

Between they could
adequately compete
with other

[Parts of the World, Asia](#)



Between 1820 and 1860, the map of the United States was greatly changed by a quick expansion of territories. This incredible change fueled the Second Industrial Revolution which spiked between 1870 and 1914. In the years after the Civil War, the United States became a strong industrial giant. Older industries grew and many other ideas were discovered, including petroleum refining, steel manufacturing, and electrical power.

Railroads expanded quite a bit as well and this effected the country in more ways than one. This intense growth with the Industrial Revolution, within a fast growing America, led to imperialism. Imperialism is a policy where the stronger nations extend their economic, political, and military control over weaker nations. Usually imperialism results in the stronger nation creating a colony in the weaker nation to maintain its control. European countries, by the late 19th century, had established colonies on the following continents: Africa, Asia, South and Central America. The US already had developed a history of expansion long before it become imperialistic. In 1803 the US purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, doubling the size of the country.

The growth of the US continued from there. Some of the main issues that fueled the new American Imperialism were the strong want for new markets to sell US goods. They also had the interest in military strength so that they could adequately compete with other world powers. The US wanted their respect as well. The US also had a belief in cultural superiority. America wanted a new frontier to settle in order to maintain America's identity and economic growth. In the late 19th century, the US advanced in technology so

much that it enabled American farms and factories to produce far more than American citizens could consume. The US had suffered a depression in 1893 and unemployment was high.

It was quite difficult to find work and take care of your family.