Chapter 19: Republic To Empire
Objectives:

- We will examine the policies America implemented in their newly conquered territories after the Spanish American War.
- We will examine the various changes both in the military and foreign policy that America experienced as it asserted itself internationally.
Rev_13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.
Republic To Empire:

- Three of the American dependencies, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico received territorial status relatively quickly.

- The navy took control of the Pacific Islands of Guam.
Republic To Empire:

- Cuba was a thornier problem.
- American military forces commanded by General Leonard Wood, remained there until 1902 to prepare the island for independence.
- They built roads, schools, and hospitals, reorganized the legal financial and administrative systems, and introduced medical and sanitation reforms.
- But the United States also laid the basis for years of American economic domination of the island.
Republic To Empire:

- When Cuba drew up a constitution that made no reference to the United States, Congress responded by passing the Platt Amendment in 1901 and pressured Cuba into incorporating its terms into its constitution.

- The Platt Amendment barred Cuba from making treaties with other nations (thus giving America control over Cuba foreign policy).
Republic To Empire:

- It gave the U.S. the right to intervene in Cuba to preserve independence, life, and property, and it required Cuba to permit American naval stations on its territory.
- The amendment left Cuba with only nominal political independence.
Republic To Empire:

- Americans poured into Cuba buying up plantations, factories, railroads, and refineries.
- Resistance to Yankee Imperialism produced intermittent revolts against the Cuban government, revolts that at times prompted U.S. military intervention.
- American troops occupied the island from 1906 to 1909 after one such rebellion they returned again in 1912, to suppress a revolt by black plantation workers.
The Philippine War:

- American forces soon became engaged in a long and brutal war with insurgent forces fighting for independence in the Philippines.

- The conflict in the Philippines is the least remembered of all American wars.
The Philippine War:

- It was also one of the longest, lasting from 1898 to 1902, and was one of the most vicious.
- It involved 200,000 Americans troops and resulted in 4,300 American deaths, nearly ten times that died in the Spanish American War.
The Philippine War:

- Up to 50,000 Filipinos may have died.
- The Filipinos who were already engaged in a rebellion against Spain engaged in guerrilla tactics with the Americans.
- Led by Emilio Aguinaldo who claimed to be the legitimate government of the nation, they held the Americans until the American forces became more systematic and brutal.
The Philippine War:

- Finally Aguinaldo was captured and later signed a document urging all his followers to stop fighting.
- America finally secured the Philippines.
An American Colony:

- William Howard Taft became their first civilian governor.
- Taft announced that the American mission in the Philippines was to prepare the islands for independence, and he gave the Filipinos broad local autonomy.
- The Americans also built roads, schools, bridges, and sewers; instituted major administrative and financial reforms and established a public health system.
An American Colony:

- It became closely linked to trade with the United States.
- The succession of American governors gradually increased Filipino political autonomy.
- On July 4, 1946 the island gained independence.
The Open Door:

- Trade with China was important with the United States and seeing that England, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan beginning to carve up China among themselves.
- They pressured the Chinese government for concessions which gave the effective control over various regions most along the coast of China.
- America feared that they would be cut off from trade with China.
The Open Door:

- Eager of advancing American interests in China without risking war, McKinley issued a statement in September 1898 saying the United States wanted access to China but no special advantages there.
- Asking only the open door for our selves we are ready to accord the open door to others.
The Open Door:

- The next year, Secretary of State John Hay translated those words into policy when he addressed identical messages which was known as the “open door notes” to the imperialist powers in Europe and Asia.
Hay asked to approve three principles.

- Each nation with a sphere of influence in China was to respect the rights and privileges of other nations in its sphere.
- Chinese officials were to continue to collect tariff duties in all spheres (the existing tariff favored the United States).
- Nations were not to discriminate against other nations in levying ports due and railroad rates within their own spheres.
Hay asked to approve three principles.

- Together these principles would allow the U.S. to trade freely with the Chinese without interference and without having to become militarily involved in the region.
Boxer Rebellion:

- The various nations were hesitant of this proposal and no sooner had the diplomatic maneuvering over the Open Door ended than the Boxers.
- A secret Chinese martial arts society with highly nationalist convictions and somewhat mystical vision launched a revolt against foreigners.
Christian missionaries were specifically targeted.
But the revolt led to a siege of the entire western foreign diplomatic corps which took refuge in the British embassy in Beijing.
The Imperial powers (including the U.S.) sent an international expeditionary force into China to rescue the diplomats.
Boxer Rebellion:

- In August 1900, it fought its way into Peking and broke the siege.
- The Boxer rebellion became an important event for the role of the U.S. in China.
- America sought to prevent the division of China from the imperialistic powers.
Boxer Rebellion:

- Support was won for the Open Door approach from England and Germany and induced the other participating powers to accept compensation from the Chinese for the damages the Boxer Rebellion had caused.
- U.S. still had access to trade to China and her borders survived.
Boxer Rebellion:

- The War with Spain revealed that the army had glaring weaknesses.
- If the U.S. fought a more powerful foe, disaster may have resulted.
- McKinley appointed Elihu Root, a corporate lawyer in New York, as secretary of war to supervise a major overhaul of the armed forces.
Boxer Rebellion:

- Root enlarged the regular army from 25,000 to 100,000 maximum.
- They established federal army standards for the national guard ensuring that they would have the same training and equipment with the regular army.
- He created officer training schools and most importantly the Joint Chiefs of Staff to act as military advisers to the secretary of war.
Boxer Rebellion:

- They were also to supervise and coordinate the entering army establishment and to establish an office that would prepare for possible wars.
- As Army and Navy board was to foster inter-service cooperation.
- The result of the new reforms, the U.S. entered the twentieth century with something resembling a modern military system.