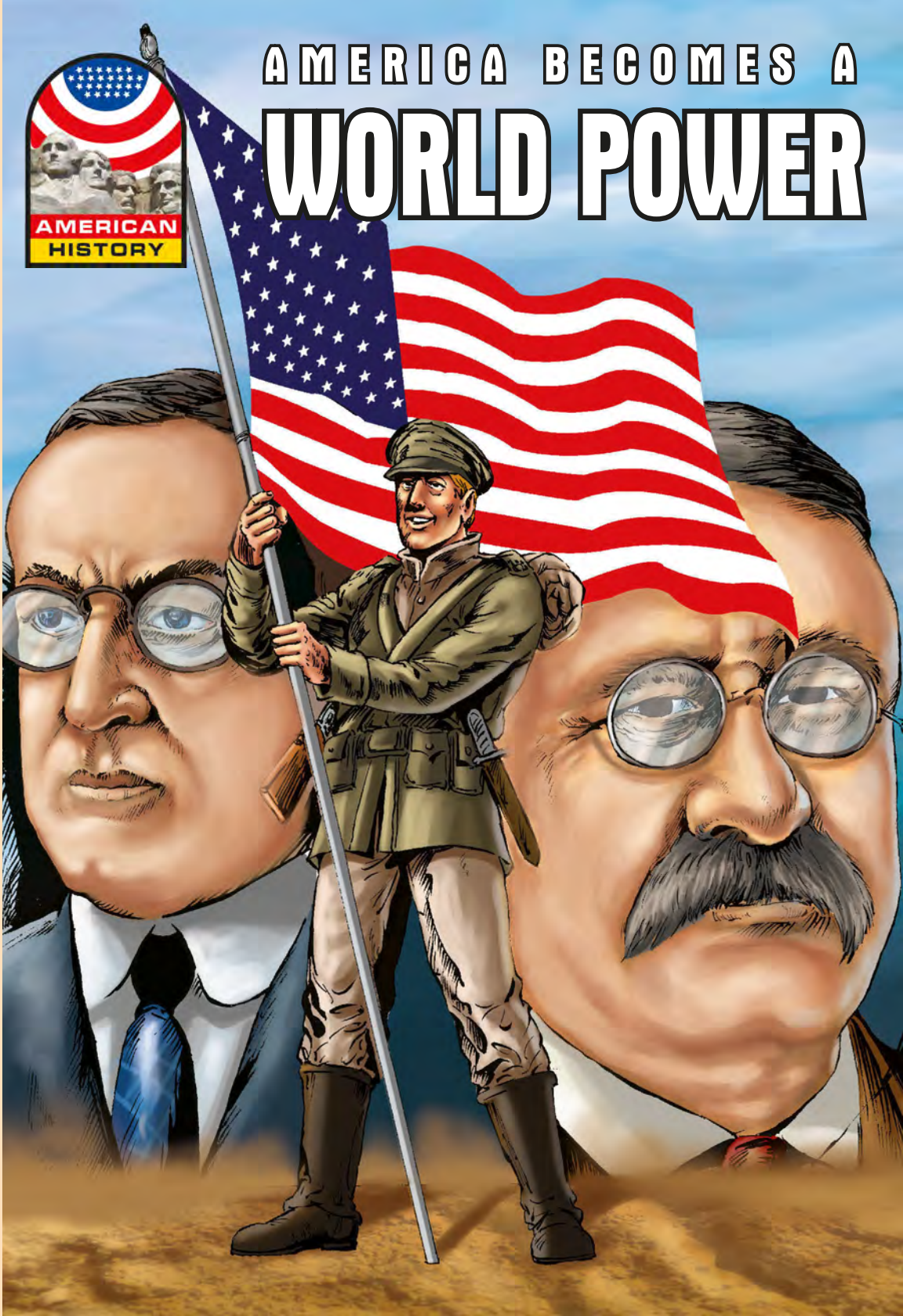
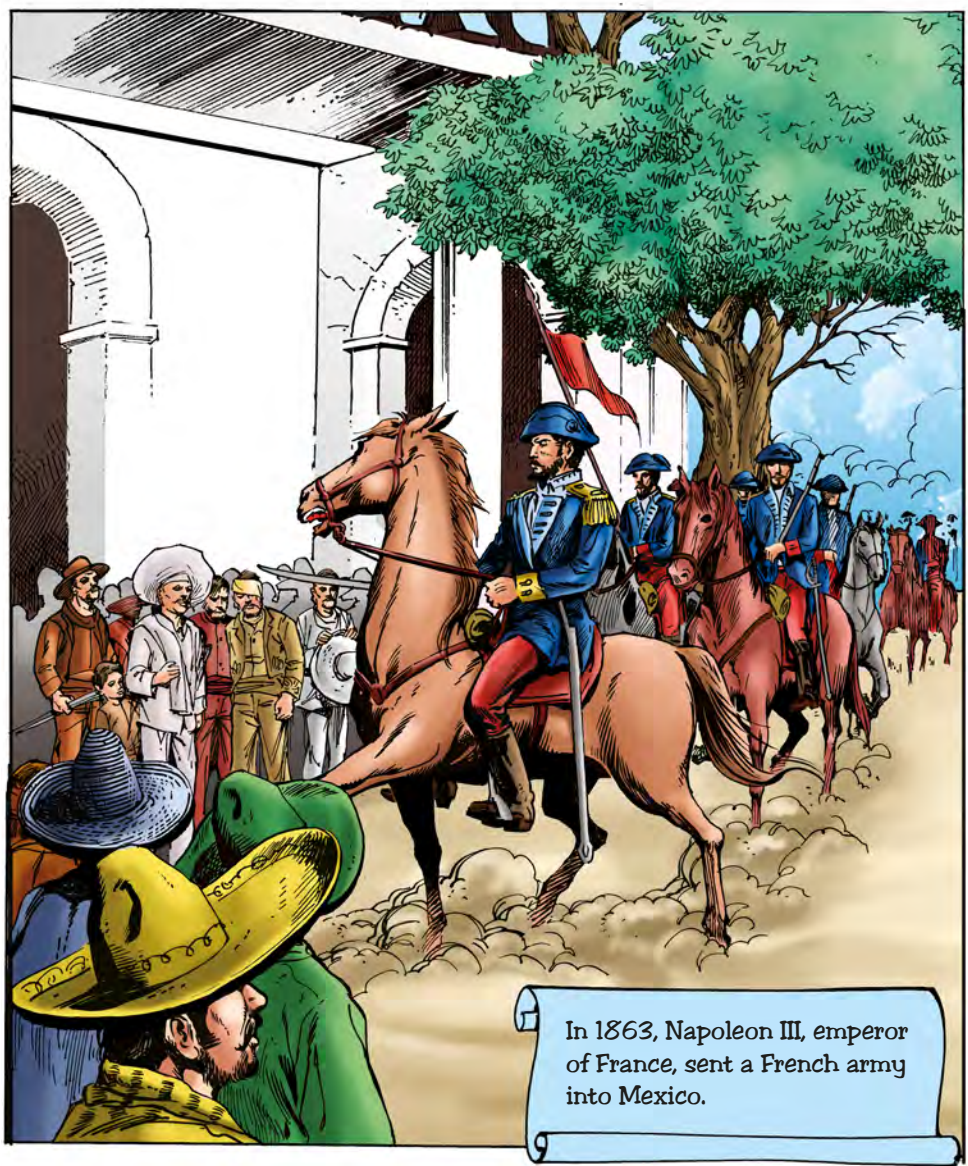

AMERICA BECOMES A
WORLD POWER
AMERICAN
HISTORY

Both France and Spain had hoped to build empires in the New World. But Napoleon sold the French possessions to the United States, and the Spanish colonies in South America revolted and won their freedom. Any major European power was a threat to the then young and weak United States. In 1823, President Monroe stated a policy, to become known as the Monroe Doctrine,* warning that we would not permit new colonization in the Americas.



* A statement of U.S. foreign policy.

The United States was fighting the Civil War. Secretary of State Seward conferred with President Lincoln.

After helping the Confederacy in every way he could diplomatically, Napoleon has now taken over Mexico!

This clearly violates the Monroe Doctrine. He counts on it that we are too involved with the South to fight France.

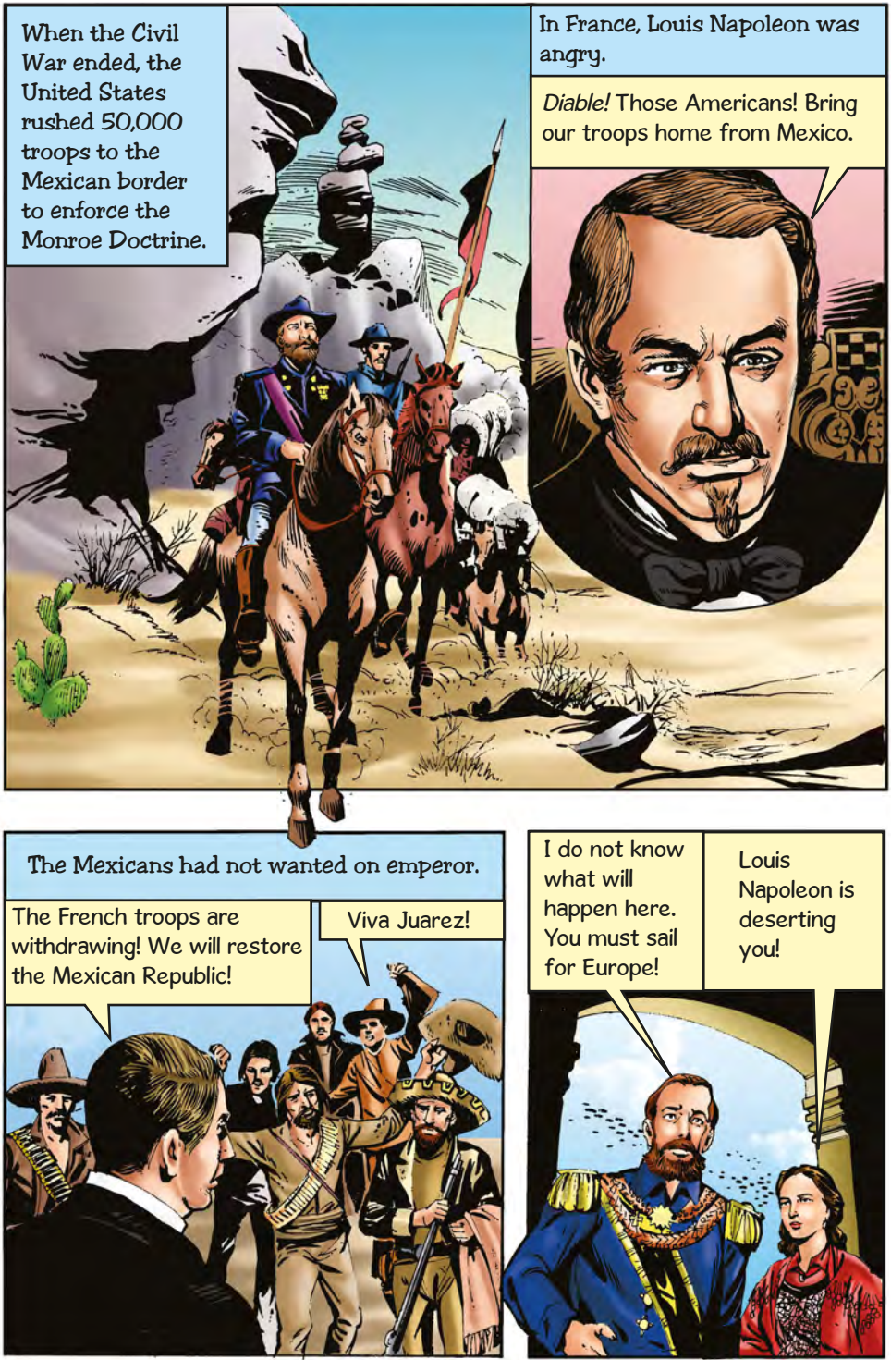
Which is true. Issue a proclamation. Try to get word to the Mexican patriots that we have not forgotten them. After we have preserved the Union, we will take action.

Napoleon persuaded an Austrian archduke, Maximilian, to become emperor of Mexico. With his wife, Carlota, he went there.

I have been assured that the Mexican people wish me to rule them.

You will be a fine emperor!

In Mexico, Maximilian and Carlota were crowned.


When the Civil War ended, the United States rushed 50,000 troops to the Mexican border to enforce the Monroe Doctrine.
In France, Louis Napoleon was angry.
Diable! Those Americans! Bring our troops home from Mexico.
The Mexicans had not wanted on emperor.
The French troops are withdrawing! We will restore the Mexican Republic!
Viva Juarez!
I do not know what will happen here. You must sail for Europe!
Louis Napoleon is deserting you!


I will talk to him! I will talk to the Pope, to everyone! Someone must send help!
The Mexican people rose under Juarez, the patriot leader, and recaptured the country.
Viva Juarez!
But no one would, or could, help Maximilian.
Maximilian died before a firing squad, ending the French dream of an American empire.
Fire!

In the same year, 1867, Secretary Seward had a visitor.

The Russian Minister Edward de Stoeckl, to see you, sir.

Well, show him in.

After the greetings, Stoeckl made a suggestion.

Our Alaskan territory is too far from Russia. The expense of protecting and developing it is too much. We would like to sell it.

I will take the matter to Congress.

The price, $7.2 million, less than two cents an acre for half-a-million square miles, sounded like a bargain and Congress approved. Some Americans disagreed.

What do you think of Seward's Folly?

The icebox, you mean? Alaska? Nothing but a frozen wasteland!

But enslaved people in Alaska, freed when it became American territory, carved a wooden statue.

It is Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator!



Within five years, $100 million worth was mined!

Naval bases were established there. Later, important air bases were also built.



Oil and other valuable minerals have been discovered. Today, "Sewards Folly" is prosperous and the 49th state.

Another important series of events in American progress towards becoming a world power took place, thousands of miles away, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, on the Hawaiian Islands.

Both the climate and the people of the Hawaiian Islands were hospitable. American whaling ships and clipper ships in the China trade found the island harbored convenient spots to stop for supplies.



In about 1820, American missionaries came to the islands to start churches and schools.

These are the children of the nobility. Someday we hope to have schools for all Hawaiian children.

Gradually most Hawaiians became Christians.

It is not right, this school that teaches our *alii** the ways of the *haoles*** and the worship of their god!

The god of our missionaries is the true God! Our old gods lost their powers long ago!

More and more foreigners came. In 1842 there was frightening news.

A British frigate is in the harbor, its guns trained on Honolulu. They threaten to take over the kingdom of Hawaii.

My mother the queen will never give in!

But there was no defense against the British guns. The Hawaiian flag was lowered, and forbidden in the islands. The British flag was raised.

* the noble rank in traditional Hawaiian society.

** foreign/foreigner



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