

America Becomes a World Power

1890-1917

Georgia Standards

- **SSUSH14 The student will explain America's evolving relationship with the world at the turn of the twentieth century.**
- b. Describe the Spanish-American War, the war in the Philippines, and the debate over American expansionism.
- c. Explain U.S. involvement in Latin America, as reflected by the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine and the creation of the Panama Canal.

Vocabulary

- Imperialism – the policy by which strong nations extend their political, military and economic control over weaker territories.
- Annex—to add a territory into a country.
- Diplomacy—the conduct by government officials to negotiate with their relations between other nations

The Roots of US Imperialism

- At the end of the 19th, many in America felt a strong desire to gain control of colonies for the following reasons:
 - 1. Economic: colonies provide markets for goods
 - 2. Military: expansion and creation of navy ports
 - 3. Social: competition with Europe; belief in Social Darwinism (only strongest nations will survive)
 - 4. Religious: fulfill Manifest Destiny; Christianize the world.

1st Steps Towards Imperialism

- 1867: US purchases Alaska from Russia
- 1860's and 70's: US trade expands into the Pacific (Japan, Hawaii, etc.)



US Annexes Hawaii

- Hawaii and the US had economic relationship for decades.
- Sugar plantations established by American planters in Hawaii.
- 1891: Queen Liliuokalani ascends to the throne; calls for a decrease in American presence.
- US sends marines to restore order and overthrow Liliuokalani.
- Hawaii territory officially annexed by US in 1898.



Spanish- American War

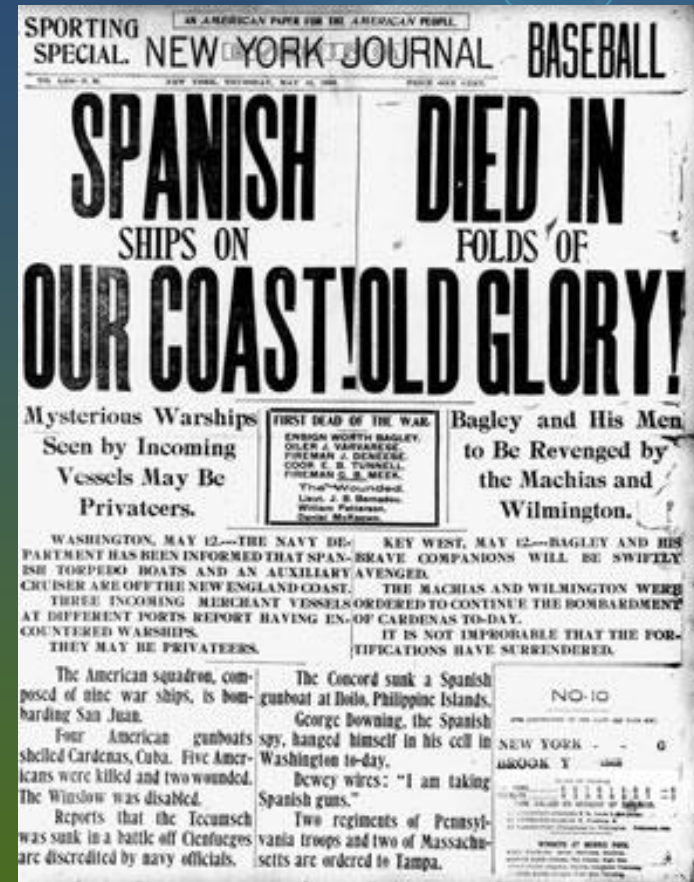
Causes of the Spanish-American War

- 1895 - Cubans rebel against Spanish rule.
- US had economic interests in Cuba (sugar plantations)
- Many in the US sympathized with Cuban rebellion; reminded them of the American Revolution.



Causes of the Spanish-American War

- "Yellow Press": In order to sell newspapers publishers began publishing exaggerated stories about Spanish rule of Cuba.
- These stories attracted the attention of the American public and President William McKinley.
- McKinley order the battleship, the *USS Maine*, to Cuba to protect American citizens in Cuba.



Causes of the Spanish-American War

- February 1898: USS Maine explodes in Havana Harbor killing 266 US sailors.
- Spain immediately blamed for the attack without proper evidence.
- April 1898: US declares war on Spain.

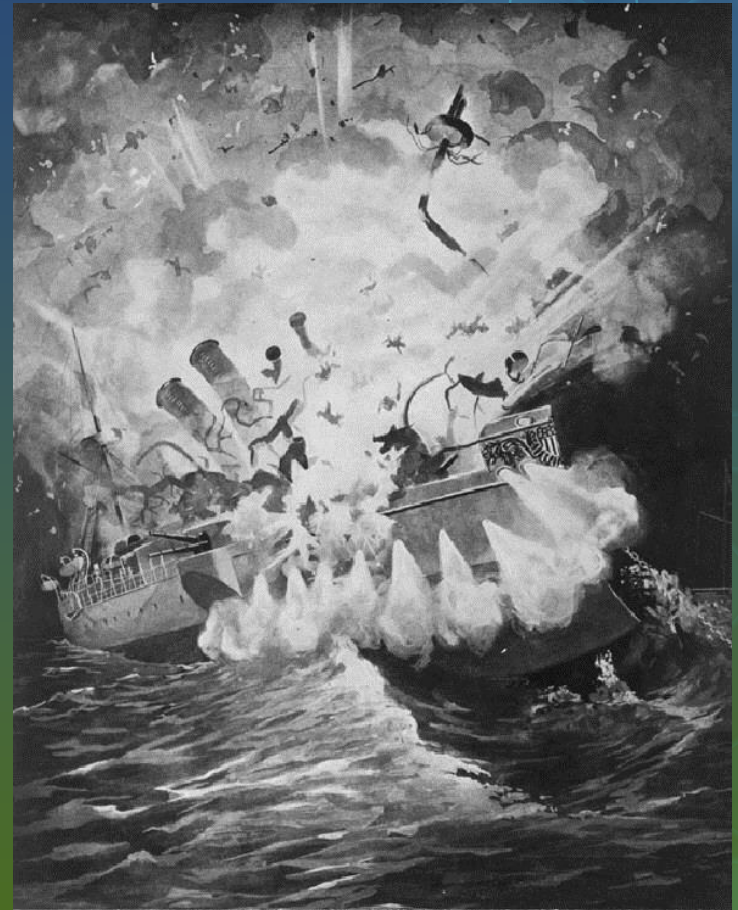


Photo # NH 61236 USS Maine explodes

The Spanish-American War

- May 1898: US sends troops to Manila, the capital of the Spanish-controlled Philippines.
- Emilio Aguinaldo – Filipino nationalist who fought alongside US to defeat Spanish army. (right)
- August 1898 – Spanish troops surrender to US forces in the Philippines.



Roosevelt Leads the Charge in Cuba

- June 1898: US forces land in Cuba.
- Future President Teddy Roosevelt (right) leads the “Rough Riders” to victory at San Juan Hill.
- Days later, Spain effectively surrenders forces in Cuba.
- US go on to invade and occupy Puerto Rico as well.



Effects of the Spanish-American War

- Treaty of Paris of 1898: officially ends Spanish-American War.
- US gains control of Cuba and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean and the Philippines and Guam in the Pacific.



Congress Debates Expansion

- After the war, debate ensued on what to do with the Philippines:
- Imperialists believed that it was America's responsibility to "educate...uplift and civilize them". (the Philippines)
- Anti-Imperialists believed that annexation went against the basic principles America was founded upon.
- Congress voted to approve the Treaty of Paris 1898, thus annexing the Philippines as a US territory.



US Becomes a World Power

- As a result of the American victory in the Spanish-American War, the US attained a new status in world affairs.
- The US effectively becomes a player on the global stage.

The United States and East Asia

Filipinos Rebel Against U.S. Rule

- The Philippine War (1899-1902)
- After the US decision to annex the Philippines, former US ally Emilio Aguinaldo organizes a rebellion.
- Filipinos use guerilla warfare to attack US soldiers; inflict massive casualties on both sides.
- Spring 1901: Aguinaldo captured effectively ending the Filipino rebellion.
- The Philippines would not be given independence until after World War II.



The United States and Latin America

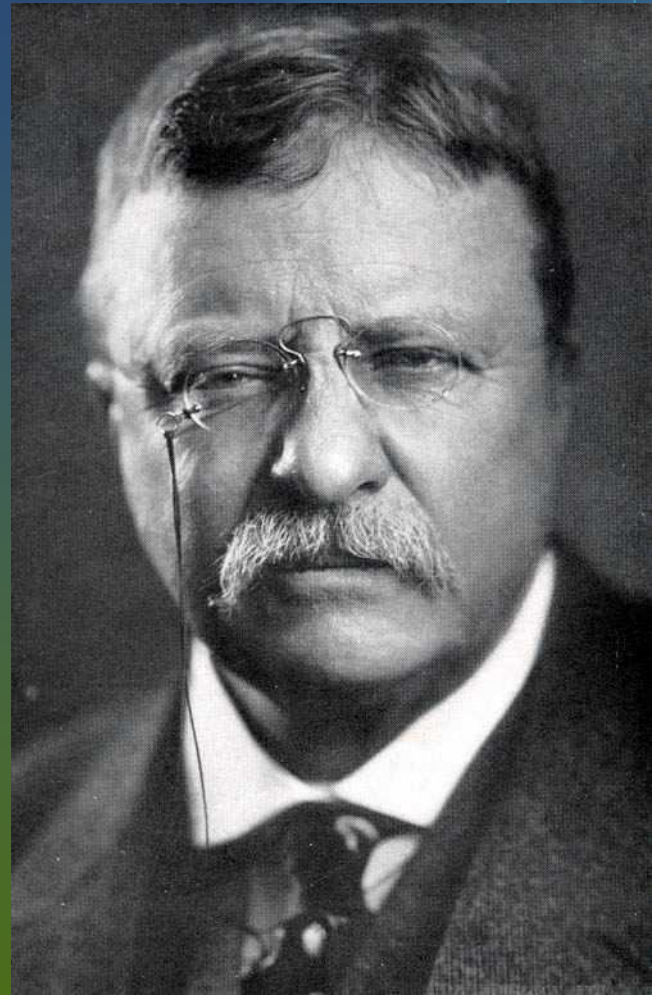
U.S. Policy in Latin America

- After the Spanish-American War, the question remained as to what to do with Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- Both islands remained in US control to some extent.



The “Big Stick” Diplomacy

- President Teddy Roosevelt (right) developed his own approach to dealing with US policies in Latin America.
- His policies became known the “Big Stick” diplomacy.
- “Speak softly and carry a big stick.” – African proverb
- Roosevelt believed that American goals in Latin America called for the creation of a strong military.



The Panama Canal

- In an effort to support US trade in Latin America, Teddy Roosevelt took over control of the construction of the Panama Canal.
- Before construction could begin, the US needed approval from the Colombian government who at the time owned what is now Panama.
- Roosevelt sent US warships to Colombia; Colombia soon granted Panama its independence.
- Construction of the canal could now begin.



The Panama Canal

- In 1914, the Panama Canal officially opened.
- The canal cut travel times in half. Instead of going around the tip of South America, boats could simply cut through the canal.



Roosevelt Updates the Monroe Doctrine

- In the early 1900s, many nations in Latin America had difficulty repaying debts owed to European nations.
- Many feared that some European countries would use their military to collect these debts from Latin America.
- In response to these threats, Teddy Roosevelt issued a new Latin American policy.



Roosevelt Updates the Monroe Doctrine

- 1904: Roosevelt issues the “Roosevelt Corollary”
- “corollary”: defined as a statement that readily follows a previous statement. (In this case, it follows the Monroe Doctrine)
- The Roosevelt Corollary stated that the US would use its military power to prevent Europe from intervening in Latin American affairs.

