across Central America to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Columbian province of Panama was an isthmus and seemed like a perfect site for the canal. An isthmus is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger bodies of land. French efforts to build a canal failed. In 1903 the United States negotiated a treaty with Columbia to lease a strip of land across Panama where a canal could be built. However Columbia rejected the treaty.

Rebels in Panama had staged many revolts against Columbian rule. President Theodore Roosevelt believed they might revolt again if given American support. He sent a warship into the port of Colon on the coast of Panama on November 2, 1903. The next day the Panamanians revolted. U.S. forces turned back Columbian troops, which were sent to stop the revolt. The U.S. government quickly recognized Panama's independence. Within weeks, the new nation of Panama signed a treaty with the United States. It gave the United States land on which to build a canal.

Building the Panama Canal was long and dangerous work. The canal finally opened on August 15, 1914. It was an immediate success. It shortened the trip between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This helped both the U.S. Navy and U.S. trade. Yet many Latin Americans were angry over how the canal was acquired.

1. What was the motivation behind President Roosevelt's backing of Panamanian Rebels against Columbia?

2. What were the reasons behind the U.S. decision to build a canal across the Isthmus of Panama?

Use your textbook pages and the following reading to answer questions 3 and 4.

President Roosevelt thought the United States should respond with the threat of or use of military force to foreign crisis. He believed this “big stick” approach would keep the world from falling into anarchy, or disorder and lawlessness. Roosevelt’s main choice for carrying out the “Big Stick Foreign Policy” was using the U.S. Navy.

In 1904, Roosevelt added to the policy when he said the United States had the right to act as the “policeman” in Latin America. This policy became known as the Roosevelt Corollary (addition) to the Monroe Doctrine. The U.S. used the Roosevelt Corollary in 1905 when it intervened in the Dominican Republic and in 1906 in Cuba.

Roosevelt’s successor, William Howard Taft, thought the United States should intervene in other nations’ affairs in American business interests were threatened. This policy was known as dollar diplomacy. Under this policy, American investments in Latin America grew. This money helped build roads, railroads, and harbors. It also increased trade and profits. However, U.S. military intervention in the region increased anti-U.S. feelings in Latin America.

President Woodrow Wilson wished to base his foreign policy on moral principles or “moral diplomacy.” He refused to recognize a new government that had seized power in Mexico in 1911. After civil war broke out in Mexico, Wilson allowed arms sales to the new leader, General Victoriano Huerta’s, rivals. When Huerta’s forces arrested some American sailors, Wilson ordered troops to seize the port of Veracruz. Huerta was forced to flee and the old government took over.

Rebel leader Francisco “Pancho” Villa soon rose up against the government. Because of American support for the government Villa’s forces crossed into New Mexico and killed 34 Americans. U.S. troops led by General John J. (Blackjack) Pershing crossed into Mexico to pursue Villa. Mexicans protected Villa from capture. When World War I began, American troops left Mexico. The American actions, however, had created great resentment in Mexico.

3. Compare and contrast the “Big Stick Foreign Policy” with the “Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine”.

4. Explain the similarities and differences between the foreign policies of Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.

Using information from the readings, your knowledge of social studies, and the political cartoon below answer the following questions.



5. What is the main foreign policy idea express by the political cartoon?

6. What role does the U.S. Navy play in the implementation of this foreign policy?
