

Hawaii

Hawaii was one of the first places to which Americans wanted to expand. The island had a deep port to allow trade to countries overseas, and it had a growing American merchant population. The Dole® company came to Hawaii and started large pineapple and sugar plantations. The only problem was they had to pay a large amount of import taxes to the American government because it was not a part of the United States. The Americans on the island staged a revolt to overthrow Hawaii's Queen Liliuokalani with the help of the United States Military. Hawaii was annexed by the United States in 1898 three years after Queen Liliuokalani abdicated her throne. Hawaii became an official U.S. territory in 1900.

Cuba

The Spanish American War, which took place in 1898, proved to be a decisive change in American Imperialism. The United States became involved in this war to help Cubans break free of Spanish control. While they were doing this, the United States greatly expanded their overseas territory by taking such areas as the **Philippines**, **Puerto Rico**, and other **Pacific islands**. The United States easily won the war against Spain with Theodore Roosevelt playing an influential part in the war. As Assistant Secretary to the Navy, Roosevelt ordered the Navy to capture the Philippines. He then resigned from office and joined the army with the band of men he called the Rough Riders. He and his men went to Cuba to fight and became famous after the battle of San Juan Hill. Theodore Roosevelt went on to become a war hero and used his fame to help him become the 26th President of the United States. Cuba was declared independent in 1902.