

## **The United States in Latin America**

- President Roosevelt wants to build a canal across the Isthmus of Panama--owned by Colombia
  - Lower costs for shipping
  - Faster trading and transportation
  - Faster movement of navy if needed

- Colombia refuses to rent the land to the U.S.
- Roosevelt: "Speak softly and carry a big stick" (words should be supported by strong action)
- The U.S. helped Panama gain independence from Colombia
- Many Latin Americans and some members of Congress angry with Roosevelt

## **The Panama Canal**

- Fight malaria and yellow fever
- 40,000 workers--mostly blacks from the West Indies
- Canal first used in 1914
- Benefited America the most