

U.S. Expansion
into the Pacific

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Japan

History—Japan was a small island nation that did not want the influence of people from Europe and America to enter their country. As a result, they refused to trade with us and even went as far as to execute shipwrecked foreigners who have washed up on their shores.

Treaty of Kanagawa —American Merchants wanted to open Japan to trade. The President at the time, Millard Fillmore sent naval Commander Matthew Perry to negotiate. Perry steamed into Tokyo Bay with brand new steam powered warships. The Japanese were impressed with our show of strength and agreed to talk. In the agreement, the Japanese Emperor agreed to help shipwrecked sailors and also open up two Japanese cities to year round trade from Europe and America. Japan also set out to become a modern, industrial nation. They used the United States as their model.



Alaska

History—Alaska was a Russian Colony since the early 1700s. Fortunately for the US, while playing cards one night, Secretary of State William Seward was able to make a deal and purchase the land for \$7.2 million or 2 cents an acre. Many Americans thought the purchase of Alaska was



foolish. To them, Alaska was a barren land of ice and mountains. Also, when the purchase was made in 1867, the country was still financially and socially wrecked as a result of the Civil War. Most people questioned why we were spending money on foreign lands when we still needed to rebuild our own territory.

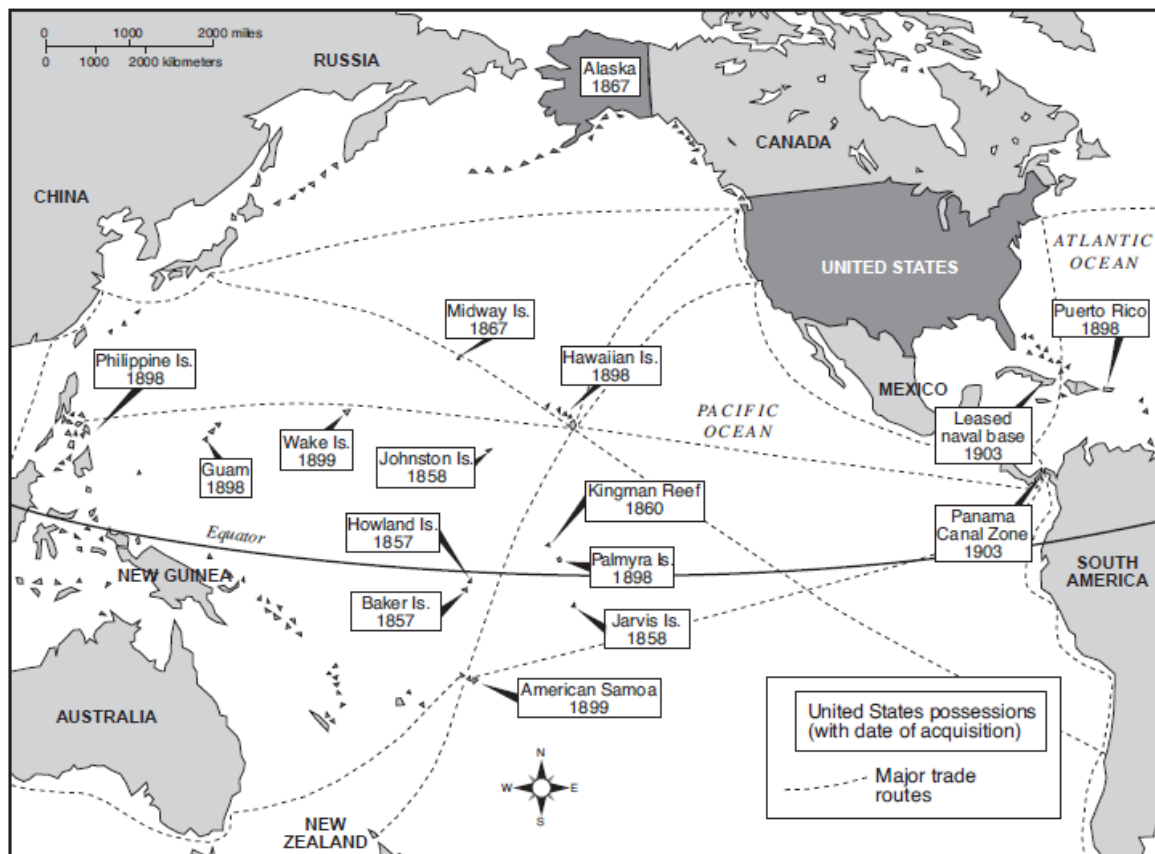
Importance—Fortunately, in 1896, prospectors found gold in Alaska and thousands of people rushed there to find their fortunes. In 1968, drillers found huge oil deposits there and constructed the Alaska pipeline bringing the precious resource here. Alaska has also found to be rich in things like copper, timber and fish. The Southern part of Alaska is even very good farmland...all for 2 cents an acre.

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!
Sixty-Eight Rich Men on
the Steamer Portland.
STACKS OF YELLOW METAL!
Some Have \$5,000, Many Have More, and
a Few Bring Out \$100,000 Each.
THE STEAMER CARRIES \$700,000.
Special Tug Chartered by the Post-Intelligencer
to Get the News.

Hawaii

History—Since the late 1700's Americans and Hawaiians have traded with each other. In the mid 1800's, Americans began buying land there and establishing sugar plantations. Eventually, Americans took control of most of the land and government decisions leaving the Hawaiians to take orders from us. In 1893, the American sugar planters on the islands of Hawaii overthrew the native Hawaiian government. With the help of American warships and marines, a new government was set up and by 1900 Hawaii was a territory of America, officially becoming a state in 1959.

Importance—Because of the soil and climate, crops can be grown in Hawaii all year round. More importantly, however, now America had an important place in the Pacific for navy and trade bases.



China

History—Weakened by years of Civil War and lacking the industry and factories to produce modern weapons, China was unable to resist the foreign powers that wanted access to its vast resources and population. By the late 1890's, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France and Russia had carved out Spheres of Influence in China. Spheres of Influence were sections of the country, usually around a seaport, where these foreign nations controlled trade, laws and life.



Importance—The United States was concerned that we were going to be left out of the profitable trade in China. To protect our interests, Secretary of State John Hay proposed the **Open Door Policy**. This was to give all foreign nations the right to trade in the various Spheres of Influence without having to pay taxes or tariffs. The foreign nations accepted America's offer and continued to take advantage of China for decades to come.