



“We don’t do empire”

- The central role of Cuba
- The (in)flexibility of US policy based on US experiences and values
  - Free markets, entrepreneurship, commercial expansion and democracy
  - An open world leading to material benefits and enforcing moral values

- Decline Spanish colonial empire
- Economic interests
- Interests US Navy/Panama Canal
- Monroe doctrine (1823)
- Manifest Destiny

- John O’Sullivan 1839:

“The far-reaching, the boundless future will be the era of American greatness. In its magnificent domain of space and time, the nation of many nations is destined to manifest to mankind the excellence of divine principles; to establish on earth the noblest temple ever dedicated to the worship of the Most High--the Sacred and the True.

For this blessed mission to the nations of the world, which are shut out from the life-giving light of truth, has America been chosen.”

- The homegrown principle of manifest destiny was reinforced by the importation from Britain of Darwin's theories of natural selection
- Yale economist William Graham Sumner: "millionaires are the product of natural selection and should be unimpeded in their accumulation of wealth"
- Baptist minister Russell Conwell: "It is your duty to get rich. It is wrong to be poor."

US ideal and self-image

Alfred Beveridge

“our institutions are the noblest known to man”

Bishop of Peoria

“favored children of heaven”

The exceptionalist double standard

- In 2008 the well-known journalist James Traub stated:

“The Freedom Agenda of George W. Bush was the latest restatement of the venerable idea that Providence had chosen Americans to ensure the blessings of liberty for all”

- War of independence Spain-Cuba
- Economic interests
- Human rights



- President McKinley: “It is no answer to say this is all in another country, belonging to another nation, and is therefore none of our business [...] It is especially our duty, for it is right at our door.”

“Some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries. The United States is different”

- Henry Cabot Lodge

“because we represent the spirit of liberty and the spirit of the new time, and Spain is over against us because she is medieval, cruel, dying...”

- 1898 peace of Paris
- Platt Amendment
- Guantánamo

- That the government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty ...
- The government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations at certain specified points

- 33 interventions in 33 years
- Reasons for intervention
  - Protection of US properties/lives
  - Promotion of peace and stability
  - Preventing revolution

- Teddy Roosevelt

Law and order  
Gunboat diplomacy

- Woodrow Wilson

Teach them democracy  
Elect good men

- Resistance to occupation (D.R)
- Organizing local militias and armies (DR, Haiti, Nic)
- The rise of dictators (Trujillo)
- Good neighbor policy (FDR)



- Unrest caused by exterior influences?
- Communism: reason or excuse?
- The domino effect
- America's backyard

- Non-military: propaganda, sabotage, financial/arms support
- Economic warfare (Embargo)
- Interventions
  - Multilateral (DR, Grenada, Haiti)
  - Refugees

- Two-track policy
  - Containment
  - Alliance for Progress

- Drugs
- Migration/Fortress America
- Containment Venezuela
- New relation with Cuba
- Protectionism?

# The start of a new era?

Previous attempts

Conservative reactions

Cuba's demands:

Guantánamo

Radio Martí

Embargo

Reparations

US demands

Human rights (including press/Internet freedom)

Cuban migration to US

- Business
- Congress
- Exiles
- Trump?

- Migration
- Raw materials
- Infrastructure
- Politics/policy??

# The end of colonialism, now what?

- Stuart Hall
- Michael Manley
- The double-edged relationship
- Obstacles to progress