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U.S. Territory

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The U.S. this month will make its first territorial acquisition since 1900.

The Mariana Island chain in the Pacific is voting to become a U.S. commonwealth, which will give their people full citizenship.

Among their new blessings, they will also get a massive military base.

The Pentagon wants to use the islands as a ~~Pacific outpost~~... A ~~secure~~ ^{Secure} base for harboring nuclear weapons and military hardware.

The move raises some grave foreign policy questions.

~~The U.S. supposedly swore off its policeman's role after Vietnam.~~
Critics question why we need to spend an incredible \$2 billion in the next decade for a Pacific base, particularly since all the superpowers have missiles which can traverse continents in a matter of minutes.

In addition, the move looks like the biggest land grab since the white man expropriated the Indians' hunting grounds.

The people of Micronesia overwhelmingly voted down U.S. commonwealth status in 1970. But the U.S., in order to get the new military base, managed to separate the Marianas from Micronesia for a separate vote.

The whole venture smacks suspiciously of good old-fashioned colonialism.

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