

The United States Becomes A World Power (1880-1910)

- Prior to the Civil War, few Americans had much interest in foreign affairs.

****Isolationism: policy of a country avoiding involvement in world affairs.**

Factors Leading To Overseas Expansion In The Late 1800's

1. Competition with Europe:

A. Britain and France had colonies in Asia and Africa

2. Power of new ideas:

A. Social Darwinism (survival of the fittest)

B. "*white man's burden*"- a belief that white people had a duty to civilize and Christianize the "backwards" people of the world.

3. Build up of the U.S. navy:

A. requires military bases for fueling

4. Search for new markets:

A. industrialization in the U.S. created a surplus of goods

B. the outside world offered places to invest

Ex. American businesses and banks invested in factories, railroads, and roads overseas.