Note Outline on “Economic Imperialism in Latin America and the Caribbean”

1) What is the cartoon on the first page of the presentation depicting? How does it relate to this topic?

2) By what date were most Latin American countries independent of Spain and Portugal? Why did independence not mean much to most people in the region? What was the major economic problem?

3) Who controlled Latin American countries? Why were the upper classes willing to cede control to these leaders? Who, if anyone, had a say in Latin American governments?

4) Why did Latin American exports grow in the 19th century? Why didn’t Latin American countries develop their own manufacturing industries?

5) What was inefficient about the use of export earnings in Latin America? How did these countries build up their export industries? What problems resulted from this?

6) When did Cuba first declare its independence from Spain? When and why did the U.S. join their war of independence? What was the result of the Spanish-American War?

7) Who first tried to build a canal over the Isthmus of Panama? How did the U.S. acquire the Panama Canal Zone? What obstacles did the U.S. face in building the canal? When was it completed?

8) What was the Monroe Doctrine? When was it issued? What was the “Roosevelt Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine? Which actions were it used to justify?

9) What were the arguments in favor of American imperialism that appear in the speech by Senator Beveridge and the cartoon? What are the arguments against imperialism by the Anti-Imperialism League?