Beginning with the encounters between the Native Americans and the tiny settlement colonies established in New England and Virginia in the mid-17th century, the course explores key themes in the emergence of the United States as a global power and, by the end of the 20th century, a global hegemon. Although rivalries with the great powers of Europe will be taken into account, the course focuses on the interaction and enduring contacts between American expansionists and non-Western peoples from the Indians who inhabited the moving frontier and the Japanese, Chinese, and Filipinos in the late-19th century to the Vietnamese, Iranians, and Iraqis in the post-1945 era. We will look at the ways in which each stage of outward expansion, first across North America and then overseas, secured the resource base, spurred the advances in technology and military organization, and provided the motivations for further incursions into the global arena. We will examine cases of direct colonization, military incursions, and instances of informal influence exerted over societies in Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, and Latin America. We will pay particular attention to the patterns of domination devised by American expansionists at various points in time, the critics of these schemes and the alternatives they have offered, and their legacies in the present day. We will also explore the broader social, environmental, and political repercussions of nearly three centuries of projects to extend U.S. influence and power into the rest of the world. Readings in the course will include books and essays by William Penn, Mark Twain, William Fulbright, Louis Mumford, Michael Herr, Mark Bowden, and Michael Kelly. Power Point Slides, Films and Music will be used to illustrate key themes and events. Major assignments will include analytical exams and a thought paper on a topic related to the course of particular interest to each student.