

## Station #5: William Howard Taft's "Dollar Diplomacy"

*Dollar diplomacy is the term used to describe America's efforts—particularly under President William Howard Taft—to further its foreign policy aims in Latin America and the Far East through the use of economic power.*

### Document A

"The tremendous growth of the export trade of the United States has already made that trade a very real factor in the industrial and commercial prosperity of the country. With the development of our industries, the foreign commerce of the United States must rapidly become a still more essential factor in its economic welfare... The diplomacy of the present administration has sought to respond to modern ideas of commercial intercourse. This policy has been characterized as substituting dollars for bullets. It is one that appeals alike to idealistic humanitarian sentiments, to the dictates of sound policy and strategy, and to legitimate commercial aims. It is an effort frankly directed to the increase of American trade upon the axiomatic principle that the government of the United States shall extend all proper support to every legitimate and beneficial American enterprise abroad."

*-President William Howard Taft, 1912*



### Document B:

"The difference between the jungle and the dividend-paying plantation is one of organization and capital, administration, and toil. Add these to the jungle and you have a plantation.

*-George A. Miller, 1919*

### Document C:

"The Fruit Company, Inc. reserved for itself the most succulent, the central coast of my own land, the delicate waist of America. It Re-christened its territories as the 'Banana Republics.'

*-Pablo Neruda*