*Alfred Thayer Mahan's study of history led him to strongly believe that a nation's sea power determined its economic wealth and international prominence. In 1890, Mahan published his book,* ***The Influence of Sea Power upon History,*** *1660-1783. By the end of the 1890s, the United States had embarked on its journey as an imperial power. Read this excerpt from his subsequent book,* ***The Interest of America in Sea Power****, to better understand Mahan's theory and how it influenced the development of an American empire.*

 . . The interesting and significant feature of this changing attitude is the turning of the eyes outward, instead of inward only, to seek the welfare of the country. To affirm the importance of distant markets, and the relation to them of our own immense powers of production, implies logically the recognition of the link that joins the products and the markets,--that is, the carrying trade; the three together constituting that chain of maritime power to which Great Britain owes her wealth and greatness. Further, is it too much to say that, as two of these links, the shipping and the markets, are exterior to our own borders, the acknowledgment of them carries with it a view of the relations of the United States to the world radically distinct from the simple idea of self-sufficingness? We shall not follow far this line of thought before there will dawn the realization of America's unique position, facing the older worlds of the East and West, her shores washed by the oceans which touch the one or the other, but which are common to her alone. . . . 