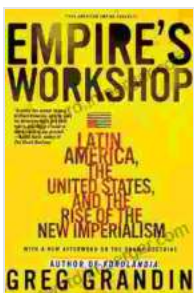


Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism: A Historical Perspective

Throughout history, Latin American countries have been subject to various forms of imperialism, from colonization to economic exploitation. The rise of the United States as a global superpower in the late 19th century marked a new era of imperialism, one that would have a profound impact on the region for decades to come. This article will delve into the complex relationship between Latin America, the United States, and the rise of the new imperialism, exploring the historical context, key events, and lasting consequences.

Historical Context

To understand the rise of American imperialism in Latin America, it is essential to examine the historical context of the region. After gaining independence from Spain in the early 19th century, Latin American countries struggled to establish stable governments and economies. External powers, such as Great Britain and France, took advantage of this instability to exert their influence and secure economic concessions.



Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism (American Empire Project)

by Greg Grandin

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

File size : 2100 KB

Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 365 pages



The late 19th century witnessed the emergence of the United States as a major world power. Driven by economic expansionism, the United States sought new markets and resources to fuel its growing industrial machine. Latin America, with its rich natural resources and proximity to the United States, became a prime target for American expansionist ambitions.

The Monroe Doctrine and Manifest Destiny

The Monroe Doctrine, proclaimed by President James Monroe in 1823, played a significant role in shaping American foreign policy towards Latin America. The doctrine declared that the Americas should be free from European colonization, essentially establishing the United States as the protector of the hemisphere. This unilateral declaration gave the United States the justification to intervene in Latin American affairs to prevent European influence.

The concept of Manifest Destiny, prevalent in American society at the time, further justified American expansionism. The belief that the United States was destined to expand its territory westward and control the entire continent served as a moral and ideological imperative for intervention in Latin America.

Key Events

The rise of American imperialism in Latin America was marked by a series of key events that solidified the United States' dominance in the region.

These events included:

The Spanish-American War (1898): The war between Spain and the United States over Cuba resulted in the United States gaining control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. The war also signaled the end of Spanish colonialism in the Americas, leaving the United States as the dominant power in the region.

The Platt Amendment (1901): This amendment to the Cuban constitution gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuban affairs to maintain Free Download and protect American interests. This provision effectively made Cuba a protectorate of the United States.

The Panama Canal (1914): The construction of the Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, was a major strategic and economic undertaking for the United States. The canal gave the United States control over the passage of ships between the two oceans, solidifying its dominance in Latin America.

The Good Neighbor Policy (1933): In an attempt to improve relations with Latin America, President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented the Good Neighbor Policy, which renounced armed intervention and promoted cooperation. However, the policy did not significantly alter the underlying power dynamics between the United States and its southern neighbors.

Consequences of American Imperialism

The rise of American imperialism in Latin America had far-reaching consequences for the region. These consequences included:

Economic Dependency: American imperialism created economic dependency in many Latin American countries. Through control of natural resources, investment, and trade, the United States dominated the region's economies, limiting their ability to develop independent economic policies.

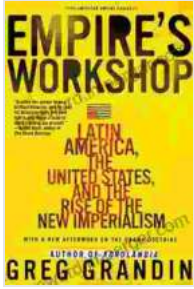
Political Instability: American intervention often supported dictatorships and authoritarian regimes, which resulted in political instability and human rights violations. The United States also propped up pro-American governments, even when they lacked popular support, leading to widespread discontent and social unrest.

Cultural Influence: American imperialism brought with it a wave of cultural influence, including the spread of American values, beliefs, and consumer culture. This influence challenged traditional Latin American cultures and contributed to the formation of new hybrid identities.

The rise of American imperialism in Latin America was a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that had a profound impact on the region's history, politics, and society. The United States, driven by economic expansionism and ideological justifications, asserted its dominance in Latin America, leading to economic dependency, political instability, and cultural influence. While the Good Neighbor Policy represented a shift in rhetoric, it did not alter the underlying power relations between the United States and Latin America. The legacy of American imperialism continues to shape the region's development and the relationship between the two continents.

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