

"I have seen two Americas, the America before the Spanish American War and the America since."

The United States Foreign Policy & the Spanish American War

Foreign Affairs of the 1880 & 1890s:

1. *1st Pan-American Congress* – 1889
2. *Hawaii* – 1893 US sugar growers with the Marines overthrew Queen Liliuokalani. A republic was formed, Sect'y of State Blaine signed treaty of Annexation, but Cleveland withdrew the treaty & recognized Hawaii.
3. *Samoa* – agreement of 1872 gave the US the harbor of Pago Pago. 1889, Germany attempts to annex Samoa, but US & Britain fight back, Hurricane destroys all three fleets & the three agree to joint protectorate (UK withdraws in 1899)
4. *Venezuela* – boundary dispute 1895. Boundary dispute over land between Venezuela and British Guiana when gold was found in the area.
5. *Cuba* – the last best remnant of Spain's once great American empire. Many in the US wanted to annex Cuba
Depression in the Sugar industry due to Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act, which raised rates against Cuban sugar 40%, caused Cuban revolt in 1895 led by Jose Marti.

Causes of Spanish American War:

1. *Advocates for imperialism and a big navy.*
 - Not so much for new markets but for naval bases in Cuba and the Pacific.
 - Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan – *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History 1660-1783*: modern sea power is essential for riches in peacetime and victory in wartime.
 - By 1898 US is third largest naval power in world (GB & Fr/Ger) Now we need bases for fleet.
2. *Yellow journalism*
 - sensationalist (sometimes fictitious) journalism
 - William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer
 - General Weyler's policy of putting Cuban guerrillas and civilians into reconcentration camps
 - Nicknamed Weyler the Butcher
 - Artist cabled Hearst saying war between US & Spain seemed unlikely, Hearst replied, "you furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war."

3. *The de Lome letter*

- private letter from the Spanish minister in Washington to a friend
- The letter was stolen and published
- It said McKinley was a “spineless politician” (just what TR said)
- De Lome resigned his post

4. *Explosion of the Maine in Havana harbor*

- immediate cause for the war
- “Remember the Maine” became the battle cry
- Maine sent to harbor in case Americans were in danger
- Evening Feb. 15, 1898, there was an explosion, officers were ashore
- Ship’s ammunition went up in flames
- 260 of the 350 men aboard were killed
- Hearst called it the enemy’s secret infernal machine
- No one knows why it blew up
- No turning back now – it’s on!

Government Reactions:

US:

Spain:

Two Theaters of War

1. *Pacific:*

- Navy, ironclad ships, was in an excellent state of readiness due to Mahan
- Theodore Roosevelt, Asst. Sect’y of Navy, ordered Commodore George Dewey to pounce upon the Philippines in case of war.
- *May 1* - Dewey steamed to Manila Bay & sank decrepit Spanish Fleet
- Dewey had to wait three months for reinforcements to capture the city of Manila
- Manila was taken on August 13, with the help of Filipino insurgents under *Emilio Aguinaldo* – fought for freedom since 1896
- *Side note:* Also, the British helped smooth relations between Dewey and 5 German warships in Manila Harbor; US became grateful to GB
- Spanish surrender only to US, Aguinaldo’s troops not allowed in Manila
- US takes deserted Wake Island
- Spanish Casualties = 386, US Casualties = 1

2. *Atlantic:*

- Blockade Cuban Ports prevent Spanish reinforcements
- Army in Cuba:
 - Neglected since the Civil War and we paid for it here
 - 125,000 in the army volunteering to fight

- African Americans joined the army to achieve justice at home & abroad
- Not enough up-to-date guns to go around
- No khaki cloth for uniforms
- Political appointments & old age characterized the officers
- General William Shafter, 300 lbs, had to be lifted into his saddle
- Rough Riders:
 - Led by Colonel Leonard Wood
 - TR's 1st volunteer cavalry - Cowboys, Indians, sheriffs, gentlemen from NYC's riding clubs, college boys, criminals
 - "I shall welcome almost any war, for this country needs one."
- Battles:
 - El Caney – July 1, 1898
 - US takes heavy casualties – 6000 troops, 400 casualties
 - San Juan Hill
 - Part 1: Kettle Hill – RR & 2 Black regiments charge hill
 - Part 2: San Juan Hill – Infantry attack
 - 1,572 US casualties – near disaster
 - TR – "We are within measurable distance of a terrible military disaster"
 - TR achieves instant war-hero status
- Navy in Cuba:
 - Spanish Admiral Cervera ordered to break blockade of Santiago Harbor
 - His entire fleet is destroyed in the south Caribbean
 - one US dead, 16 wounded.
- July 10 – US launch final assault on Santiago
- Spain puts up no resistance
- July 17 – Santiago surrenders to the US, US flag raised over gov't bldg
- July 25 – US takes Puerto Rico
- July 26 – Spain, through French ambassador, requests peace.
- Splendid Little War ends after three months of fighting.

Results of War:

1. Complete end of Spanish rule in the Americas that began with Columbus
2. US now involved in affairs of the Orient – no isolationism
3. US recognized as world power
4. War heals wounds of the Civil War, uniting North, South & West

Treaty of Paris, 1898:

1. Cuba independent, Spain pays heavy Cuban debt
2. PR, Guam, Philippines ceded to US
3. US pays \$20,000,000 for Philippines

What US gained from the War:

5,462 US deaths

- 379 from battle
- most from yellow fever, malaria, & diseases
- tainted meat sold to Army by Armour Co. caused some too

US owns: PR, Guam, Wake, Philippines, Samoa

What do we do with them?

Teddy Roosevelt

1898 - elected Governor of NY

1900 - stashed in VP slot in Election of

1901 - anarchist Leon Czolgosz kills McKinley, at 42 TR b/c Pres

Philippines Insurrection (1899 – 1902):

McKinley Keeps Phil b/c:

1. Christianize Filipinos
2. Prestige of Empire
3. Business men wanted invest, raw materials & markets
4. Base for trade with Far East
5. Would fall into the hands of others:

Aguinaldo, who was brought back to Phil by Dewey, & he didn't want US rule

The war that followed was bloodier than the one with Spain

Modern Imperial War:

1. massive strikes against civilians
2. war atrocities
3. brutality missing from wars with Europeans
4. fighting "brown" Filipinos removed excuses for civility

5,000 US died in this war

Cost more \$ & time as well as lives than the Spanish American War

Aguinaldo captured by daring invasion into his camp

William Howard Taft made Governor of the Philippines

Decided to allow eventual freedom gradually to island

Cuba:

US occupies the island

American dependency under status of Protectorate

Platt Amendment (1901)

1. Cuba must get US consent for international agreements
2. Cuba could not assume indebtedness that may give foreign powers an excuse for intervention
3. US could intervene to preserve independence & stability of Cuba
4. US granted two naval bases (Guantanamo Bay remains)

US intervenes in Cuba with troops in 1906, 1912, 1917

Dr. Walter Reed id's mosquito that carried yellow fever & disease controlled