

Apart From Trade, What Was the Nature of the U.S. Involvement in the Caribbean up to 1870?

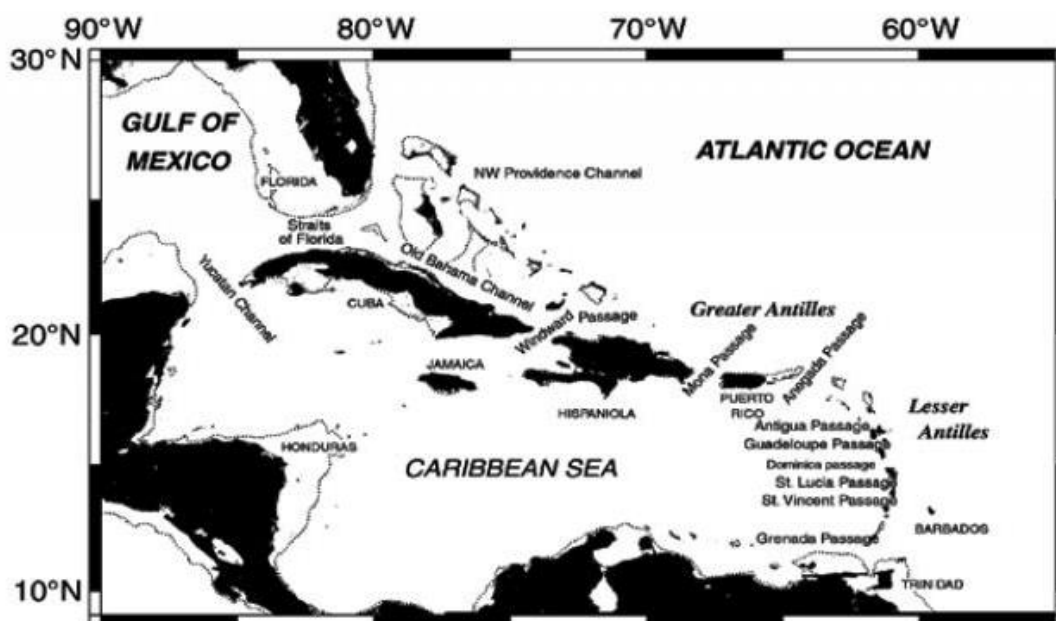
Ideological

She saw herself as the champion of democracy whose destiny it was to help the uncivilized countries of the Western Hemisphere who were destined to 'gravitate' towards her, the superior and civilized nation.

This became even more 'prophetic' when in the 1820's the Latin American territories began to claim their independence from Spain. For examples: Colombia and Venezuela

Defense

The U.S. was interested in identifying suitable ports in the Caribbean to serve as coaling stations for her steamships. This would also enable her to patrol the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Why? The Caribbean provided three gateways to her backyard, thus rendering her 'homeland' vulnerable: The Mona Passage, The Windward Passage and the Anegada Passage.



The Mona Passage, The Windward Passage and the Anegada Passage

Investments

She was looking for new areas of investments. It would certainly be convenient to find lucrative areas of investment in 'her sphere of influence'.