

Trends in US foreign policy before 1900

Instances of the Use of U.S. Armed forces the 19th and 20th Centuries

Scope	N.A.	C-L.A.	AF	ME-CA	Asia	Europe	Pac	Total
1801-1900	2	7	3	0	4	1	6	23
1901-2000	1	8	3	6	7	5	1	31
Total	3	15	6	6	11	6	7	54

Frequency	N.A.	C-L.A.	AF	ME-CA	Asia	Europe	Pac	Total
1801-1900	9	7	5	1	11	1	11	51
1901-2000	2	24	3	12	17	6	2	64
Total	11	31	8	13	28	7	13	115

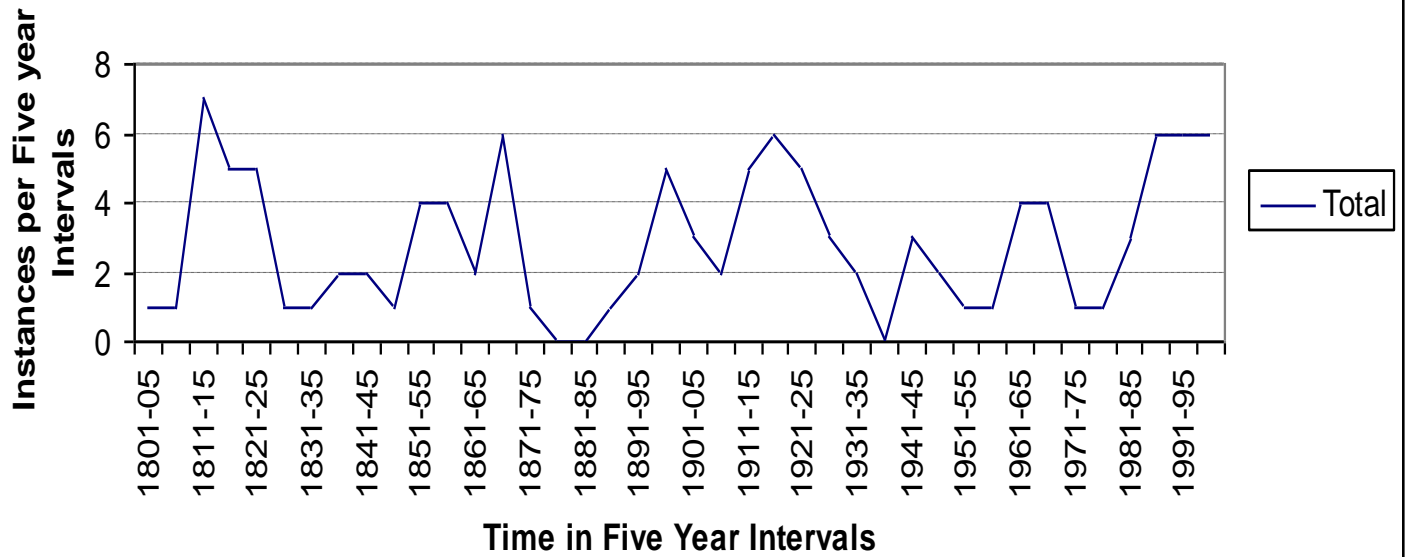
N.A denotes North American and includes Mexico, C-L.A. is the Caribbean and Latin America, AF stands for Africa, ME-CA includes the Middle East and Central Asia and includes Turkey, and Pac denotes the Pacific Islands and includes all places not on the Asian mainland except Japan and Formosa (Taiwan).

Some conclusions from the data

1. US military forces deployed to 23 locations and effectively globally in the 1800s
2. US forces deployed once every two years in the 1800s and once every 1.5 years in the 1900
3. Most deployments in both centuries are very short – less than a year -- with some critical exceptions (20th century Central America, China, SE Asia, Middle East)
4. While frequency and scope and magnitude (size of forces and casualties) definitely are greater in the 20th century, the substantial instances and scope of military activity suggest significant continuity

Lets look at longitudinal use of US military force – next figure

Frequency of the Use of U.S. Military Force



Longitudinal Results

From prior figure – what pattern emerge – obviously fluctuates – but mean five year interval frequency is 2.55 in 1800s and 3.2 in the 1900s note that of the 40 five year intervals in the time frame only 3 have zero instances of the use of US military force (two in 19th and 1 in the 20th century) -- note that in the 1800s these occurred at the heights of the American Indian Wars

How does this all relate to the cycles story of Julian Go's analysis –

His is a story about imperialistic activities and how they are related to Hegemonic rise, maturity and decline – we are less interested in the hegemonic cycle argument but it is an interesting one and relates to work by Paul Kennedy and others – George Modelski's long cycles

Go's Cycles and Waves

Go argues for waves of high and low activity --- but remember it is all in an imperialistic mode i.e. He assumes basic continuity in imperialistic activities but claims variations in levels

Note periods of “low activity” 1826-39, 1871-97, 1926-1980

This “matches” our data around the 1870 and for the late 1930s -- what's wrong -- misses the American Indian Wars and misses all kinds of covert and proxy activities during the Cold War

Foreign Policy Instruments development during the 1800s and in the Early States of the Client State Era

1. Marines and the Navy employed extensively to protect political and economic interests and to punish “enemies”
2. US Army used extensively to fight native american tribes – protect territorial governors – gives training and expertise to carry out the first US counterinsurgency war in the Phillipines, the Boxer Rebellion, and chasing Poncho Villa
3. Wall Street banks used to address financial problems in Central America and the Caribbean – particularly to help US investors – some involvement in the Pacific and China
4. The legacy of how the US administered its continental territories – Like Washington State, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah etc -- -- no typical colonial administrative structure – rather loose “self governance mechanisms” -- key in ways the US handled its spoils of war – Phillipines, Guam, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and Cuba -- -- many of these the so called Insular Cases -- various form of governance but not a path to annexation and then statehood

Important structural and capacity changes spurred by the Spanish American War

Reorganization of the Army – increase in size (28-60,000) but also modernization and professionalization – creation of general staff and other developments in planning and coordination

Reorganization of the State Department

Increase in the size of the Marine Corp – from 5-10,000

Continuation of Naval Ship building – so called Great White Fleet

But what is most important is that as has been the case in the 1800s, the US Army, US Marines and Navy in the early 1900s were largely deployed on the “frontier” -- what had been a moving target across the US continent to now in Philippines, Hawaii, the US West Coast, the Mexican border, Panama, and Cuba – not to defense of the US homeland but more to protect US interest in its developing client empire