Walk Softly…
And Carry a Big Stick

- Theodore Roosevelt – Becomes president after McKinley’s assassination
  - Builds a strong navy: Great White Fleet; Believed in Anglo-Saxon bias
  - Foreign Policy = Presidency
- Venezuela (1902) – Blockaded by UK, GER, ITA demanding repayment → TR uses Roosevelt Corollary to insist on arbitration
  - “Only with stability could there be justice” (577)
Road to the Panama Canal

- **Hay-Pauncefote Treaty (1901)** – States US alone has right to Panama Canal Project → UK OK!

- **Insular Cases (1900-01)** – SCOTUS: Inhabitants of US protectorates were NOT citizens & didn’t have constitutional liberties
Panama Revolts!

• US Hopes to build it by leasing land from COL + $10M payment + $250K/yr. rent
  – COL not sure → US & FRA-backed revolutionaries led revolt in PAN in 1903 → successful

• US offers same deal to independent PAN → COL gets nothing
Uniting Oceans

- 1904-1914 – Canal completed for $400M
  - Returned to Panama in 1999
  - Yellow Fever & malaria killed many during construction
Roosevelt Corollary (1904)

- TR argues that US has responsibility as “international police officers” in L.A.
  - Sends customs agents to Dominican Republic to collect duties to repay EUR loans → 40% to DR, other profits went to pay debts →
  - 1916 – US establishes protectorate in DR when they try to remove US influence → remains until 1940
Taft’s Dollar Diplomacy

• Philander Knox (SoS) – Suggested taking over EUR debt in LA → using it to infiltrate CHN markets
  – Senate doesn’t go along with it, but able to manipulate situation in Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti

• **BLUM**: TR doesn’t like Dollar Diplomacy despite using it himself.
The Future

- Haiti – Marines occupy 1915-34
- Nicaragua – Marines occupy 1909-33
  - Sandino ousted/executed in favor of US-backed Somoza
    - Martyred & immortalized by leftist rebels in ’80s→Sandinistas
- 1929 – US investment in LA 40% of total
US & the Mexican Revolution

- Wilson refused to intervene → US sailors captured in MEX → sent marines
- War avoided by negotiation
- Pancho Villa – Killed 35 Americans
  - Wilson sends Gen. Pershing to capture Villa →
  - Can’t find him & troops withdraw in 1917
Historiography

• BLUM: Most of 19th century US protected from foreign powers by good fortune, oceans, weak neighbors

• BURNS: US intervention was encroachment upon LA governments

• WILLIAMS & LeFEBER: Economics. Industrial power $\rightarrow$ world power.

• KEEN: Similar to Burns; anti-imperialist