

1 Key terms

- British v. French “models”
- democratic tutelage
- Organic Acts
- industrial education
- excremental colonialism
- Progressive era
- self-determination
- League of Nations
- mandates
- Global color line (Du Bois)

2 U.S. empire in the Caribbean and Pacific

Why did the United States turn to imperialism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries? Factors like racial animus, anxieties about manhood, and global status ambitions help us understand the underlying motivation behind U.S. imperial pursuits.

But why did U.S. occupation take different forms across the empire? The table below highlights five cases where we observed different outcomes. The “why” column attempts to highlight the primary factor motivating occupation in a given case, though the explanations are a lot more nuanced in reality.

Where	When	Why	What	Outcome
Philippines	1898 – 1946	Geopolitical competition: New Imperialism in Asia; access to China	Pacification and reconcentration; sanitation, education, land reform.	Independent after 1946
Hawaii	1898 – 1959*	Commercial interests: the role of sugar plantation owners	Appointed a governor (Dole the first governor); “Big Five” political influence and dominance	Statehood
Guam	1898 – <i>present</i>	Strategic location between the Philippines and Hawaii	Appointed governor until 1968; displacement and militarization	Remains an unincorporated territory
Puerto Rico	1898 – <i>present</i>	Monroe Doctrine/ geopolitics: prevent another European power from occupying	Military occupation until 1900; Foraker Act: mostly-appointed executive leadership	Remains an unincorporated territory
Cuba	1898 – 1953	“Humanitarianism”: focus of yellow journalism on the Cuban independence movement	Military occupation until 1902; suzerainty and the Platt Amendment	Client-state until the Cuban Revolution (1953-1959)

Note: 1959 designates when the United States gave Hawaii statehood, not formal independence.