Canal and Power

Assess the goals and costs of Roosevelt's foreign policy

USH.C.3.1.F "Assess the foreign policy of President Roosevelt's "Big Stick" Diplomacy and his Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, influencing the acquisition and construction of the Panama Canal."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases showing U.S. goals, circle two details showing costs to Latin American sovereignty, and number the 1903 canal treaty and 1904 corollary in time order. Use your marks to weigh what Roosevelt's policies achieved and what they risked.

A Shortcut With a Cost

1. In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt faced a problem: U.S. ships traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans had to sail around South America. A canal across the narrow land of Panama would shorten the trip for merchants and the navy. At the time, Panama was part of Colombia. Roosevelt favored a policy nicknamed "Big Stick" diplomacy: negotiate, but keep military power ready to support U.S. aims. A shorter sea route promised faster trade and a more mobile navy. Yet building it required land rights from Colombia, and a strong navy could not settle the question of whose interests mattered.

2. In 1903, Colombia's senate rejected a treaty that would have allowed the United States to build a canal in Panama. Soon afterward, Panamanian separatists declared independence. U.S. warships near Panama prevented Colombia from quickly sending forces to stop the revolt. Roosevelt recognized the new nation, and the United States signed a treaty with Panama granting U.S. rights to build and control a canal in a strip of land called the Canal Zone. Panama received payment, but the deal gave the United States enormous power there. Supporters saw a practical route to construction; critics saw U.S. force overriding Colombia's sovereignty.

3. The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 warned European powers against further colonization or interference in the Americas. In 1904, after the Panama treaty, Roosevelt added his corollary: if a nation in the Western Hemisphere could not manage serious problems, such as unpaid debts, the United States might intervene to keep European powers out. This claim did not cause Panama's 1903 separation, because it came later. It did extend the logic behind a more active U.S. role in the region. The canal opened in 1914 and sped travel, but U.S. control and intervention raised lasting questions about the independence of neighboring countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the goal of a shorter sea route help explain Roosevelt's use of Big Stick diplomacy in Panama?

2. Why might a supporter and a critic judge the U.S. actions in Panama in 1903 differently? Give one reason for each view.

3. How did Roosevelt's corollary expand the U.S. role stated in the Monroe Doctrine?

4. Why is it inaccurate to say the corollary caused the 1903 canal treaty, and how does it still connect to Roosevelt's policy in the region?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label titled “The Canal and U.S. Power.” Take a position on whether Roosevelt's policies brought greater benefits or greater costs, use at least two specific details from the passage, and explain where the 1904 corollary fits without claiming it caused the 1903 treaty.

ANSWER KEY

Canal and Power

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.3.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases showing U.S. goals, circle two details showing costs to Latin American sovereignty, and number the 1903 canal treaty and 1904 corollary in time order. Use your marks to weigh what Roosevelt's policies achieved and what they risked. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the goal of a shorter sea route help explain Roosevelt's use of Big Stick diplomacy in Panama?	**A canal would speed trade and navy travel. Roosevelt kept military power ready to support U.S. aims and used warships during Panama's separation from Colombia.**
2	Why might a supporter and a critic judge the U.S. actions in Panama in 1903 differently? Give one reason for each view.	**A supporter could point to the treaty that made canal construction possible. A critic could point to U.S. warships preventing Colombia from quickly stopping the revolt.**
3	How did Roosevelt's corollary expand the U.S. role stated in the Monroe Doctrine?	**The Monroe Doctrine warned European powers against interference. The corollary claimed that the United States might intervene in Western Hemisphere nations to keep European powers out.**
4	Why is it inaccurate to say the corollary caused the 1903 canal treaty, and how does it still connect to Roosevelt's policy in the region?	**Roosevelt announced the corollary in 1904, after the 1903 treaty. It expressed a broader claim to U.S. power in the region, consistent with the active role shown in Panama.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Canal and U.S. Power

Roosevelt's policies brought major benefits, but they came with serious costs for Latin American sovereignty. A canal shortened the trip between the Atlantic and Pacific, helping trade and allowing the U.S. navy to move faster. Yet U.S. warships prevented Colombia from quickly stopping Panama's 1903 revolt, and the new treaty gave the United States control in the Canal Zone. The 1904 corollary did not cause that treaty. Instead, it claimed a wider U.S. right to intervene in the region, showing how the canal deal fit a larger pattern of American power.

Accept either overall judgment in Part 3 if the label supports it with two accurate passage details and places the corollary after the 1903 treaty. Do not accept claims that the corollary caused Panama's separation.