

Ch 18 America Claims an Empire

Section 1 Imperialism and America

American Expansionism

Global Competition

- **Imperialism**—policy of extending control over weaker nations
- In 1800s, Europeans divide up most of Africa, compete for China
- Japan joins race for China; U.S. decides to expand overseas

Desire for Military Strength

- Admiral **Alfred T. Mahan** urges U.S. to build up navy to compete
- U.S. builds modern battleships, becomes third largest naval power

Thirst for New Markets

- U.S. farms, factories produce more than Americans can consume
- U.S. needs raw materials, new markets for goods
- Foreign trade: solution to overproduction, unemployment, depression

Belief in Cultural Superiority

- Some combine Social Darwinism, belief in superiority of Anglo-Saxons
- Argue U.S. has duty to Christianize, civilize “inferior peoples”

The United States Acquires Alaska

Early Expansion

- **William Seward**—Secretary of State under Lincoln, Johnson
- 1867, arranges purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million
 - has trouble convincing House to fund purchase
 - Alaska called “Seward’s Icebox,” “Seward’s Folly”
- Alaska rich in timber, minerals, oil

The United States Takes Hawaii

The Cry for Annexation

- Since 1790s, U.S. merchants stop in Hawaii on way to China, India
- 1820s, Yankee missionaries found schools, churches on islands
- Mid-1800s, American-owned sugar plantations 75% of islands’ wealth
- 1887, U.S. pressures Hawaii to allow naval base at **Pearl Harbor**
 - becomes refueling station
- 1890 McKinley Tariff eliminates duty-free status of Hawaiian sugar
- Planters call for U.S. to annex islands so will not have to pay duty

The End of a Monarchy

- 1887, businessmen force King Kalakaua to limit vote to landowners
- **Queen Liliuokalani** tries to remove landowning requirement
- With help of marines, business groups overthrow queen
- Set up government headed by **Sanford B. Dole**
- President Cleveland cannot make Dole surrender power to queen
 - recognizes Republic of Hawaii
- Under President McKinley, Congress proclaims Hawaii U.S. territory