

11.5

American Influence Grows



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Identify the key factors that caused Americans to want to take a greater role overseas.**
- **Explain how the United States took its first steps toward the position of a world power.**
- **Evaluate the acquisition of Hawaii by the United States.**

America on the World Stage

Imperialism- The policy by which strong nations extend their control over weaker territories

America never fully sought this but a desire to have power on the world stage required it

The desire for raw materials & natural resources were needed for **extractive economies**.

America needed to open up trade with the world to sell a large surplus of goods

Military & Society

To show strength countries had to build up a military
& **Alfred T. Mahan** built up U.S. naval powers

Racial, national, & cultural ideas were used to justify
taking over colonies

Social Darwinism- Belief that life consists of
competitive struggles which the fittest survive

Americans believed that “God” had given them the
right & responsibility to influence the world

Frederick Jackson Turner believed that imperialism
created a “safety valve” for the nation

America Expands

Matthew Perry sailed a fleet into Tokyo Bay to open up trade with Japan

1867- Alaska was bought from Russia giving natural resources to the U.S. & the Klondike Gold Rush

The U.S. would expand into Latin America to create economic cooperation of the region

Hawaii

Hawaii served as a stopping port as well as a large sugar cane plantation

Queen Liliuokalani tried to push the U.S. out fearing the plantations had too much power

She is overthrown & Sanford B. Dole convinces the U.S. to annex Hawaii