

Station #3: The Open Door Notes (1899-1900)

By the late 19th century, Japan and the European powers had carved much of China into separate spheres of influence, inside of which each held economic dominance. The U.S., coming late to imperialism, held no sphere of influence in China. In 1899 U.S. Secretary of State John Hay proposed an "Open Door" policy in China in which all nations would have equal trading and development rights throughout all of China. Such a policy would put all the imperialist powers on equal footing in China and would limit the advantages of having one's own sphere of influence. As you read, think about how the Open Door policy might be seen as noble and fair, and think about how it also reflects American political and economic self-interest.

Document A: The Open Door Notes

Earnestly desirous to remove any cause of irritation and to insure at the same time to the commerce of all nations in China... [the United States urges all nations claiming a sphere of influence in China to declare] that [all nations] shall enjoy perfect equality of treatment for their commerce and navigation within such spheres.... We adhere to the policy... of peace with the Chinese nation, of furtherance of lawful commerce, and of protection of lives and property of our citizens by all means.... The policy of the Government of the United States is to seek a solution which may bring about permanent safety and peace to China, preserve Chinese territorial and administrative entity, protect all rights guaranteed to friendly powers by treaty and international law, and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese Empire.

-John Hay, U.S. Secretary of State, 1899

Station #4: "The Roosevelt Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine

In 1904 the government of the Dominican Republic went bankrupt and Theodore Roosevelt feared that Germany and other nations might intervene forcibly to collect their debts. In response, Roosevelt issued the Roosevelt Corollary (to the Monroe Doctrine) as part of a 1904 message to Congress. Roosevelt and later U.S. presidents cited the corollary to justify U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico and Haiti. As you read, think about how this policy impacted American relations with the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Also, consider how this policy might be seen as an extension of the Monroe Doctrine.

Document A: The Roosevelt Corollary

"It is not true that the United States feels any land hunger or entertains any projects as regards the other nations of the Western Hemisphere save such as are for their welfare. All that this country desires is to see the neighboring countries stable, orderly, and prosperous... If a nation shows that it knows how to act with reasonable efficiency and decency in social and political matters, if it keeps order and pays its obligations, it need fear no interference from the United States. Chronic wrongdoing, [however,]... may... ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly..., to the exercise of an international police power...

-President Theodore Roosevelt, December 6, 1904

Document B

"I have always been fond of the West African proverb: 'Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.'"

-Theodore Roosevelt

Document C:



Figure 2.25 Cartoon by Rogers in *New York Herald* (New York: Sun, Inc., 1905).

THE BIG STICK IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA.

Document D:



Figure 1.25 Cartoon by Rogers in *New York Herald* (New York: Sun, Inc., 1903).

THE NEWS REACHES BOGATA.

Station #5: William Howard Taft's "Dollar Diplomacy"

Dollar diplomacy is the term used to describe America's efforts—particularly under President William Howard Taft—to further its foreign policy aims in Latin America and the Far East through the use of economic power.

Document A

"The tremendous growth of the export trade of the United States has already made that trade a very real factor in the industrial and commercial prosperity of the country. With the development of our industries, the foreign commerce of the United States must rapidly become a still more essential factor in its economic welfare... The diplomacy of the present administration has sought to respond to modern ideas of commercial intercourse. This policy has been characterized as substituting dollars for bullets. It is one that appeals alike to idealistic humanitarian sentiments, to the dictates of sound policy and strategy, and to legitimate commercial aims. It is an effort frankly directed to the increase of American trade upon the axiomatic principle that the government of the United States shall extend all proper support to every legitimate and beneficial American enterprise abroad."

-President William Howard Taft, 1912



Document B:

"The difference between the jungle and the dividend-paying plantation is one of organization and capital, administration, and toil. Add these to the jungle and you have a plantation.

-George A. Miller, 1919

Document C:

"The Fruit Company, Inc. reserved for itself the most succulent, the central coast of my own land, the delicate waist of America. It Re-christened its territories as the 'Banana Republics.'

-Pablo Neruda

Station #6: Woodrow Wilson's "Moral Diplomacy"

Wilson disliked the assertive policies of Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. He advocated "moral diplomacy" (a policy that made the U.S. the conscience of the world). He hoped to spread democracy, condemn colonialism, and promote peace. While he pledged to limit American interventions in Latin America, he ended up intervening more than any previous President, deploying troops to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Mexico.

Document A: "Moral Diplomacy"

"These States lying to the south of us, which have always been our neighbors, will now be drawn closer to us by innumerable ties, and I hope, chief of all, by the tie of a common understanding of each other. Interest does not tie nations together; it sometimes separates them. But sympathy and understanding does unite them[.]

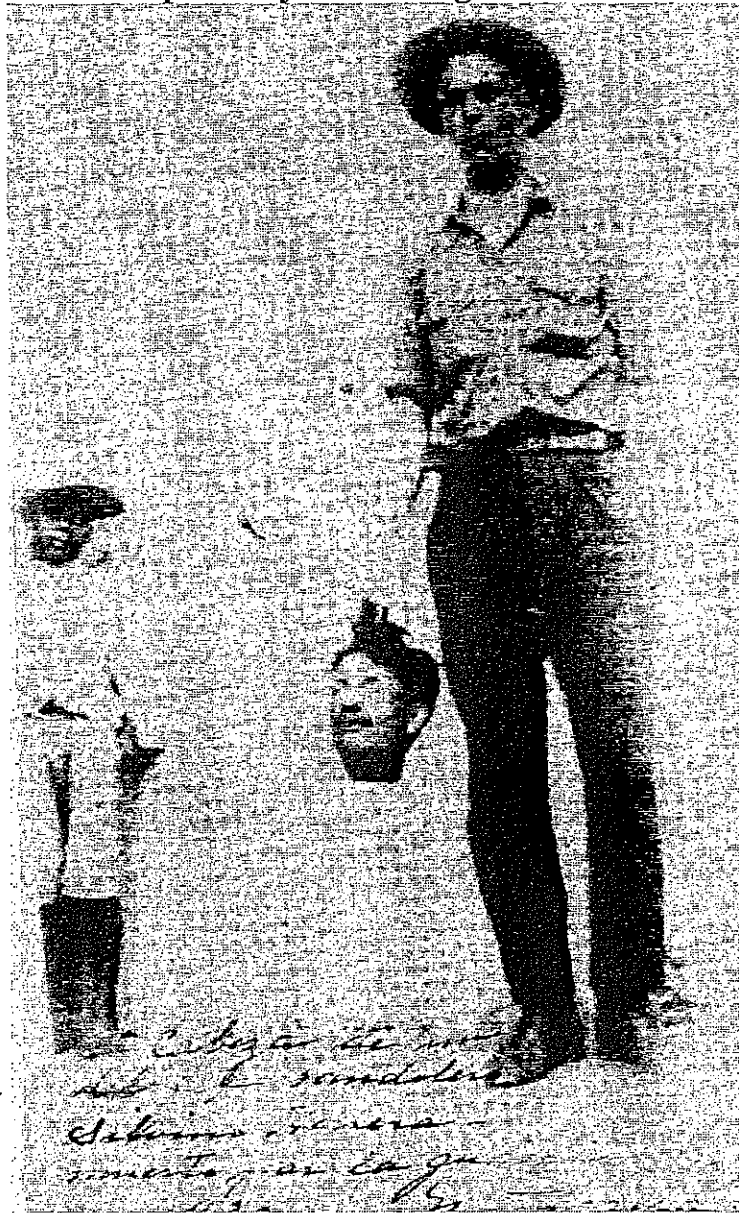
...We must prove ourselves their friends and champions upon the terms of equality and honor... We must show ourselves friends by comprehending their interest, whether it squares with our own interest or not. It is a very perilous thing to determine the foreign policy of a nation in the terms of material interest. It not only is unfair to those with whom you are dealing, but it is degrading as regards your own actions."

-President Woodrow Wilson, 1913

Document B: American Troops Practicing "Moral Diplomacy" in Nicaragua



Document C: "Moral" Diplomacy in Nicaragua?



U.S. officer and head of "the bandit Chief Silvano Herrera."

"There is a strong feeling here that mistaken humanitarianism on our part has prevented the elimination of Sandino [the commander of guerilla forces that opposed U.S. occupation]."

*-Harold Denny,
New York Times
Dispatch from
Managua, 1928*

Despite Wilson's non-interventionist intentions, he deployed U.S. troops to several Latin American countries. The document above comes from the protracted and bloody war fought by American troops against Nicaraguan guerillas between 1912 and 1926.

Station #7: Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Good Neighbor Policy



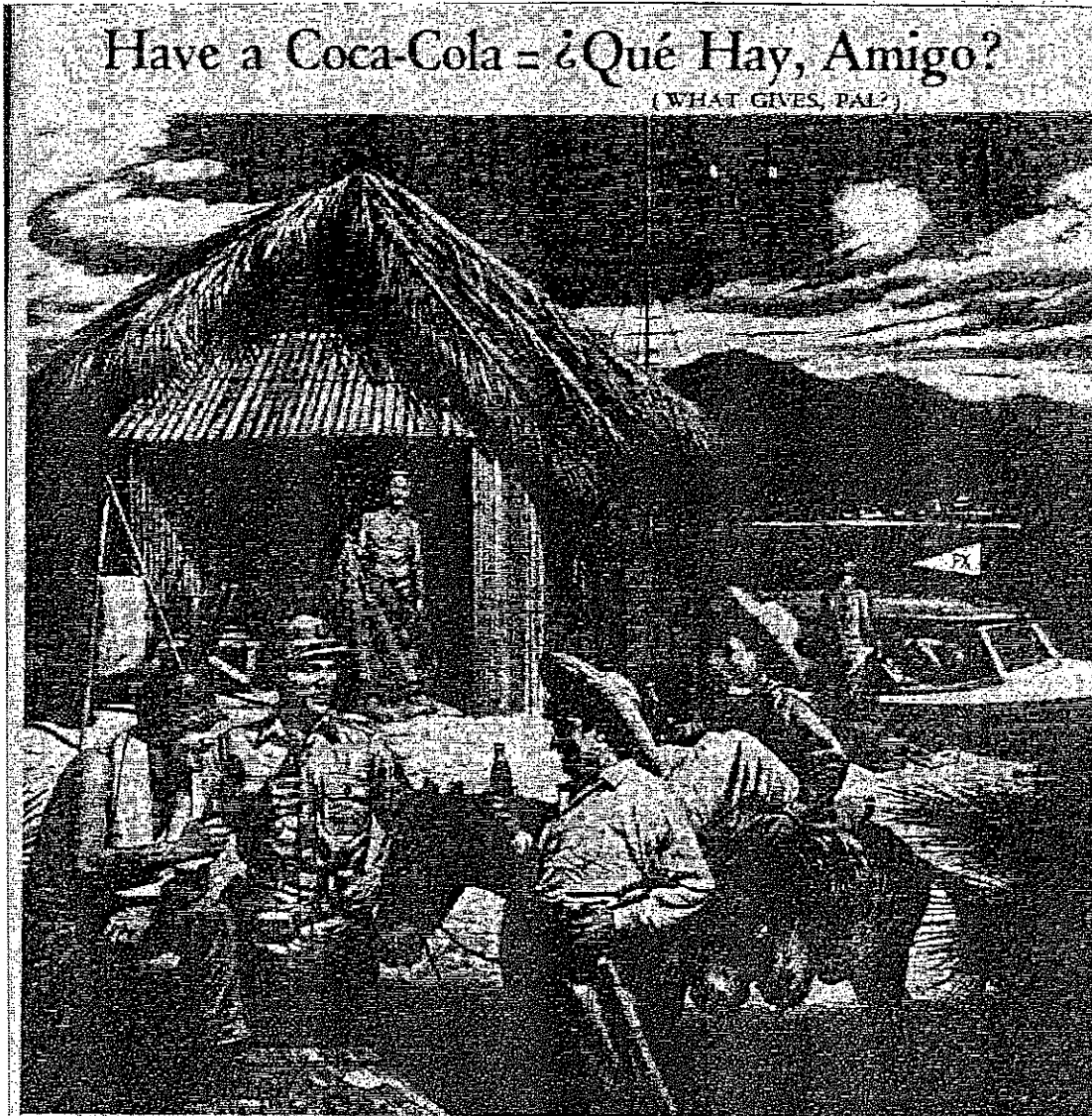
Three decades of strained relations with the Latin-American countries were reversed during the Hoover administration, largely through the work of Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson. President Roosevelt, who later named Stimson his secretary of war, resolved to continue the policy of not interfering in the internal affairs of Latin America and seeking alliances there. In an address at Chautauqua, New York, on August 14, 1936, part of which is reprinted here, the President explained his "Good Neighbor Policy."

Document A: The Good Neighbor Policy

"...In the field of world policy I would dedicate this nation to the policy of the good neighbor--the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and, because he does so, respects the rights of others--the neighbor who respects his obligations and respects the sanctity of his agreements in and with a world of neighbors... The American republics to the south of us have been ready always to cooperate with the United States on a basis of equality and mutual respect, but before we inaugurated the good-neighbor policy there was among them resentment and fear because certain administrations in Washington had slighted their national pride and their sovereign rights..."

-President Franklin D. Roosevelt, August 14, 1936

Document B: Good Neighbor Policy through Trade



Have a Coca-Cola = ¿Qué Hay, Amigo?

(WHAT GIVES, PAL?)

...or making pals in Panama

Down Panama way, American ideas of friendliness and good neighborliness are nothing new. Folks there understand and like our love of sports, our humor and our everyday customs. *Have a "Coke"*, says the American soldier, and the natives know he is saying *We are friends*... the same friendly invitation as when you offer Coca-Cola from your own refrigerator at home. Everywhere Coca-Cola stands for *the pause that refreshes* — has become the high-sign of kindly-minded people the world over.

In news stories, books and magazines, you read how much our fighting men cherish Coca-Cola whenever they get it. Yes, more than just a delicious and refreshing drink, "Coke" reminds them of happy times at home. Luckily, they find Coca-Cola — bottled on the spot — in over 35 allied and neutral countries 'round the globe.



It's natural for popular names to acquire friendly abbreviations. That's why you hear Coca-Cola called "Coke."