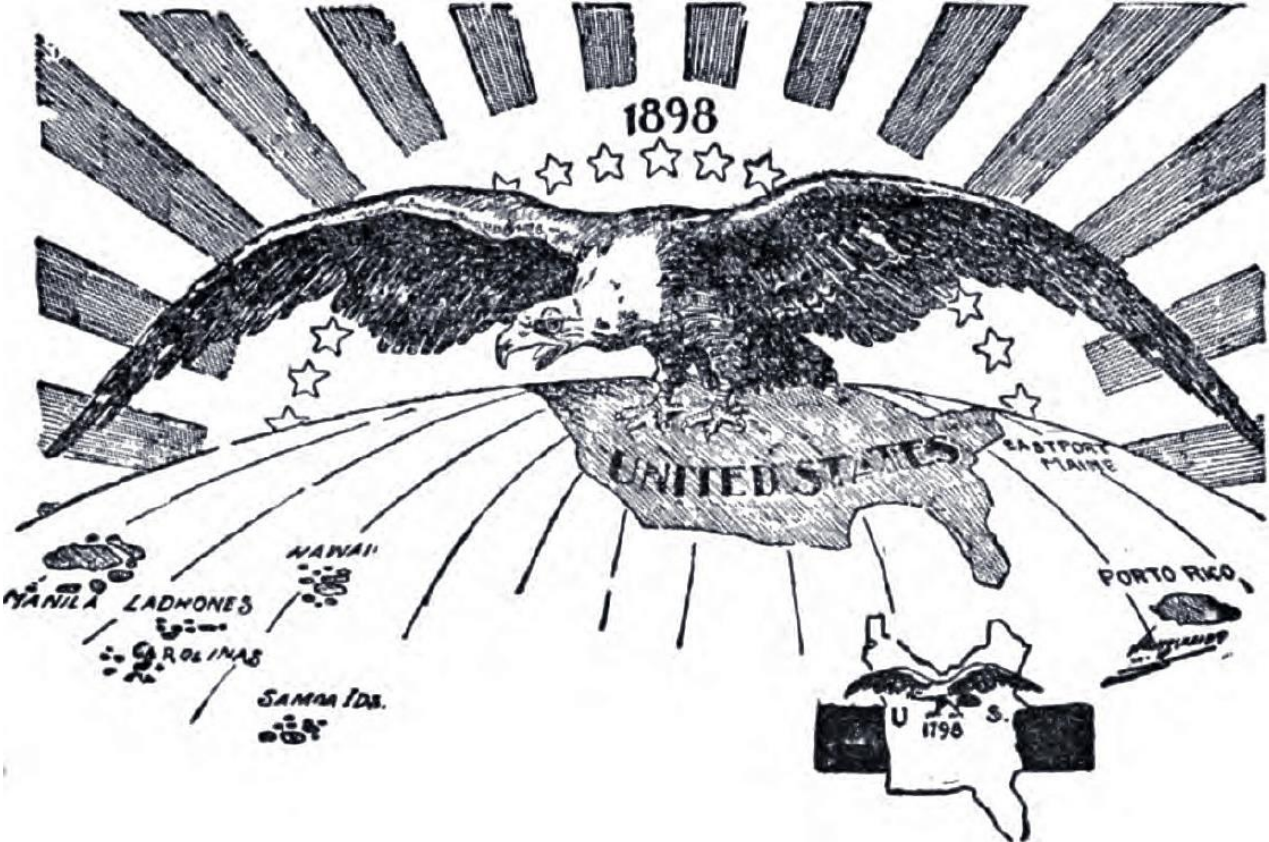


The United States Exception or Empire?



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

Journal Activity

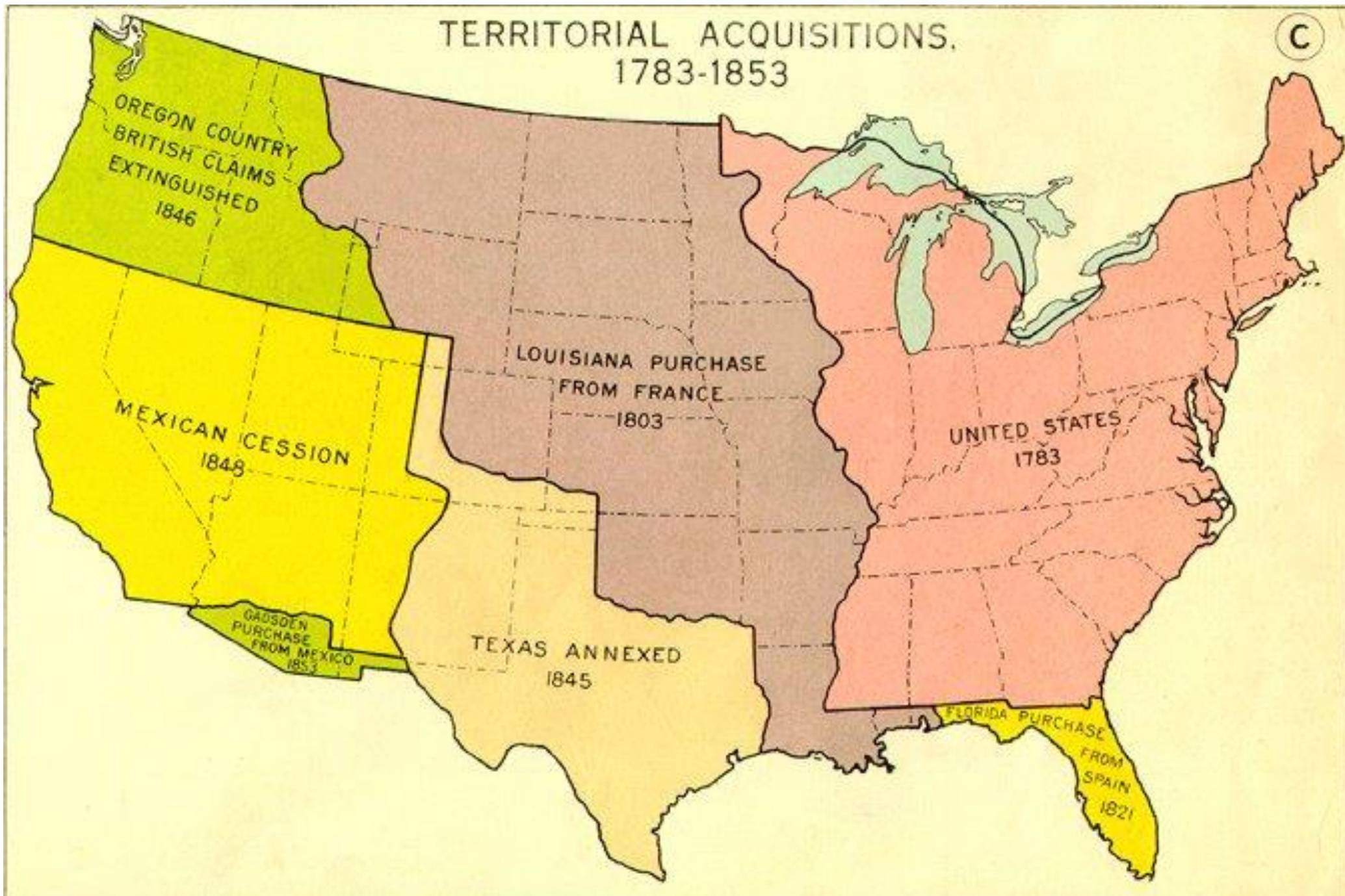


1. In your own words, define “empire.” What do you think “empire” means and consists of?
2. Reflect on what you know about the United States today. Do you think the United States is an empire? Why or why not?



TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS, 1783-1853

C



The American Empire or American Exceptionalism?

American Exceptionalism is the idea that the U.S. is an exception (special)

- Liberty (freedom)
- Democracy
- Individualism
- Laissez-faire

“In the U.S., empire does not even exist; 'we' are merely protecting the causes of freedom, democracy and justice worldwide.”

- Monthly Review



Beginnings — Monroe Doctrine

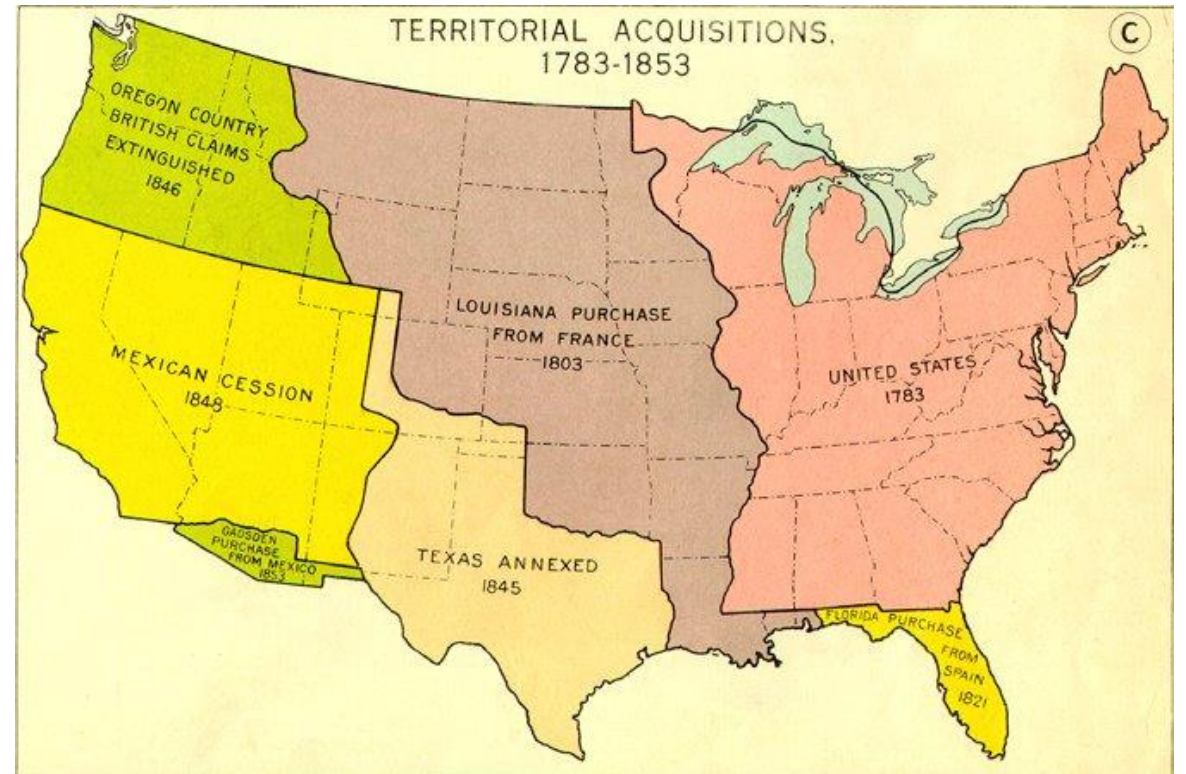
Remember between 1810s to 1830s, most of Latin American colonies declared independence from Europe

Monroe Doctrine (1823)

James Monroe told Europe to stay away from the Americas

“The American continents...are henceforth not to be considered subjects for future colonization by any European powers

- Backed by the British navy

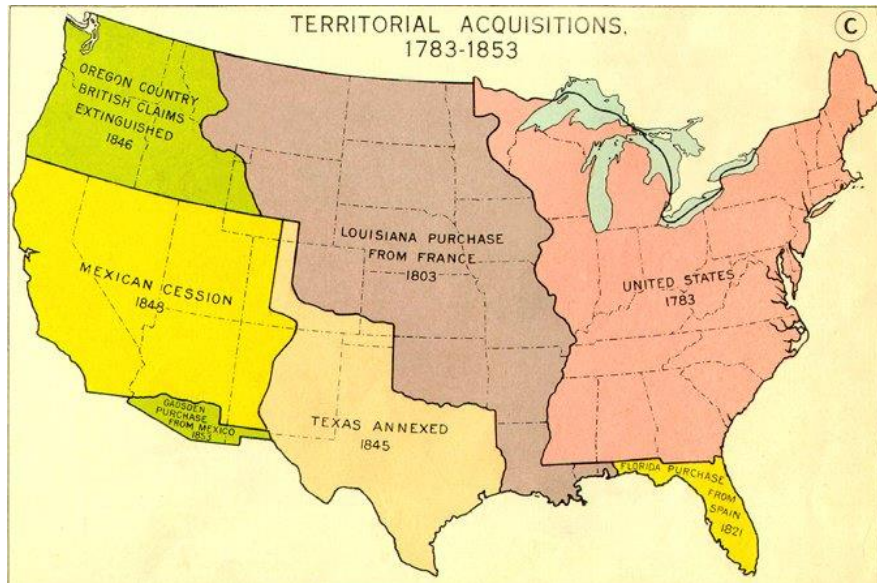


Continental Expansion & **Manifest Destiny**

Manifest Destiny (1845)

U.S. is special and is destined to expand across the continent

- Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon in 1803
- Annexation of Texas in 1845
- Defeated Mexico in Mexican-American War in 1848



Expansion of Manifest Destiny

By the end of the 19th century, the U.S. was expanding its influence across the Pacific Ocean. Some believed Manifest Destiny included expanding beyond the continent.

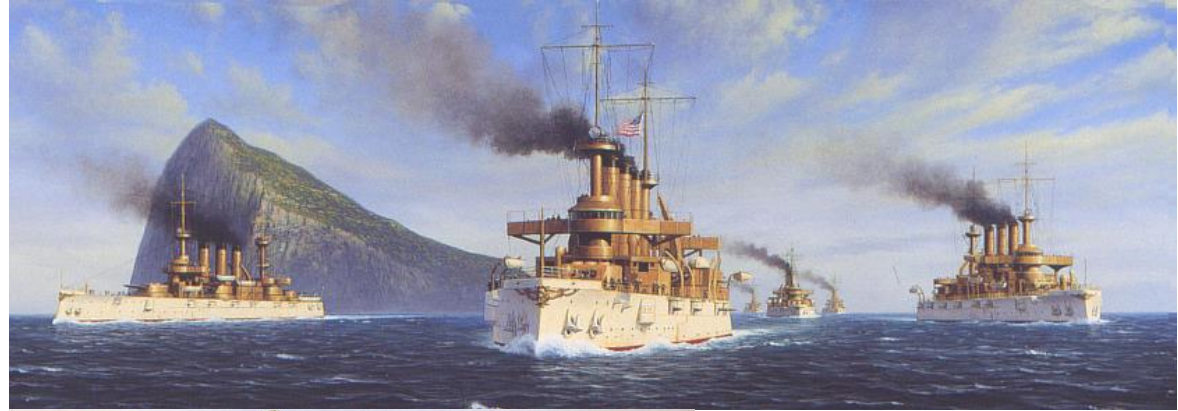
- In **1867**, U.S. bought **Alaska** from Russia for \$7.2 million (\$121 million in 2015 dollars)
 F22 Raptor costs \$150 million each!
- In **1893**, American plantation owners with support of U.S. marines overthrew the Kingdom of **Hawaii**.
- In **1898**, the U.S. declared war on Spain (Spanish American War) and won the **Philippines**, becoming a part of U.S. territory until 1946. And **Cuba** until 1902. And **Puerto Rico**

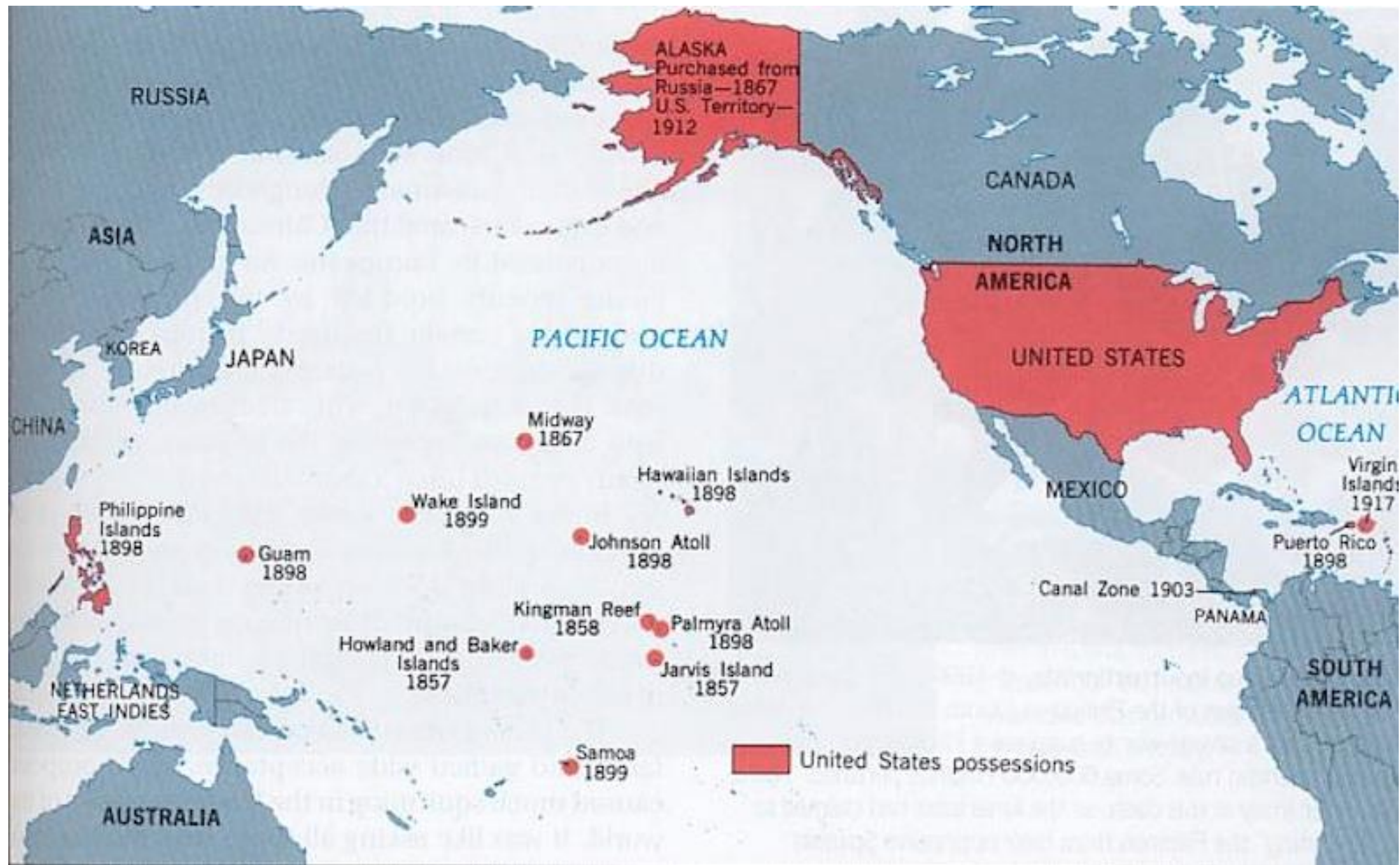


Gunboat Diplomacy

Foreign policy using conspicuous displays of naval power as a threat to force their demands

- In 1853, U.S. sent Commodore Matthew Perry to Japan and forced Japan to open doors (ports)
- In 1907, Great White Fleet. 16 U.S. battleships & 14,000 sailors circumnavigated the globe
- Big Stick Diplomacy - "Speak softly, and carry a big stick."





Open Door Policy

In **1899**, the U.S. proposed to European nations that China's "doors" be open to merchants of all nations — free market.

- Protected U.S. trading rights
- Protected China from colonization

Roosevelt Corollary

In **1904**, Teddy Roosevelt added it to the Monroe Doctrine, says the U.S. will intervene in conflicts between Latin American and European countries

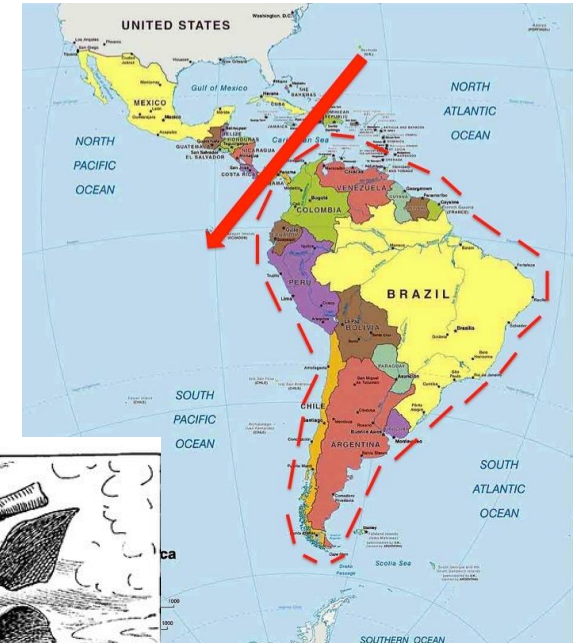
- "International police power"



Involvement in Latin America

If U.S. economic interests did not go their way, they would encourage revolutions to overthrow the Latin American governments and sometimes take over

- **Panama Canal** from Colombia (1903), finished in 1914, controlled until 1977 (1914 - 1977)
- **Cuba** had a revolt in 1906. U.S. sent soldiers and ruled it until 1909. (1906-1909)
- **Nicaragua** – Supported rebels to overthrow president in 1909 and controlled it from 1912 to 1933
- Sent soldiers to northern **Mexico** to find Pancho Villa (1914 -1917)
- Occupied **Haiti** from 1915 - 1934
- Occupied **Dominican Republic** from 1916 - 1924

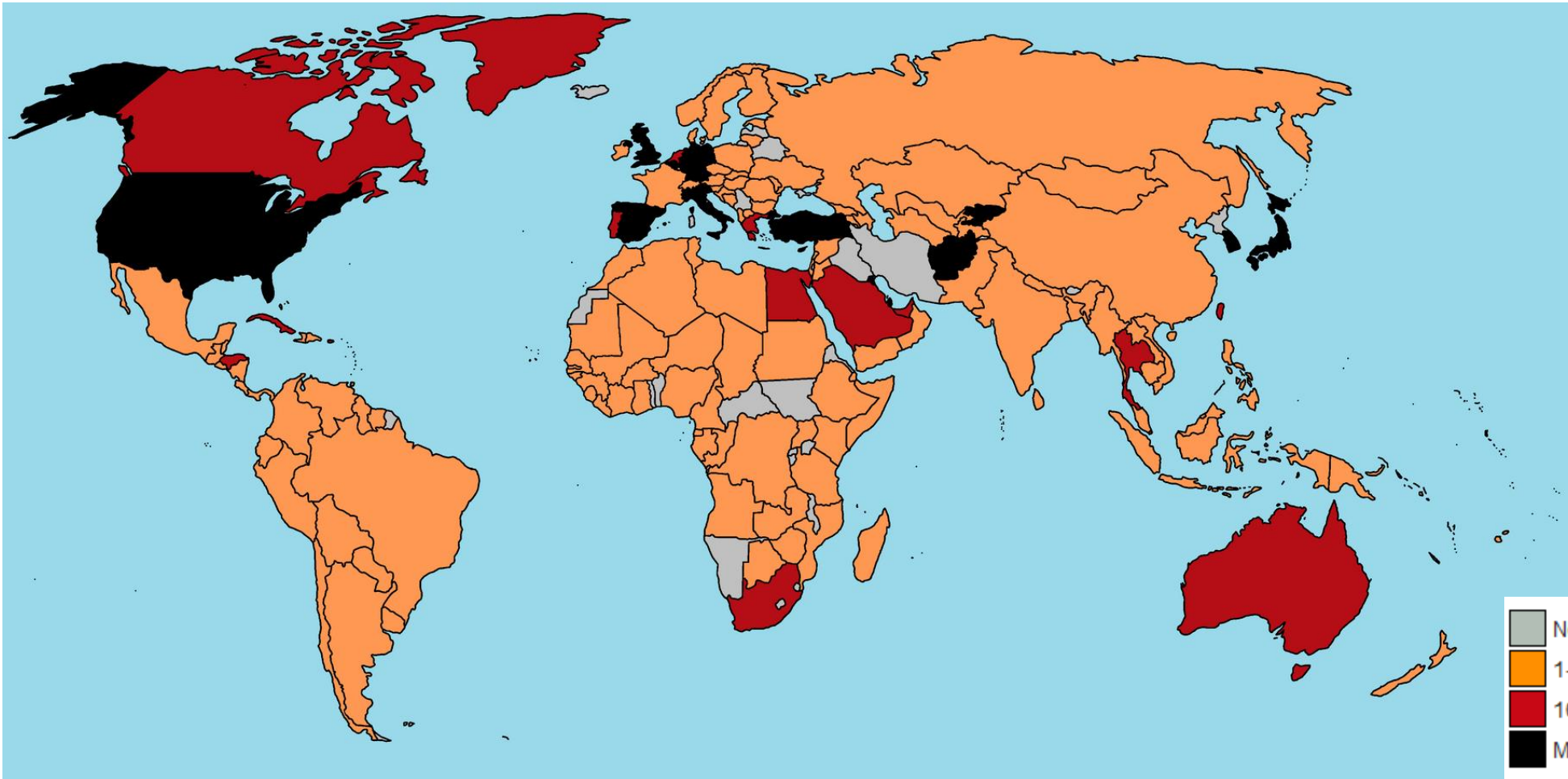


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2013 United States Military Deployments

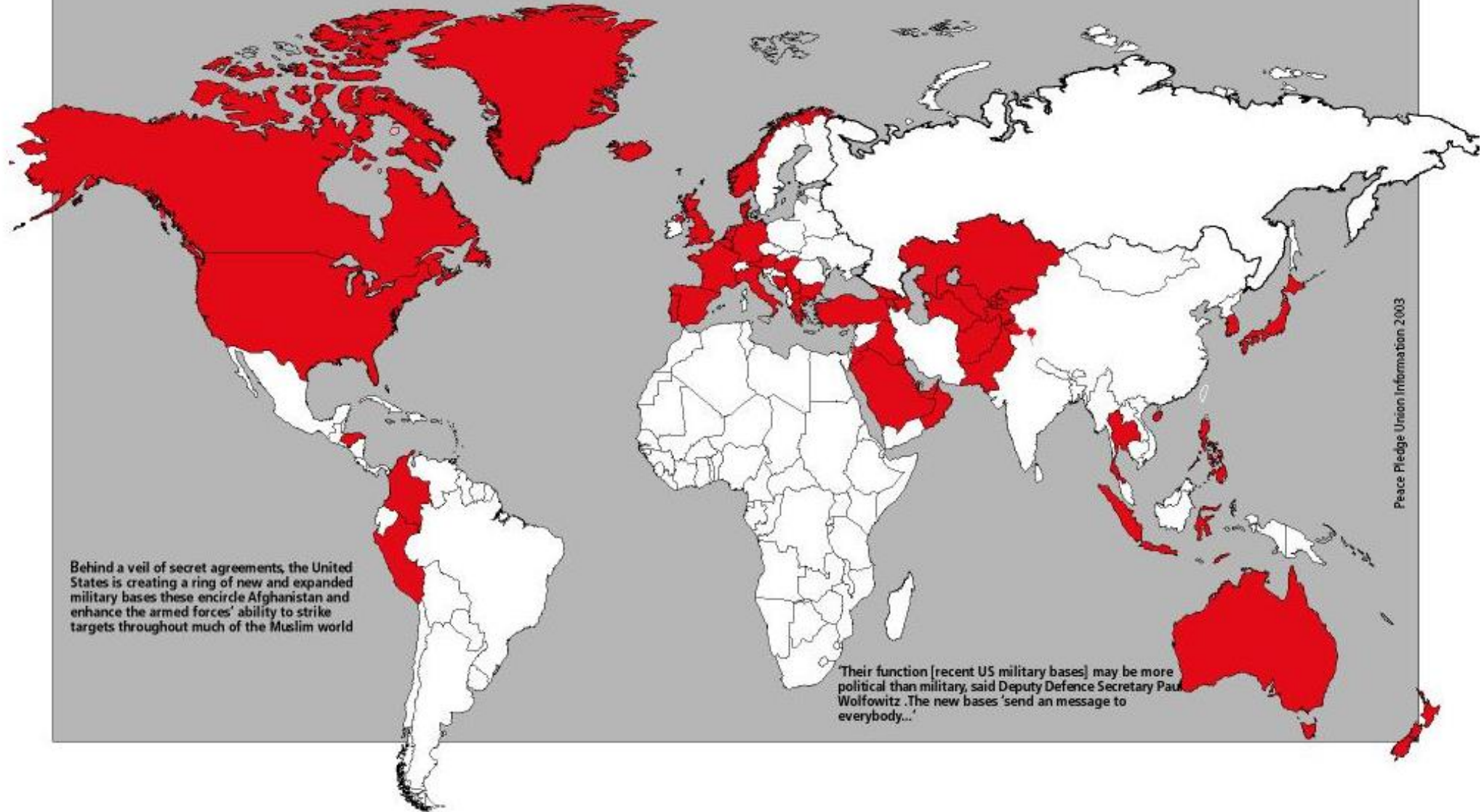
U.S. soldiers deployed in **more than 150** countries around the world in over 700 bases. **There are 196 countries in the world. 75% of the world.**



- Light Gray: No current official US military presence
- Orange: 1-99 US military men currently active
- Red: 100-999 US military men currently active
- Black: More than 1,000 military men currently active

US military bases world wide 2001-2003

In this period the United States has over 730 military installations and bases in over 50 countries. It also has military personnel on active duty in dozens of other countries.



Behind a veil of secret agreements, the United States is creating a ring of new and expanded military bases these encircle Afghanistan and enhance the armed forces' ability to strike targets throughout much of the Muslim world

Their function [recent US military bases] may be more political than military, said Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. The new bases 'send an message to everybody...'

Peace Pledge Union Information 2003

- So did the United States have or is an empire?
- **Empire (Imperialism) or Exceptionalism?**

American Exceptionalism is the idea that the U.S. is an exception (special) and different from other countries

“In the U.S., empire does not even exist; 'we' are merely protecting the causes of freedom, democracy and justice worldwide.”

- Monthly Review

Think of the message of “White Man’s Burden” and rationale of imperialism using race



Imperialism Summary

- Western (European/American) culture and influence spread around the world
- Another major reason to why the world we live in is the way it is today
- A lot of countries today are still affected by its lasting effects
- Racism is NOT a science. It is completely made up by a small group of imperialists to justify their actions. It is NOT just about white people being superior than everybody else. Other people have adopted it on their own.
- Major cause for World War I

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16K6m3Ua2nw>

Why America is the not the greatest country in the world?