

**CHAPTER 28** Section 3 (pages 816–821)

# U.S. Economic Imperialism

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you saw how Japan increased its power and became an imperialist nation.

In this section, you will read about U.S. economic imperialism in Latin America.

## AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the causes and effects of U.S. imperialism.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**caudillo** Military dictator

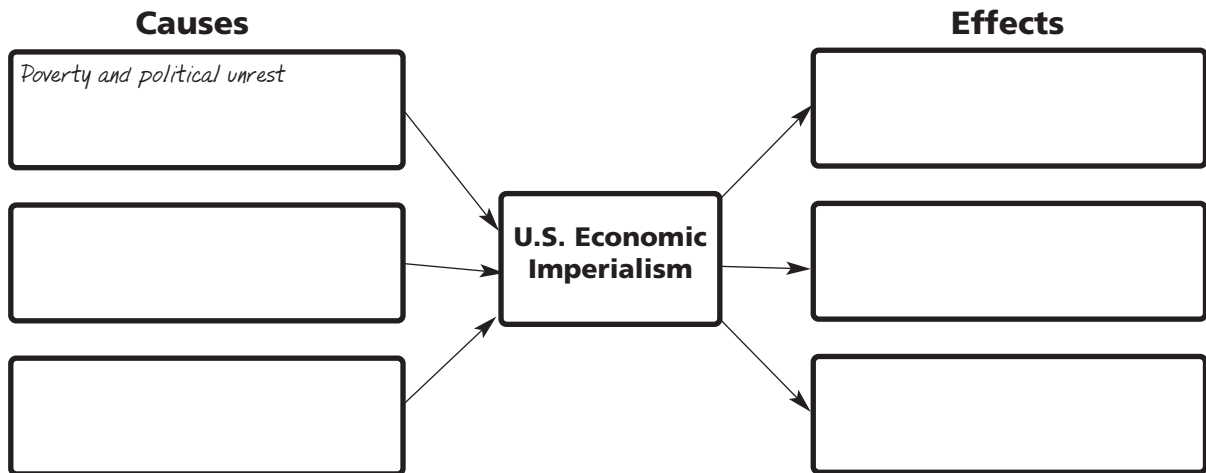
**Monroe Doctrine** U.S. statement of opposition to European influence in the Americas

**José Martí** Cuban writer who fought for Cuban independence

**Spanish–American War** War fought between the United States and Spain in 1898, in which the Americans supported the Cuban fight for independence

**Panama Canal** Man-made waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

**Roosevelt Corollary** Statement that the United States had the right to exercise “police power” in the Western Hemisphere



## Latin America After Independence (pages 816–817)

*What conditions existed among the new nations of Latin America?*

In the early 1800s, the new nations of Latin America had serious problems. Most people were poor laborers. They worked on farms for large landowners who took advantage of them.

Another problem was political unrest. Local military leaders who wanted power ruled Latin American nations as **caudillos**, or military dicta-

tors. Landowners kept the caudillos in power. The landowners refused to give power to the mass of poor people. Only people with property could vote.

Sometimes reformers did take office. But they never lasted long. When their reforms threatened the power of the wealthy too much, a dictator would rise and remove them from office.

**1. What problems did the people in the new nations of Latin America face?**

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## Economies Grow Under Foreign Influence (pages 817–818)

### What nations controlled Latin American economies?

Spain's trade laws in Latin America ended when Spain lost control of those lands. The new countries could now trade with any nation. Britain and the United States became the chief trading partners. Businesses in these nations soon dominated Latin American economies.

The Latin American economies depended on exports. Other countries benefited from trade with Latin America more than the Latin Americans did.

Latin America did not develop its own manufacturing industries. It had to *import* manufactured goods. These goods cost more than what was earned from exports.

In addition, Latin American countries often borrowed money from foreign banks. When they could not repay the loans, lenders took control of the businesses. In this way, much of Latin America fell into foreign hands.

#### 2. Why was Latin America's need to import goods a problem?

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## A Latin American Empire

(pages 818–819, 821)

### How did the United States gain Latin American territories?

In 1823, President James Monroe issued the **Monroe Doctrine**. It warned European nations against interfering in the American continents. The United States did not really enforce this policy until the end of the century.

In the 1890s, the people of Cuba were fighting for their independence from Spain. The writer **José Martí** was one of them. American businesses had economic interests on the island. Also, Spain had placed Cuban civilians in *concentration camps*. This upset many Americans. For these reasons, the United States fought against Spain in the **Spanish–American War**.

The United States won the war and gained several new territories. The United States put a military government in place in Cuba. This step made many Cubans angry at the United States.

Into the early part of the 20th century, ships traveling from the east to the west coast had to go around the southern tip of South America. This took many weeks. Americans wanted to find a quicker route. They hoped to build a canal across Panama.

President Roosevelt offered \$10 million to Colombia—to which Panama belonged—for the right to build this canal. When Colombia asked for more money, the United States helped the people of Panama revolt for independence. In return, the United States won a ten-mile-wide zone in Panama in which to build the **Panama Canal**. The canal opened in 1914.

In 1904, Roosevelt extended the Monroe Doctrine. He said that the United States had the right to act as “an international police power” in the western hemisphere. This statement is known as the **Roosevelt Corollary**. Over the next few decades, the United States acted on the Roosevelt Corollary many times. When trouble arose in various countries, the United States sent its troops. Sometimes they stayed for many years.

#### 3. How did the United States win a zone in Panama for a canal?

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