Theodore Roosevelt’s Foreign Policy

**Influence in Asia**

**Topic #1-The Open Door Policy**

During the 1800s, many countries had colonized other areas for political and economic reasons. Different parts of China were being controlled by various other countries, such as Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and Russia; these different parts were called spheres of influence. These countries controlled trade in their sphere. The United States was concerned that these controlling countries would force China to cut off trade with the US or (worse) break up China into colonies, so the US proposed the Open Door Policy. This policy ensured that all countries could trade freely with China. However, some people in China did not like being controlled by other countries, and these people protested the Open Door policy. Ultimately, the protest was unsuccessful, and the US was able to continue trading with China.

**Cartoon A**

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**Cartoon B**

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**Topic #2-The Great White Fleet**

Theodore Roosevelt supported the Open Door policy in China and worked to prevent any single nation from monopolizing trade there. However, relations between the US and Japan steadily grew worse, as Japan began to expand its influence into China and Russia.

In response to this, Roosevelt dispatched a group of 16 ships, 4 destroyers, and naval escorts to circumnavigate the world from 1907-1909. This group was known as the “Great White Fleet.” The fleet was a great source of pride and power for Roosevelt.

1. What is the Great White Fleet? What is its purpose?
2. Why were relations between the US and Japan strained?
3. Why do you think the Fleet made a stop in Japan?

**Influence in Latin America**

**Topic #3-Building the Panama Canal**

As a result of the Industrial Revolution, Americans were making and shipping more goods. Over time, it became expensive and time-consuming to ship them from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so Theodore Roosevelt wanted to build a passageway through Latin America to decrease shipping times and costs. He took over the construction of a canal in Colombia, but the people there did not want the canal built. To circumvent this problem, Roosevelt supported a revolution to establish a new country called Panama, through which he could construct the canal.

It took ten years and $400,000 million to build the canal, but once it was finished, it shortened the time it took to ship goods from New York to San Francisco significantly. While many local Panamanians resented the role of the US in building and controlling the canal, the Panama Canal itself was an amazing technological accomplishment, and it helped to establish the US as the dominant power in Central America.

**Cartoon C**

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**Topic #4-Big Stick Policy**

Roosevelt’s motto was “**speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far**.” He believed that a president should attempt to solve international matters in a peaceful way, but at the same time, be willing to use military force when necessary. If the US made a show of force to the rest of the world, other nations would think twice before challenging America’s strength.

1. What does “speak softly” mean?
2. What is the “big stick?”
3. Explain whether this motto is imperialistic or not.

**Topic #5-Roosevelt Corollary**

In the early 1800s, President James Monroe issued a doctrine to the world, asking Europe to stop colonizing areas in North America. In 1904, President Roosevelt added a corollary to this statement, by explaining that the United States has the right to interfere in economic matters in Latin and South America. Additionally, he explains that the US will have international policing powers to monitor any international issues that arise in Latin and South America. For example, if the Latin American countries get scared that European troops will invade them to collect debt, the US will intervene to prevent European troops from invading.

1. What two additions are made by Roosevelt to the Monroe Doctrine?

**Cartoon D**

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