

America as a World Power

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. The United States built the Panama Canal in the early 1900s.
2. Theodore Roosevelt changed U.S. policy toward Latin America.
3. Presidents Taft and Wilson promoted U.S. interests in Latin America.

Key Terms and People

Panama Canal canal built in Panama that shortened the Atlantic-to-Pacific voyage

Roosevelt Corollary President Theodore Roosevelt’s warning that nations in the Western Hemisphere should pay their debts and “behave”

dollar diplomacy President William Howard Taft’s policy of influencing governments through economic intervention

Mexican Revolution rebellion against Mexican president Porfirio Díaz

John J. Pershing United States general who pursued Pancho Villa through Mexico but never caught him

Francisco “Pancho” Villa rebel leader during the Mexican Revolution

Academic Vocabulary

role assigned behavior

Section Summary

BUILDING THE PANAMA CANAL

A canal across Central America would cut 8,000 miles off a voyage between the East and West U.S. Coasts. It would link the country’s naval fleets. When Theodore Roosevelt became president, he tried to get Colombia to lease land in Panama for a canal. Colombia rejected the idea.

When Panama revolted against Colombia in 1903, a U.S. warship blocked Colombian forces from reaching Panama. The rebels won, and Panama declared itself independent. Then the United States and Panama agreed to build a canal.

Many lives were lost to disease and dangerous conditions during the construction of the **Panama Canal**. Despite these dangers it opened in 1914.

Why would foreign nations be interested in building a canal through Central America?

Section 3, continued

U.S. POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA

In 1823 President Monroe warned European nations to stay out of the Western Hemisphere. The Monroe Doctrine became a major part of U.S. foreign policy until 1904. When Theodore Roosevelt became president, he wanted the United States to play a more active **role** in the Western Hemisphere.

By the early 1900s several Latin American nations owed money to European investors. Roosevelt warned these nations that if they did not pay their debts, the United States would step in. The **Roosevelt Corollary**, an addition to the Monroe Doctrine, also gave the United States “police power” in the hemisphere.

How is the Roosevelt Corollary related to the Monroe Doctrine?

U.S. INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA

President William Howard Taft tried **dollar diplomacy**. This was a way to influence governments by economic means. Woodrow Wilson did not like the role of big business in foreign affairs. He ended the use of dollar diplomacy and sent troops to protect U.S. interests in Latin America.

What would be an advantage of dollar diplomacy over military intervention?

In 1910 the **Mexican Revolution** caused the overthrow of the government. The violence of the revolution caused many Mexicans to flee to the United States. It also upset American business leaders who had investments in Mexico. President Woodrow Wilson requested and received from Congress permission to use force against Mexico.

Underline the sentence that states why many Mexicans moved to the United States in the early twentieth century.

Wilson sent General **John J. Pershing** and 15,000 soldiers into Mexico to catch **Francisco “Pancho” Villa**, the rebel leader. Villa had killed 17 Americans in New Mexico. Pershing and his troops never caught Villa. In 1917 a new constitution started to bring order to Mexico.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to Sequence Write a paragraph that relates the attempts U.S. presidents made to control Latin America.

Section 3, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Match the terms in the first column with their correct definitions from the second column by placing the letter of the correct definition in the space provided before each term.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Panama Canal | a. stated that “wrongdoing” by Latin American countries could lead to U.S. intervention. |
| _____ 2. Roosevelt Corollary | b. a violent struggle beginning in 1910 that led to U.S. military intervention |
| _____ 3. dollar diplomacy | c. led U.S. troops into Mexico in a failed mission |
| _____ 4. Mexican Revolution | d. assigned behavior |
| _____ 5. John J. Pershing | e. reduced travel times for cargo ships |
| _____ 6. Francisco “Pancho” Villa | f. attempted to influence Latin American governments with economic, not military, intervention |
| _____ 7. role | g. rebel leader who eluded U.S. troops in Mexico |

DIRECTIONS Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term given.

8. Panama Canal _____

9. Roosevelt Corollary _____

10. dollar diplomacy _____

11. Mexican Revolution _____
