**US History**

**Measurement Topic 3:** The USA becomes a World Power

**Learning target #1: What was the open door policy and what were its effects?**

**Directions: Read the handout and answer the questions**

As the United States Industrialized, they needed to find new locations to sell their products. The United States was as looking for areas that would sell their natural resources for cheap. Other European countries had already started expand their power by creating colonies around the world. The idea of dominating a weaker nation (economically, socially, and politically) became known as Imperialism.

Imperialism took place for many different reasons. Nations needed to find other areas in the world to sell their products. New markets for their manufactured goods would lead to vast wealth. European nations participated in imperialism for quite some time; consequently the United States also felt it would be in its best interest to being to create/find colonies. The United States felt that Charles Darwin said it best with his Social Darwinism, that the strongest nations would survive and the only way to survive was to create colonies.

**The United States felt that trade in Asia was essential to its economic growth**, so US ships began making the long trip to China. Japan and other islands were also great markets for trade so the United States sent warships to Japan and other areas in the Pacific Ocean to show the power and technological advances the USA had. Japan also began trading with the USA.

**Capturing Hawaii**

As trade with China and Japan grew the United States began to rely heavily on Hawaii as a stop between the USA and China or Japan. **The USA needed the ports in Hawaii as resting places between the USA and China.** American investors also invested their money into sugar plantations in Hawaii. Slowly the USA began to have more control over the Hawaiian government. When Queen Liliuokalani attempted to regain her control of Hawaii, American investors had her overthrown. Five years later the USA annexed (added) Hawaii as a state.

**Open Door policy**

By 1899 the United States was a major power in Asia, with naval bases all across the Pacific Ocean; Hawaii, Philippians, Guam, and Samoa. The United States main goal was not imperialism, conquering more lands, but in commerce, trade. One thing worried the United States, the grouping **spheres of influence** that were developing in China. **Russia, Great Britain (England), Germany all had spheres of influence in China.** (These countries controlled almost everything in specific parts of China, but China still owned the land.) The powerful European countries were attempting to shut out all trade to China. **Since the USA did not have a sphere of influence in China**, the other countries had a monopoly (full control) over Chinese trade.

This greatly worried the United States’ president McKinley and Secretary of State John Hay. They supported an **“Open Door Policy”** (a plan) where all countries would be allowed to trade with China. The European powers wanted to divide up China; much like they had done to Africa, but the **USA stepped in.** In 1899 Hays sent notes to all countries stating China WOULD have an open door policy. **President Theodore Roosevelt attempted to prevent the monopolization of China by the European powers with the Open door policy**, by stating that all nations had the right to trade with China. The **Chinese resented the European powers control over land, and a group of rebels called boxers led a rebellion to expel the Europeans from China.** The rebellion failed; however the boxers were successful in killing over 200 non-Chinese. The open door policy resulted in the USA being able to trade and have access to China’s markets and natural resources leading to the USA becoming a world power and soon the richest country in the world.

MT3 LT1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences to receive full credit.

1. What is imperialism?
2. Why did nations participate in imperialism?
3. Why was Hawaii annexed (added) to the USA?
4. What is a sphere of influence?
5. What is an open door policy?
6. Why did the United States want an open door policy in China?
7. What was the boxer rebellion?
8. What were the major results/effects of the open door policy?

Write a small summary explaining why the United States wanted an Open door policy in China.

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