

American reconstruction period possible due to the imperialist foreign policy

[Politics](#)



American Re-construction Era

The policy undertaken by the United States of America between 1865 and 1914 shows that economic interest trumps the country's belief in democracy. Due to the infancy of the United States as a nation, it had to extend its authority by practicing territorial acquisition. The plan of the U. S. was to put up a canal in Central America and become a dominant player in the Caribbean affairs. Despite the wars that arose from the imperialism of the United States, the nation reached its objectives, thereby ruling other countries and taking control of the global affairs. Due to the developments in the world economy that set in after the Civil War, I believe the United States was moving along the right path that would stir tremendous growth in the economy, several decades later.

The foreign policy of the United States allowed the superpower nation to control the threat of communism in Asia and Europe. The re-exercising of the imperialistic policy around all corners of the world was for the intention to bring peace and uphold democracy. Although the United States was trying to fight with the Soviet Union to prove the stronger party between the two, it was serving the interests of several countries that were being influenced by the Soviet Union. Through the several wars, the U. S. managed to control the threat of communism in some parts of the globe such as Europe and Asia, thus maintaining peace and upholding democracy. The path taken by the U. S. was therefore very significant in ensuring maximum security for nations that were taken over by communists such as the Soviet Union (Winks 17).

Under the use of the financial influence and naval power, the United States secured control over the policies of other nations. For instance, the country reached Latin America and the Pacific, investing its surplus money in the new markets. In return, the U. S. acquired new sources of raw materials for its industries back at home as well as the market for its industrial products. It was an added advantage to the U. S. given that there was a reliable rail transport network that would ensure the transportation of goods and the movement of people to and from the international markets. Following the economic depression that hit the country in 1896, Americans were motivated to work harder and turn away from the painful years of the Civil War and political animosity. The foreign policy, therefore, paved the way for new business policies that would allow nations trade freely from one country to another. Through that, the United States improved its economic power and, in the long run achieved a unifying national achievement (Schilling and Lowe, par. 12).

The economic gains achieved by the United States later spread to other nations that also got industrialized following the trade with U. S. A. European countries, for instance, expanded their markets globally so as to find a wider market for the products that they could not easily sell within the domestic markets. A lot of opportunities were availed to bankers and businessmen since there was the capital that was accessible for foreign investments. The industrial development in the European nations as a result of the imperialism of the United States led to better lives of the citizens due to increased job opportunities. The industries employed a large number of laborers, hence

leading to improved lifestyle among many people ('The Rise of Planning In Industrial America, 1865-1914').

The path taken by the United States between 1865 and 1914 to extend its territories beyond its borders eventually resulted to civilization around the entire globe. In its efforts to restore peace in nations that were extremely devastated by the Cold War, the United States was able to spread the news of humanitarian assistance to the innocent who were adversely affected during the Cold War. The humanitarian and religious mission was emulated by the Westerners who believed that Europe had the responsibility of civilizing their fellows who were overseas. The spread of Christianity, therefore, began in most parts of the world including Africa. The European nations took over the responsibility of ensuring that western civilization, medicine, the application of laws, and Christianity were spread to the uncivilized people in the world. The role was then supported by missionaries who eventually brought a significant change in the entire world.

The imperialism of the United States between 1865 and 1914 resulted in a lot of inventions that would significantly improve the infrastructure of the world, hence accelerating the development in the transport and communications industry. In 1866, an innovation of a transatlantic cable was made with an aim of making communication effective. The cable linked the United States to Europe thus improving trade between the two regions. Besides, a transcontinental American railroad developed the communications system as part of the primary goal of American diplomacy. Several infrastructure development plans such as the construction of Panama Canal

were also initiated as part of the global involvement programs (McCullough 11).

In a nutshell, the imperialism of the United States was promoted by the foreign policy and the desire for economic expansion into the territories of other countries. Despite the several deaths that were reported to have resulted from the Civil War, the foreign policy of the United States led to a tremendous change in the agricultural sector and increased opportunities for businessmen into the foreign markets thus improving the economy of several nations.