

Independence, the Canal, and Nation-Building: 1903-1940

W. Frank Robinson
Department of History
Vanderbilt University

United States Expansionism

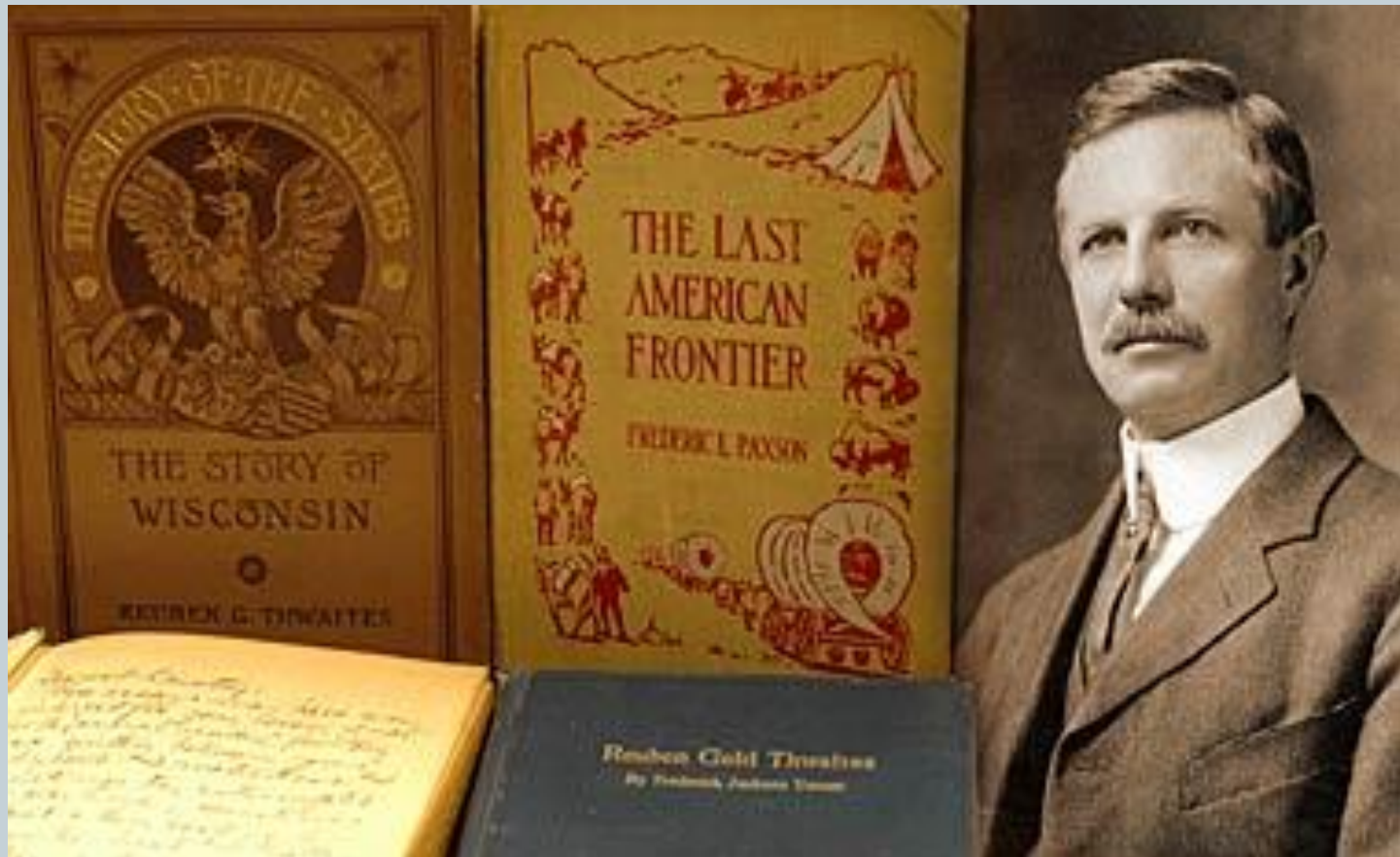


1. Age of Imperialism
2. Alfred T. Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* (1890)
 - a. control of the seas = imperial power
 - b. naval analysis as cornerstone of U.S. strategy
 - c. strategic points in defense of trading interests
3. free access to markets
4. ideological justifications for expansionism

Alfred Thayer Mahan



Frederick Jackson Turner



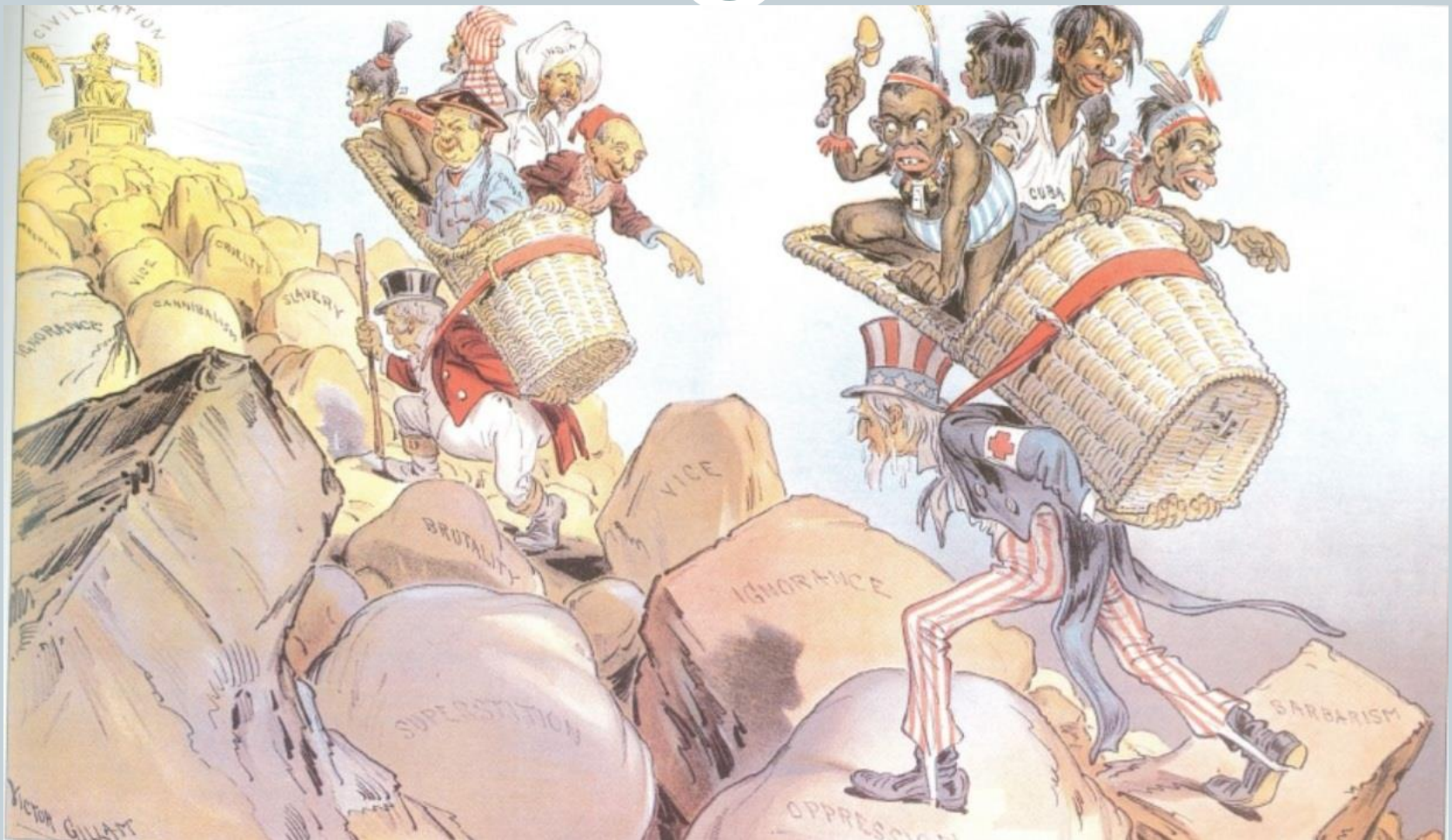
Spanish-American War Campaigns



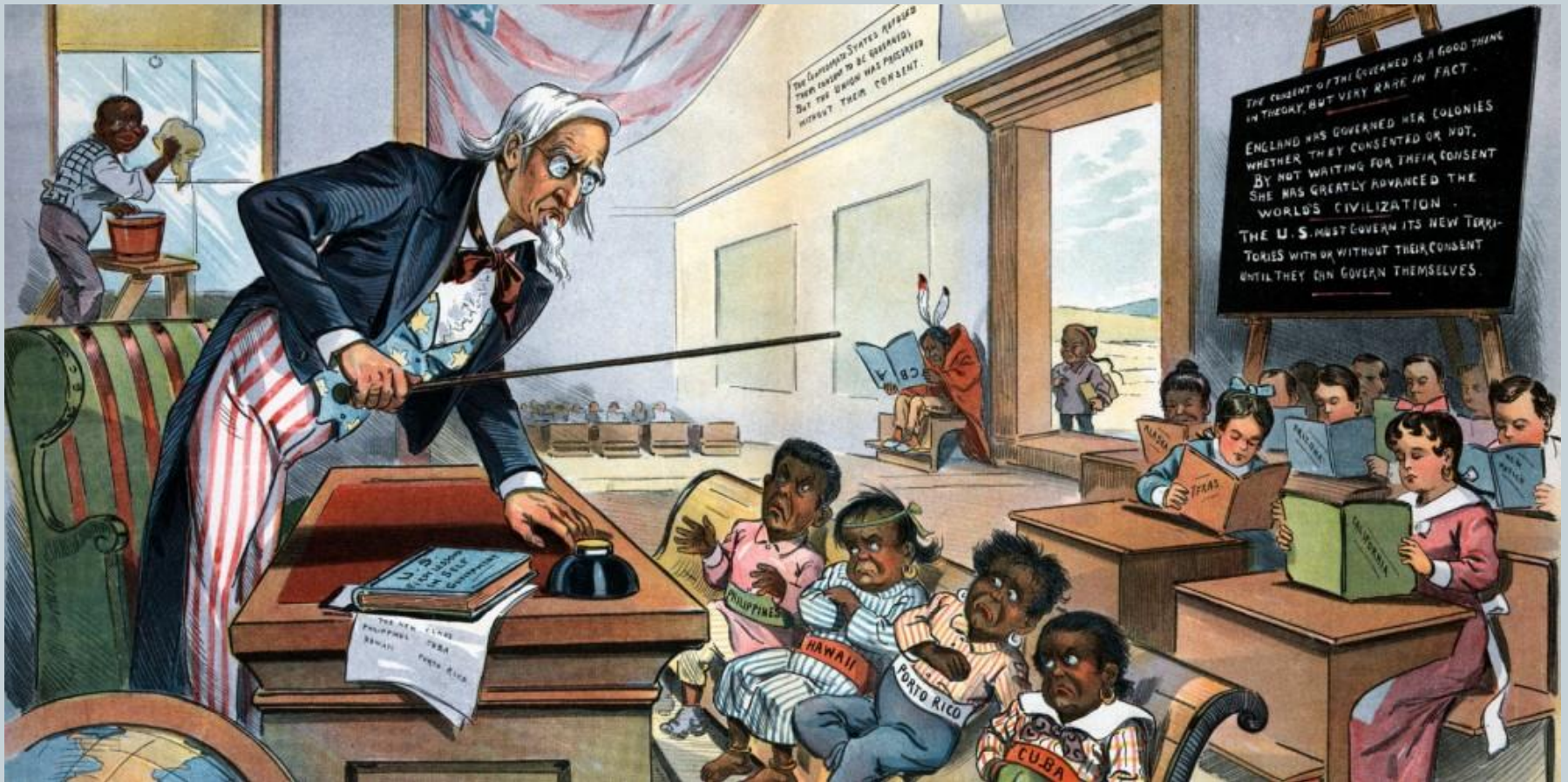
American Empire



White Man's Burden



Uncle Sam – School Begins 1899



American Empire



1. commitments and foreign policy involvements
2. two-ocean power
 - a. no experience in colonial administration
 - b. no structure for imperial control
 - c. no coherent colonial policy
3. increasingly interventionist

Imperial Problem in Cuba



1. military occupation
2. Platt Amendment
 - a. restrictions placed on Cuban government
 - b. no treaties or debt
 - c. U.S. naval bases
 - d. right of intervention

Panama and the United States



beginning of 100+ years of Panama - U.S. relations
intervention, repression, reconciliation, cooperation

Panama's independence: collusion,

secret negotiations, and foreign actors

role of Philippe Bunau-Varilla

Colombia in disarray + Panama on brink of revolt

+ TR eager for rights to canal



Intrigue and Collusion



A Sordid Affair



Panamanian Independence



VOL. LIV. No. 1395.

PUCK BUILDING, New York, November 25, 1905.
Copyright, 1905, by Kappeler & Schwabertman.

PRICE TEN CENTS.



A REVELATION IN REVOLUTIONS.

UNCLE SAM.—Well! Well! You boys have at last had a revolution which will help the whole world.

Restricted Sovereignty



Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty

control and management

authority to act “as if it were sovereign”

United States hegemony over the isthmus

dual-tier payroll: gold and silver rolls

paternalism and Jim Crow

Monetary Convention of 1904 – dollar

U.S. control of force: mediator and referee

Signing of Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty



United States Canal Project



“Make the Dirt Fly!”



early false starts

dynamic 20 months of John Stevens - infrastructure

Col. George Washington Goethals

locks , Gaillard Cut, Chagres River - Lake Gatún

eradication efforts:

Carlos Juan Finlay and William Crawford Gorgas

“black labor on a white canal”

Panamanian resentment of “invaders”

opening of canal in August 1914 – Ancon

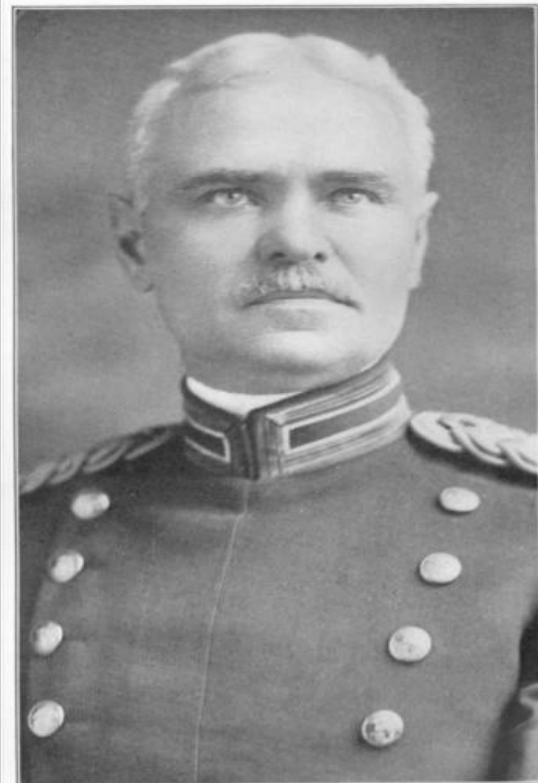
Chief Engineers



John Stevens



George W. Goethals



Copyright by Harris & Ewing.

COL. GEORGE W. GOETHALS.

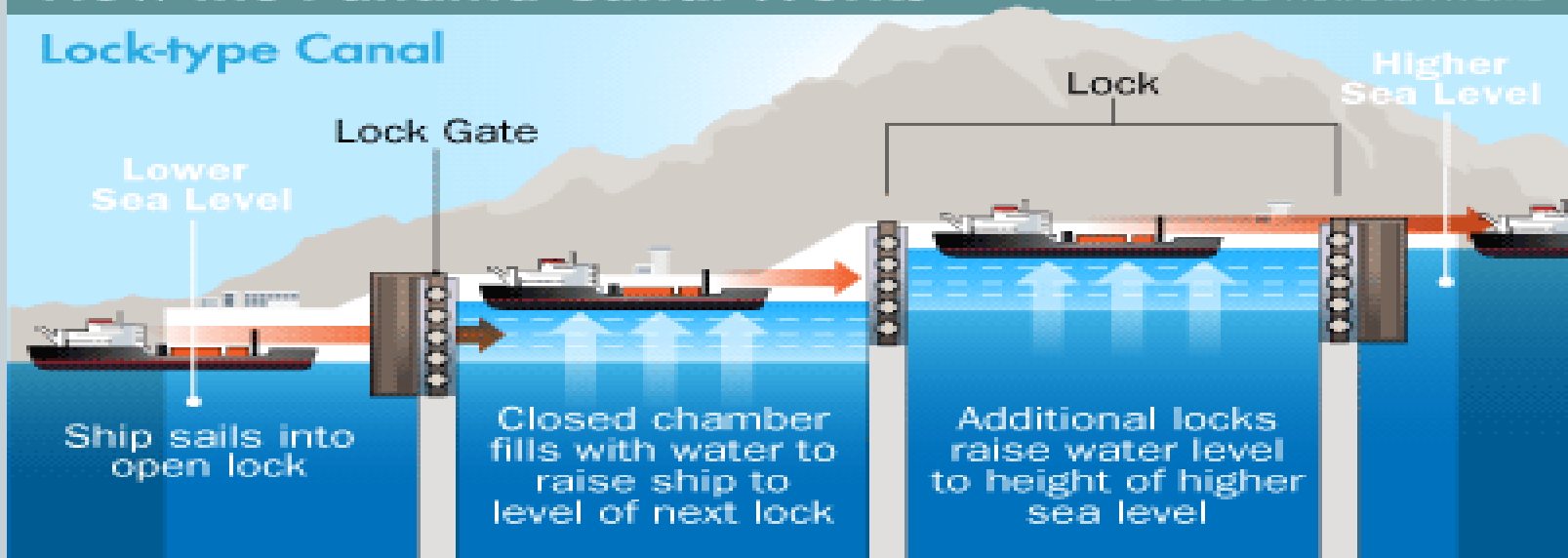
Lock versus Sea-level Canal



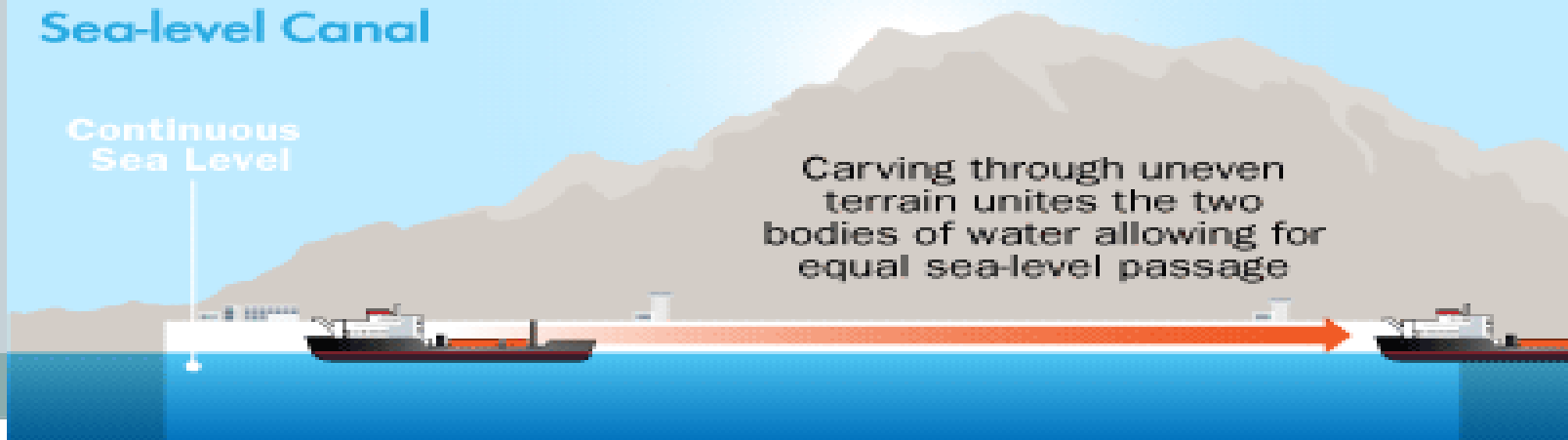
How the Panama Canal Works

LD ©2008 HowStuffWorks

Lock-type Canal



Sea-level Canal



TR in Panama



Theodore Roosevelt 1906



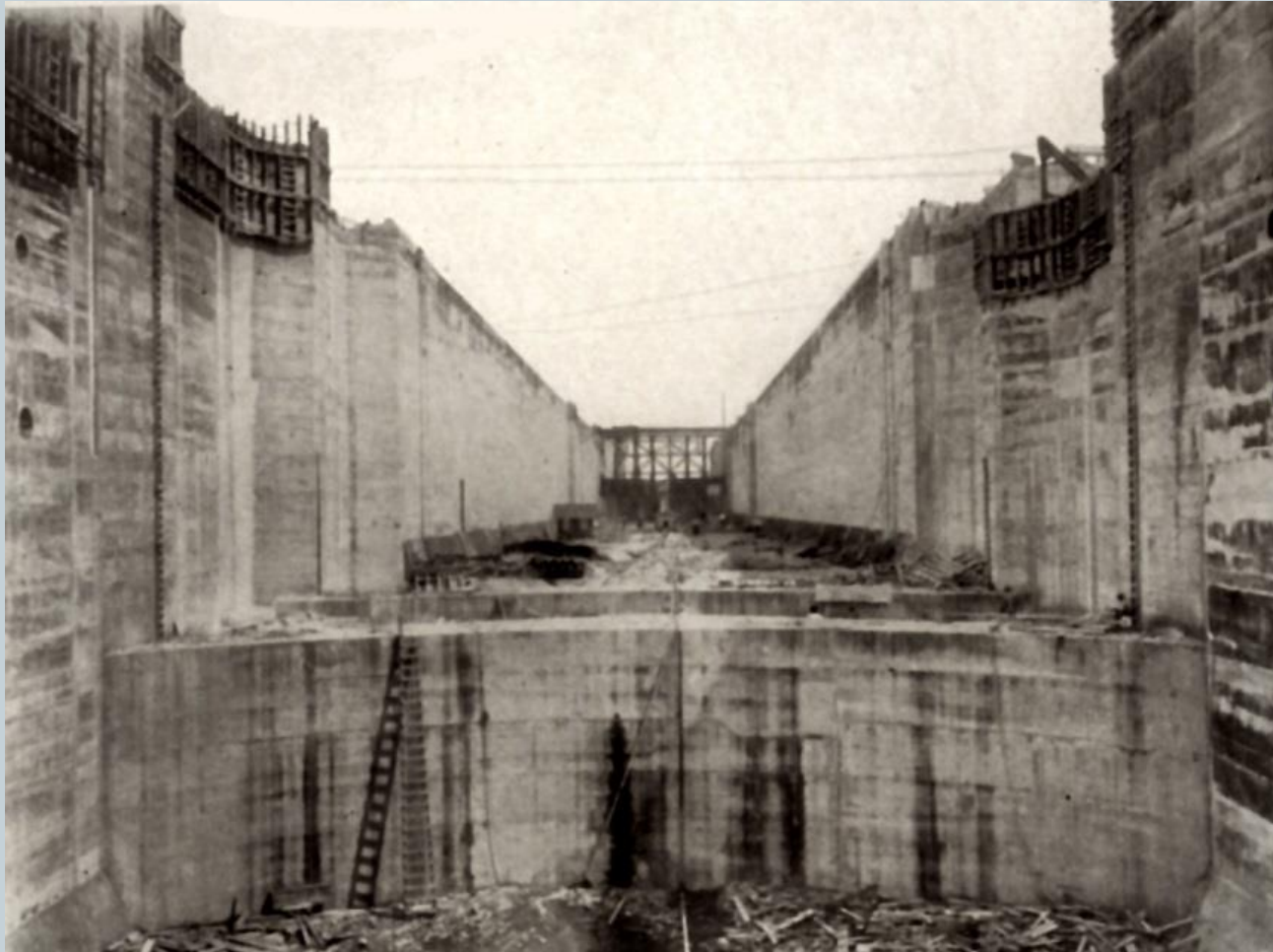
Track Shifter



Culebra Cut Landslide



Lock Construction



Disease Eradication Efforts



Juan Carlos Finlay



William Crawford Gorgas



Carlos Juan Finlay



- A physician in Havana
- First proposed in 1881 that yellow fever was a mosquito-borne illness
- Identified *Aedes* mosquito as the carrier of the yellow fever
- Began experiments, inoculating individuals to produce yellow fever infections
- Subsequently was proven by Walter Reed and colleagues

Sir Ronald Ross



- British physician in the Indian Medical Service
- Based on the work by French physician Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran from 1880, defined the life cycle of the plasmodium protozoan and identified mosquitos as the transmitting agent of malaria in 1898
- Awarded Nobel prize in 1902

Walter Reed



- U.S. Army physician
- Led Yellow Fever Commission to identify the transmitting agent of yellow fever
- Conducted series of experiments in Camp Lazear, Havana in 1900 inoculating consenting volunteers proving Carlos Finlay's vector theory

William Crawford Gorgas



- Surgeon General of the Army
- In 1905, used a vector control strategy to cleanse Havana, Cuba of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito
- Convinced that this method might work elsewhere, Gorgas applied this epidemiological control strategy in Panama
- The vector control campaign, led by Gorgas, permitted the construction of the Panama Canal

Vector Control



- Environmental modification (drainage and filling) in urban settings
- Chemical and biological larvicides
- Indoor residual insecticide spraying
- Outdoor residual insecticide spraying

Gorgas Strategy



- Screens on windows and doors
- Fumigated houses
- Isolated victims
- Oiled cisterns weekly
- Replaced standing water with running water

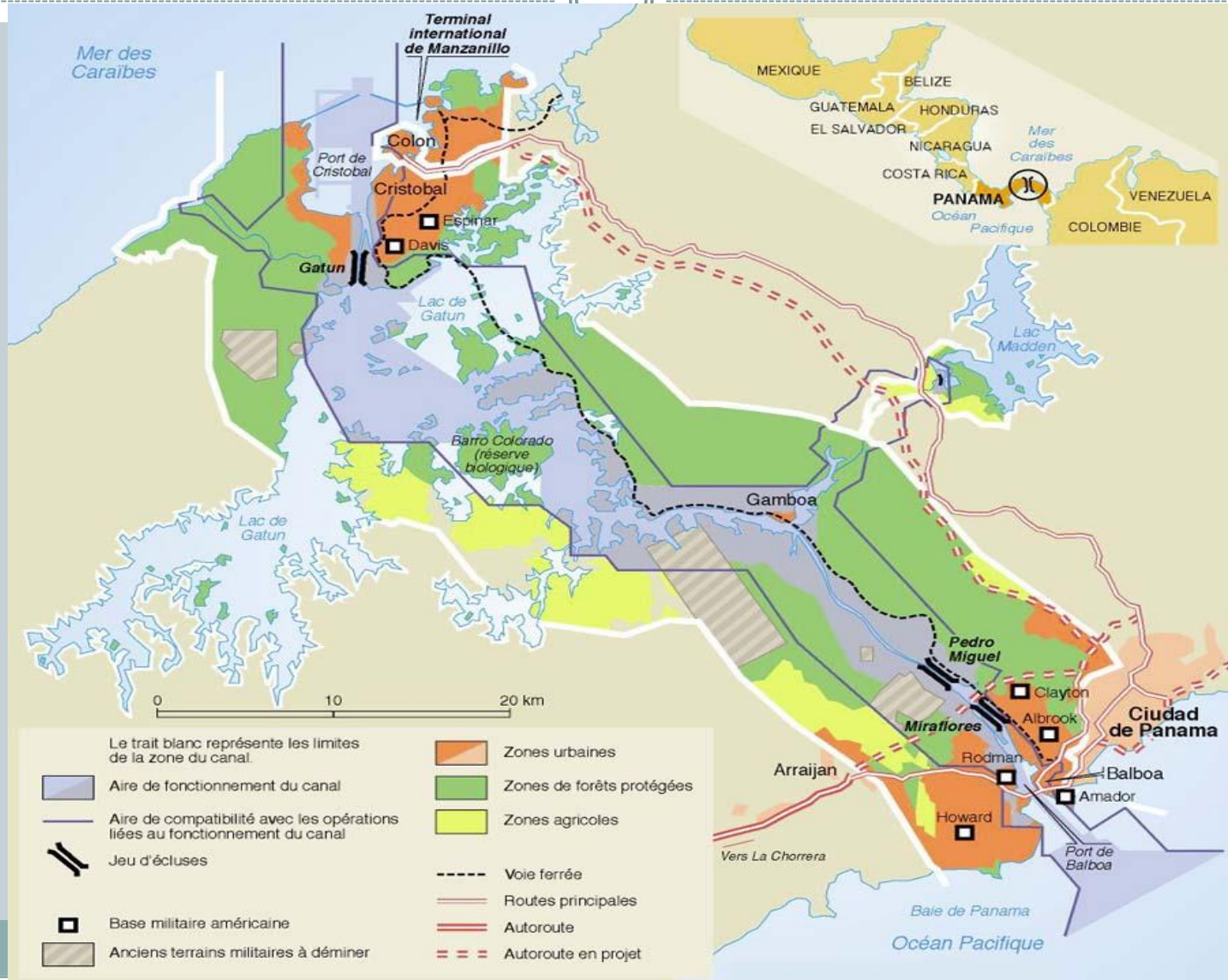
Caribbean Workers Arriving on the “Cristobal”



Silver Men at the Rail Pay Car



Panama Canal Zone



Canal Zone Troops 1928



Zonian Housing



Social Outings



Fruit Peddlers in Canal Zone



FRUIT PEDDLERS, PANAMA, C.Z.

Balboa High School



Political Dynamics



Evolution of US policy toward Panamanian politics:
indifference → protective paternalism → domination

US political intervention through election supervision

American support for Conservatives

deepening involvement of United States

Liberal calls for revolt

1910 election: Carlos Mendoza forced to withdraw

US military occupation of Panamanian territory in 1918

Carlos Antonio Mendoza

(National Liberal) 1909-1910



Elusive Autonomy



Conservatives: playing on U.S. fears of instability
permanent military presence
WWI: 14 bases in the Zone
dependence of oligarchy on U.S.
intervention and interference in Panama
rising popular opposition to original treaty
minor concessions and Good Neighbor Policy

Belisario Porras



Grandes Panameños

BELISARIO PORRAS

ABOGADO, ESCRITOR, POETA, PROFESOR Y POLÍTICO
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ EN TRES OCASIONES
(1912-1916 / 1918 -1920 / 1920-1924)

MAÑANA
EN EL NOTICIERO ESTELAR
#GrandesPanamenosTM

ODEBRECHT

 **parte de tu vida**



Nationalist Sentiments



Acción Comunal

- a. nationalist civilian group
- b. rising, middle class professionals
- c. overthrow of Florencio Harmodio Arosemena

“Generation of ‘31”

interwar years: economic downturn and political upheaval

Acción Comunal



Ideals

MOVIMIENTO DE ACCION COMUNAL

MIEMBROS INICIALES

- RAMON E. MORA, VICTOR FLORENCIO GOYTIA, JOSE PEZET,
- MANUEL E GALVEZ, ROBERTO CLEMENT, J.M. PINILLA,
- EDUARDO LINARES, JOSE M. QUIROZ Y QUIROZ, RUBEN CONTE.

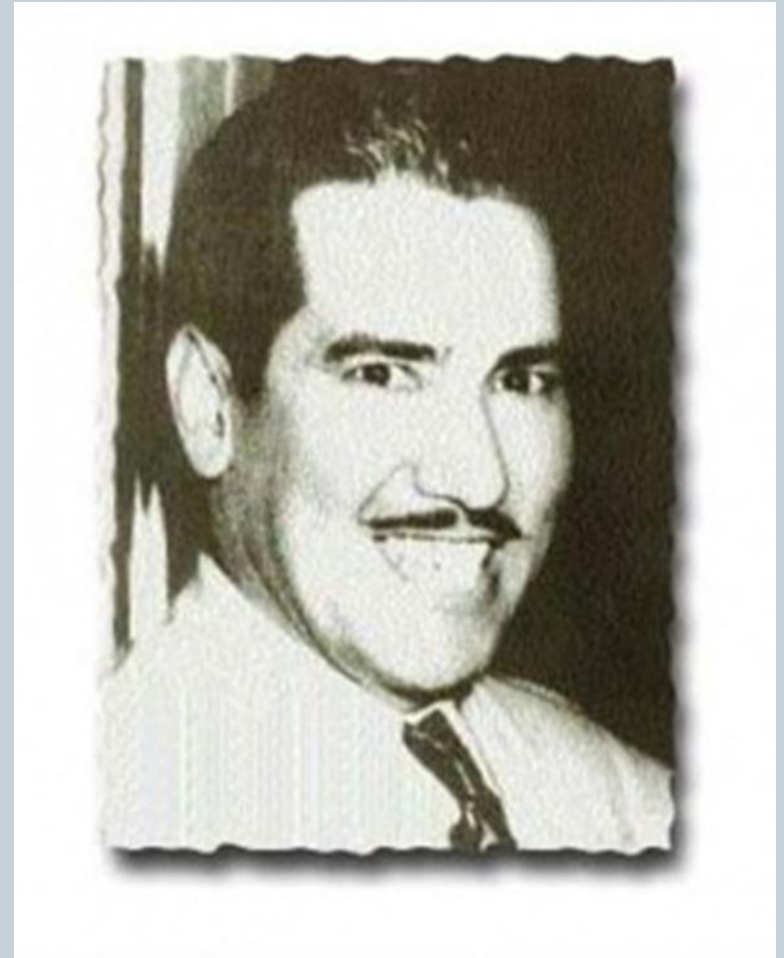
LEMAS

- **"Patriotismo, Acción, Equidad y Disciplina"**
- **" HABLE CASTELLANO, CUENTE EN BALBOA, LEA ACCION COMUNAL"**

FINES

- **DEFENDER LAS INSTITUCIONES NACIONALES**
- **Desarrollar los sentimientos de amor a la Patria y defender sus intereses.**
- **Propender por todos los medios posibles al progreso nacional en cualquiera de sus manifestaciones y al enaltecimiento de los panameños**

Arias Madrid Brothers



Harmodio Arias Madrid



Arnulfo Arias

(June 1940–October 1941, November 1949–May 1951, and October 1–12, 1968)



President 1940



Trial 1951

