

Panama Canal

Why build the canal?

- Reduce travel time
- Have a “two ocean” navy
- Power and prestige (\$\$)



Early Construction

- The French tried to build it but failed because of disease and lack of funds
- The U.S. negotiated a treaty with Colombia (who controlled Panama) to buy the canal area, but Columbia rejected the treaty

Panama's Independence

- Panama declared their independence from Colombia in 1903 and the U.S. prevented Colombia from stopping the rebellion
- Panama gave the canal area to the U.S. via the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty
- T. Roosevelt called for the construction to begin immediately in 1904
- U.S. finished the canal and it open in 1914

TR at the controls of a steam-shovel at the Panama Canal





