

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism is essential to understanding the expansionist policies of the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. American imperialism, characterized by the country's pursuit of overseas territories and influence, was driven by various economic, cultural, and political factors. Among these, political motivations played a critical role in shaping imperialist ambitions. The desire to establish a global presence, secure strategic military bases, and assert national power influenced policymakers and leaders. This article explores the political factor of strategic military interests that significantly propelled American imperialism. It will examine the historical context, key political figures, and the impact of military strategy on territorial acquisitions. Understanding this political factor provides insight into how the United States transitioned from a continental power to an influential global empire. The following sections will delve into the strategic military considerations, political ideologies, and outcomes of this political influence on American imperialism.

- Strategic Military Interests as a Political Factor
- Historical Context of American Imperialism
- Key Political Figures and Decisions
- Impact of Military Strategy on Territorial Expansion
- Political Ideologies Supporting Imperialism

Strategic Military Interests as a Political Factor

One of the foremost political factors that influenced American imperialism was the pursuit of strategic military interests. During the late 19th century, the United States recognized the importance of establishing naval power and overseas bases to protect its growing commercial interests and assert its presence on the global stage. Influenced by the ideas of naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan, American policymakers advocated for a strong navy supported by strategically located coaling stations and naval bases. This military strategy aimed to ensure the United States could project power, defend trade routes, and compete with other imperial powers.

The Role of Alfred Thayer Mahan's Naval Theory

Alfred Thayer Mahan's seminal work, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*, argued that national greatness was closely linked to maritime supremacy. His theories emphasized the need for a powerful navy, control of key maritime chokepoints, and overseas bases to support naval operations. Mahan's ideas greatly influenced American political leaders, who saw naval expansion as a political necessity for securing the nation's interests abroad. This led to increased support for acquiring territories that

could serve as naval stations.

Establishing Overseas Naval Bases

The political drive to secure naval bases resulted in the acquisition of territories such as Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines. These locations were viewed as critical for maintaining American naval dominance in the Pacific and protecting the western coast of the United States. Political leaders argued that without such bases, the U.S. risked being marginalized in international affairs and vulnerable to foreign powers.

Historical Context of American Imperialism

American imperialism emerged during a period of significant transformation in U.S. foreign policy. The closing of the American frontier, industrial growth, and increasing global competition created a political environment conducive to expansionism. The Spanish-American War of 1898 marked a turning point, showcasing the political factor of military strategy in imperial ambitions. The war resulted in the U.S. acquiring Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, reflecting political decisions driven by strategic considerations.

The Influence of the Spanish-American War

The Spanish-American War was both a result and catalyst of American imperialism. Politically, it served as justification for expanding U.S. influence beyond the continent. The war highlighted the importance of naval power in achieving quick victories and territorial gains. Politicians used the conflict to argue for a more assertive foreign policy that included permanent overseas possessions serving military and political objectives.

The Closing of the Frontier and Political Implications

By the late 19th century, the U.S. Census Bureau declared the American frontier closed, signaling the end of continental expansion. This political reality drove leaders to look overseas for new opportunities to assert American power. The desire to avoid stagnation and maintain national prestige became a political motivation for imperialism, especially in securing strategic military footholds globally.

Key Political Figures and Decisions

Several political leaders played pivotal roles in shaping imperial policy with a focus on strategic military interests. Their decisions underscored the political factor of military strategy in American imperialism.

President William McKinley

President McKinley was instrumental in the decision to annex the Philippines following the Spanish-American War. His administration justified the annexation based on strategic military needs to maintain American influence in Asia and protect trade routes. McKinley's political leadership exemplified how military considerations influenced imperial policy.

Secretary of State John Hay

John Hay's Open Door Policy aimed to ensure American access to Chinese markets, but it also reflected a political strategy to counterbalance other imperial powers. Securing influence in Asia was part of a broader political and military strategy to enhance America's global standing, further demonstrating the political factor of strategic military interests.

Political Debate and Congressional Actions

The U.S. Congress played a crucial role in formalizing imperial acquisitions that supported military strategy. Debates often focused on the necessity of naval bases and the political implications of expanding American power overseas. Congressional approval of treaties and appropriations for naval expansion highlighted the political consensus on strategic military needs.

Impact of Military Strategy on Territorial Expansion

The political factor of strategic military interests directly influenced the selection of territories the United States pursued during its imperial phase. Military strategy dictated not only the acquisition but also the administration and defense policies of these new possessions.

Territorial Acquisitions with Strategic Value

- **Hawaii:** Annexed in 1898, Hawaii served as a critical naval base in the Pacific, facilitating American military operations and trade.
- **Guam:** Captured from Spain, Guam provided a strategic coaling station and naval base in the Western Pacific.
- **The Philippines:** The acquisition extended U.S. military reach into Asia and served as a forward base for naval power projection.
- **Puerto Rico:** Situated in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico enhanced the U.S. military presence near the Panama Canal's future site.

Military Infrastructure and Defense Policies

Following territorial acquisitions, the U.S. government invested heavily in military infrastructure, including naval bases, fortifications, and supply depots. Politically, this demonstrated a commitment to maintaining imperial holdings through a strong military presence. Defense policies were crafted to ensure these strategic locations could serve as launching points for American military and commercial activities worldwide.

Political Ideologies Supporting Imperialism

Underlying the political factor of strategic military interests were ideologies that justified and promoted imperialism. These political beliefs framed imperialism as necessary for national security and global influence.

Nationalism and the Quest for Power

Political leaders and thinkers embraced nationalism as a justification for expanding American influence. The belief that the United States had a destiny to become a global power intertwined with military strategy, creating political momentum for imperialism. National pride and the desire to compete with European empires fueled support for acquiring strategic territories.

The Influence of Social Darwinism

Social Darwinist ideas, prevalent in political discourse, suggested that stronger nations had the right to dominate weaker ones. This ideology politically legitimized military expansion and the establishment of overseas bases as natural expressions of American superiority and destiny, reinforcing imperialist policies guided by strategic concerns.

Political Support for a Modern Navy

The political consensus favored developing a modern navy capable of supporting imperial ambitions. This included funding battleships, training personnel, and establishing naval infrastructure. The ideology that military strength equaled political power was central to the political factor driving American imperialism.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is one political factor that influenced American imperialism?

The desire to expand national power and influence through acquiring territories and establishing military bases was a key political factor driving American imperialism.

How did competition with European powers influence American imperialism politically?

The political rivalry and competition with European colonial powers motivated the U.S. to acquire overseas territories to assert its status as a global power.

In what way did the concept of Manifest Destiny impact American imperialism politically?

Manifest Destiny, the belief in the United States' destiny to expand across the continent, politically encouraged extending influence beyond continental borders into overseas imperialism.

How did the need for naval power influence American imperialism as a political factor?

Politically, the U.S. sought to build a strong navy and acquire strategic naval bases worldwide to protect its interests and project power, fueling imperial expansion.

What role did political leadership play in promoting American imperialism?

Political leaders like President Theodore Roosevelt promoted imperialism through policies such as the Roosevelt Corollary, advocating intervention in Latin America and expansion abroad.

How did the desire to spread American political ideals influence imperialism?

Politically, the U.S. aimed to spread democracy and American political values, using imperialism as a means to influence other nations' governance systems.

Why was the acquisition of territories politically important during American imperialism?

Politically, acquiring territories provided the U.S. with strategic advantages, increased national prestige, and enhanced its geopolitical influence globally.

How did the fear of losing political influence motivate American imperialism?

Fear of losing political influence to rising powers led the U.S. to pursue imperialism to maintain and expand its global political presence.

What political doctrine justified American imperialism in the

late 19th century?

The Monroe Doctrine and its extension, the Roosevelt Corollary, politically justified American intervention and imperialism in the Western Hemisphere to prevent European interference.

Additional Resources

1. *Empire and Politics: The Role of Nationalism in American Imperialism*

This book explores how rising nationalism in the United States fueled imperial ambitions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It examines political speeches, media, and public opinion that linked national pride with territorial expansion. The author argues that nationalism was a crucial political factor driving American imperialism during this era.

2. *The Influence of the Monroe Doctrine on American Expansionism*

Focusing on the political impact of the Monroe Doctrine, this book analyzes how its principles justified U.S. intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean. It details how the doctrine evolved to support imperial actions and shaped foreign policy decisions. The work highlights the political motives behind America's assertion of regional dominance.

3. *Political Power and the Spanish-American War: Catalyst for American Imperialism*

This book investigates the political dynamics that led to the Spanish-American War and how the conflict marked a turning point for U.S. imperialism. It discusses the role of politicians, media influence, and public pressure in advocating for war and subsequent territorial acquisitions. The author provides insight into political strategies that promoted expansion.

4. *Congress and Empire: Legislative Drivers of American Imperialism*

Examining the role of the U.S. Congress, this book reveals how legislative actions and debates facilitated imperial policies. It highlights key bills and resolutions that enabled territorial acquisitions and military interventions abroad. The study emphasizes Congress as a political force shaping imperialism.

5. *The Presidency and Imperial Ambitions: Executive Influence on American Expansion*

This book focuses on how various U.S. presidents used their political power to promote imperialism. It analyzes presidential speeches, policies, and decisions that expanded American influence overseas. The author discusses the executive branch's central role in shaping imperialist agendas.

6. *Political Ideologies and American Imperialism: The Case of Social Darwinism*

Investigating political ideologies, this book explores how Social Darwinism influenced policymakers to support imperial expansion. It argues that beliefs in racial and cultural superiority were politically mobilized to justify imperialism. The text connects ideology with concrete political actions promoting empire-building.

7. *Political Rivalries and American Imperialism: The Role of Partisan Politics*

This book examines how competition between political parties in the U.S. affected imperial policy decisions. It discusses how parties used imperialism to appeal to voters and outmaneuver opponents. The analysis shows political rivalry as a factor that accelerated imperialist ventures.

8. *Media, Public Opinion, and Political Pressure in American Imperialism*

Focusing on the interplay between media and politics, this book reveals how sensationalist journalism influenced political leaders to pursue imperialist policies. It covers events like the yellow press's role

in drumming up support for war and expansion. The author argues that political actors responded to media-driven public pressure in shaping imperialism.

9. *Political Economy and American Imperialism: The Influence of Big Business*

This book explores the political connections between economic interests and imperial expansion. It discusses how politicians aligned with business leaders to promote imperialism for access to new markets and resources. The work highlights the political factor of economic influence behind American imperialism.

Identify One Political Factor That Influenced American Imperialism

Find other PDF articles:

<https://admin.nordenson.com/archive-library-005/Book?ID=GtG60-5665&title=1460-doc-martens-vegan.pdf>

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Guides to History Plus Kathryn Stout, 2000-12-07 American and world history, geography, and economics are incorporated into an easy-to-use question guide for the study of any period or culture. Includes teaching tips, instructions for making timelines, lists of map skills, reproducible blank maps, definitions of geographic terms, questions to provide practice in analysis for high school students, lists of literature, games, and movies on video arranged by period and topic. Grades K-12.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: An Introduction to Historical Comparison Mikhail Krom, 2020-12-10 Historical comparison as a method of historical analysis goes back to Herodotus in antiquity, yet it was not until the 1920s through the work of historian Marc Bloch that it was recognised as a solid historical method. Even today, some historians are wary of applying a comparative lens to their work. Why is this, Mikhail Krom asks, when historical comparison can be an incredibly insightful approach to history? Designed as a helpful resource for historians, An Introduction to Historical Comparison aims to teach scholars how to develop the skills needed to successfully employ a comparative methodology. It begins by tracing the intellectual history of comparative history writing and then examines the practice of historical comparison. The result is a clear and engaging analysis of historical thinking and a useful guide to main methodological techniques, successes, and pitfalls of comparative research. An Introduction to Historical Comparison is the first comprehensive study of the theory and practice of comparative-historical research. Combining a wide range of case-studies from the best practitioners of historical comparison with an innovative interdisciplinary perspective, this book is thus a meaningful contribution to current debates on historiography. As such, this resource will be of immense value to both students reading historiography and methodology and to historians looking to apply a comparative approach to their own research.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Middle East, the Strategic Hub, and North Africa Army Library (U.S.), 1973

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Journal of Social Sciences, 2005

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Imperialism and Expansionism in American History Chris J. Magoc, David Bernstein, 2015-12-14 This four-volume

encyclopedia chronicles the historical roots of the United States' current military dominance, documenting its growth from continental expansionism to hemispheric hegemony to global empire. This groundbreaking four-volume encyclopedia offers sweeping coverage of a subject central to American history and of urgent importance today as the nation wrestles with a global imperial posture and the long-term viability of the largest military establishment in human history. The work features more than 650 entries encompassing the full scope of American expansionism and imperialism from the colonial era through the 21st-century War on Terror. Readers will learn about U.S.-Native American conflicts; 19th-century land laws; early forays overseas, for example, the opening of Japan; and America's imperial conflicts in Cuba and the Philippines. U.S. interests in Latin America are explored, as are the often-forgotten ambitions that lay behind the nation's involvement in the World Wars. The work also offers extensive coverage of the Cold War and today's ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and the Middle East as they relate to U.S. national interests. Notable individuals, including American statesmen, military commanders, influential public figures, and anti-imperialists are covered as well. The inclusion of cultural elements of American expansionism and imperialism—for example, Hollywood films and protest music—helps distinguish this set from other more limited works.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: The New World and the New World Order K.R. Dark, A. Harris, 1996-11-04 This book re-examines the character of the USA and re-evaluates its relationship to the post-Cold War international order. The USA has often been seen as a model of democratic liberty, a vehement opponent of colonialism and the 'lone superpower' of the post-Cold War world. This book challenges all these views. Unlike previous studies of the post-Cold War role of the USA it connects US domestic affairs to systemic changes often characterized entirely in terms of the 'fall of Communism'.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: The Workers Monthly, 1925

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: American Imperialism and the State, 1893-1921 Colin D. Moore, 2017-04-17 American Imperialism and the State recasts imperial governance as an episode of American state building.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: *Power and Restraint* Jeffrey W. Meiser, 2015-03-02 At the end of the nineteenth century, the United States emerged as an economic colossus in command of a new empire. Yet for the next forty years the United States eschewed the kind of aggressive grand strategy that had marked other rising imperial powers in favor of a policy of moderation. In *Power and Restraint*, Jeffrey W. Meiser explores why the United States—counter to widely accepted wisdom in international relations theory—chose the course it did. Using thirty-four carefully researched historical cases, Meiser asserts that domestic political institutions and culture played a decisive role in preventing the mobilization of resources necessary to implement an expansionist grand strategy. These factors included traditional congressional opposition to executive branch ambitions, voter resistance to European-style imperialism, and the personal antipathy to expansionism felt by presidents like Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. The web of resilient and redundant political restraints halted or limited expansionist ambitions and shaped the United States into an historical anomaly, a rising great power characterized by prudence and limited international ambitions.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: What Went Wrong? The Nicaraguan Revolution Dan La Botz, 2016-09-07 This volume is a valuable re-assessment of the Nicaraguan Revolution by a Marxist historian of Latin American political history. It shows that the FSLN ('the Sandinistas'), with politics principally shaped by Soviet and Cuban Communism, never had a commitment to genuine democracy either within the revolutionary movement or within society at large; that the FSLN's lack of commitment to democracy was a key factor in the way that revolution was betrayed from the 1970s to the 1990s; and that the FSLN's lack of rank-and-file democracy left all decision-making to the National Directorate and ultimately placed that power in the hands of Daniel Ortega. Pursuing his narrative into the present, La Botz shows that, once their

would-be bureaucratic ruling class project was defeated, Ortega and the FSLN leadership turned to an alliance with the capitalist class.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: The American Review of Reviews Albert Shaw, 1925

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: American Monthly Review of Reviews Albert Shaw, 1925

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Government and Innovation United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Technology. Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology, 1979

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: A Review of the Relations of the United States and Other American Republics United States. Congress. House. Committee on Foreign Affairs. Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, United States. Congress House, 1958 Includes evaluation of Vice President Richard M. Nixon's trip to Latin America.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Terrorism in American Cinema Robert Cettl, 2009-10-21 The American cinema of terrorism, although coming to prominence primarily in the 1970s amidst high-profile Palestinian terrorist activity, actually dates back to the beginnings of the Cold War. But this early terrorist cinema was centered largely around the Bomb—who had it, who would use it, when—and differs greatly from the terrorist cinema that would follow. Changing world events soon broadened the cinema of terrorism to address emerging international conflicts, including Black September, pre-9/11 Middle Eastern conflicts, and the post-9/11 War on Terror. This analytical filmography of American terrorist films establishes terrorist cinema as a unique subgenre with distinct thematic narrative and stylistic trends. It covers all major American films dealing with terrorism, from Otto Preminger's *Exodus* (1960) to Ridley Scott's *Body of Lies* (2008).

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: American Foreign Policy Since World War II Steven W. Hook, John Spanier, 2018-01-30 It is the best and most effectively presented history of US foreign policy available. It is extremely well written. Its accessibility is established by the book's clear writing and presentation, with no sacrifice of the more challenging theoretical and policy debates regarding US foreign policy since 1945. —Glenn Palmer, Penn State University The Gold Standard for Textbooks on American Foreign Policy *American Foreign Policy Since World War II* provides students with an understanding of America's current challenges by exploring its historical experience as the world's predominant power since World War II. Through this process of historical reflection and insight, students become better equipped to place the current problems of the nation's foreign policy agenda into modern policy context. With each new edition, authors Steven W. Hook and John Spanier find that new developments in foreign policy conform to their overarching theme—there is an American style of foreign policy imbued with a distinct sense of national exceptionalism. This Twenty-First Edition continues to explore America's unique national style with chapters that address the aftershocks of the Arab Spring and the revival of power politics. Additionally, an entirely new chapter devoted to the current administration discusses the implications of a changing American policy under the Trump presidency.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Intercultural Communication Houman A. Sadri, Madelyn Flammia, 2011-03-03 >

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: NATO Review , 1983

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: The Ideology of Creole Revolution Joshua Simon, 2017-06-06 The American and Latin American independence movements emerged from distinctive settings and produced divergent results, but they were animated by similar ideas. Patriotic political theorists throughout the Americas offered analogous critiques of imperial rule, designed comparable constitutions, and expressed common ambitions for their new nations' future relations with one another and the rest of the world. This book adopts a hemispheric perspective on the revolutions that liberated the United States and Spanish America, offering a new interpretation of their most important political ideas. Simon argues that the many

points of agreement among various revolutionary political theorists across the Americas can be attributed to the problems they encountered in common as Creoles - that is, as the descendants of European settlers born in the Americas. He illustrates this by comparing the political thought of three Creole revolutionaries: Alexander Hamilton of the United States, Simón Bolívar of Venezuela, and Lucas Alamán of Mexico.

identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism: Standard Catalog for Public Libraries H.W. Wilson Company, 1929

Related to identify one political factor that influenced american imperialism

IDENTIFY Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster The meaning of IDENTIFY is to perceive or state the identity of (someone or something). How to use identify in a sentence

IDENTIFY | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary IDENTIFY definition: 1. to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what that person or thing is: 2. to. Learn more

IDENTIFY Definition & Meaning | Identify definition: to recognize or establish as being a particular person or thing; verify the identity of.. See examples of IDENTIFY used in a sentence

Identify - definition of identify by The Free Dictionary To establish or recognize the identity of; ascertain as a certain person or thing: Can you identify what kind of plane that is? I identified the man at the next table as a famous actor

IDENTIFY - Definition & Translations | Collins English Dictionary Discover everything about the word "IDENTIFY" in English: meanings, translations, synonyms, pronunciations, examples, and grammar insights - all in one comprehensive guide

identify | meaning of identify in Longman Dictionary of identify meaning, definition, what is identify: to recognize and correctly name someone : Learn more

identify - Wiktionary, the free dictionary identify (third-person singular simple present identifies, present participle identifying, simple past and past participle identified) (transitive) To establish the identity of

Identify - Definition, Meaning & Synonyms | You can easily remember the meaning of identify, a verb, when you recognize that it's just a way to express the act of establishing identity — in other words, saying who or what something is

identify - Dictionary of English to associate in name, feeling, interest, action, etc. (usually fol. by with): He preferred not to identify himself with that group. Biology to determine to what group (a given specimen) belongs

467 Synonyms & Antonyms for IDENTIFY | Find 467 different ways to say IDENTIFY, along with antonyms, related words, and example sentences at Thesaurus.com

IDENTIFY Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster The meaning of IDENTIFY is to perceive or state the identity of (someone or something). How to use identify in a sentence

IDENTIFY | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary IDENTIFY definition: 1. to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what that person or thing is: 2. to. Learn more

IDENTIFY Definition & Meaning | Identify definition: to recognize or establish as being a particular person or thing; verify the identity of.. See examples of IDENTIFY used in a sentence

Identify - definition of identify by The Free Dictionary To establish or recognize the identity of; ascertain as a certain person or thing: Can you identify what kind of plane that is? I identified the man at the next table as a famous actor

IDENTIFY - Definition & Translations | Collins English Dictionary Discover everything about the word "IDENTIFY" in English: meanings, translations, synonyms, pronunciations, examples, and grammar insights - all in one comprehensive guide

identify | meaning of identify in Longman Dictionary of identify meaning, definition, what is identify: to recognize and correctly name someone : Learn more

identify - Wiktionary, the free dictionary identify (third-person singular simple present

identifies, present participle identifying, simple past and past participle identified) (transitive) To establish the identity of

Identify - Definition, Meaning & Synonyms | You can easily remember the meaning of identify, a verb, when you recognize that it's just a way to express the act of establishing identity — in other words, saying who or what something is

identify - Dictionary of English to associate in name, feeling, interest, action, etc. (usually fol. by with): He preferred not to identify himself with that group. Biology to determine to what group (a given specimen) belongs

467 Synonyms & Antonyms for IDENTIFY | Find 467 different ways to say IDENTIFY, along with antonyms, related words, and example sentences at Thesaurus.com

Back to Home: <https://admin.nordenson.com>