

# America Expands Through Imperialism

imperialism:

**the policy of establishing colonies and building empires**

isolationism

**separation from the political affairs of other countries**



Monroe Doctrine (1823)

**said European powers shouldn't colonize or interfere w/nations in the Americas**

US would stay neutral in disagreements between European powers and their colonies

BUT- if wars should happen in the Americas the US would view these actions as hostile

Alaska

*called "Seward's Folly" after William Seward, Secretary of State for Lincoln and Johnson*

**Seward arranged the 1867 purchase of Alaska from Russia**

\$7.2 million (<2/acre)

the financial value of the Alaska Purchase turned out to be many times greater than what the United States had paid for it



## Hawaii



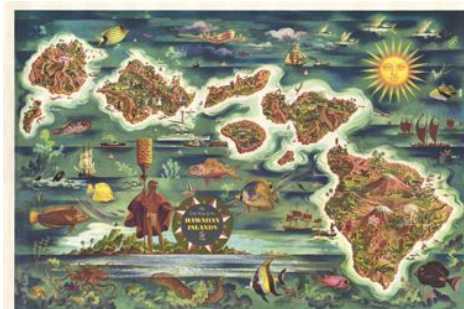
Hawaii was ruled by a **monarchy**

in 1887 **Sanford Dole** and other local Hawaiian businessmen, sugar planters, and politicians took over

they adopted the 1887 Constitution of the Kingdom of Hawaii, which **limited voting rights to literate men** of Hawaiian, European, or American descent

declared that only the **wealthy** could vote

effectively consolidated power with the wealthy elite residents





## Queen Liliuokalani

queen of Hawaii - tried to take back the Hawaiian government from the American businessmen (failed)

January 14, 1893: a group of Americans and Europeans

**overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom,**  
**deposed the Queen**,

and sought **annexation** to the United States

July 4, 1894: the Republic of Hawaii was created  
was ruled by new President Sanford Dole

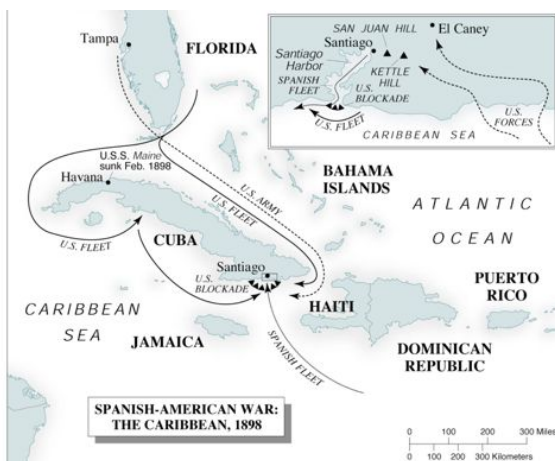


March 1897: President William McKinley agreed to a treaty of annexation

**Senate did not approve the treaty**  
because the islanders did not want it

Newlands Resolution, July, 1898: US annexed Hawaii,  
creating the Territory of Hawaii

## The Spanish-American War (1898)



Cuba was a colony of Spain

Cuban “**insurrectos**”  
wanted independence

revolted against Spain in 1895,  
burning many sugar plantations

Spain sent Gen. Valeriano  
“**Butcher**” Weyler  
to stop the revolt

he cracked down on the rebels and put them in  
prison camps called “**reconcentrados**”  
where many people died from disease

yellow journalism:

**news that exploits, distorts, or exaggerates information to attract readers**

the "yellow press" in America loved the Cuban revolution

Butcher Weyler's activities only made the storylines juicier