

SSUSH14 Overview

- ❑ As the 20th century approached, the United States entered the world stage as an influence at least equal to such traditional powers as Britain and France.
- ❑ Quickly, the United States emerged from the Spanish-American War as a great world power.
 - The victory in the war with Spain made the United States an empire with new territorial acquisitions in the Asian Pacific.
 - Questions swirled in the United States about the appropriateness of American imperialism.
 - The United States also extended its authority in Latin America with the construction of the Panama Canal and an updated statement of US influence in the region.



SSUSH14: EXPLAIN AMERICA'S EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.



Element A: Describe how the Spanish-American War, war in the Philippines, and territorial expansion led to the debate over American imperialism.

Lead-up to Spanish-American War



❑ As the United States industrialized, businessmen began to look overseas for additional markets, sources of raw materials for future developments, and potential investment.

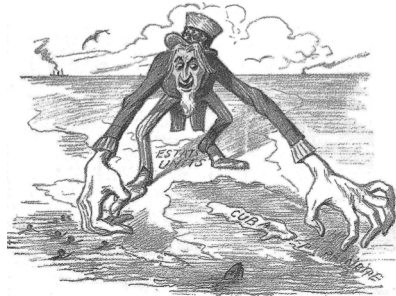
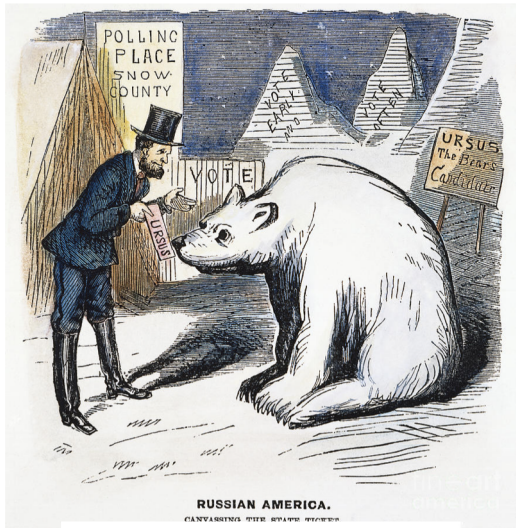
- As a young nation, many Americans felt that the United States should emulate the European nations with their colonies in Africa and Asia.

❑ Many also believed the United States should build up its Naval capacity to protect national interests.

- In an effort to obtain overseas markets and spread democracy, these expansionists wanted the United States to establish territories overseas before the European nations acquired any additional colonies.

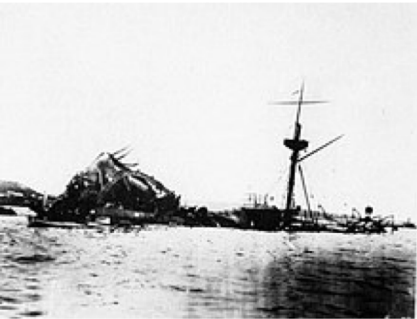
- The first overseas opportunity for the United States came with the acquisition of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

❑ Closer to home, the United States began to pursue interests in the Caribbean, which ultimately led the nation into a war against Spain.

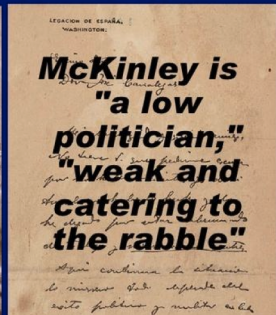


Lead-up to Spanish-American War

- ❑ The United States had long had an interest in Cuba. Throughout the 19th century, the Cubans had tried to overthrow Spanish rule but had been met with defeat each time.
 - In 1895, a new revolution broke out. Spain responded with great force and brutality.
 - Angered over the harsh treatment of the Cubans and fearful of losses to millions of American investments in Cuba, many Americans demanded action against Spain.
- ❑ The United States responded by sending the battleship Maine to the shores of Cuba.
 - On February 15, 1898, the battleship exploded and sank in Havana Harbor.
 - The incident killed 250 officers and men on the ship.
 - Newspapers in the United States demanded military action against what was perceived as an act of war.
- ❑ President McKinley was reluctant to declare war on Spain without clear evidence of Spanish involvement in the Maine's destruction.
 - A leading newspaper then published a letter stolen from the Havana post office.



The de Lome letter



- The Spanish minister to the United States, Enrique DeLome, wrote the letter.
- The “DeLome Letter” criticized President McKinley and angered many Americans, who began to clamor for war. War was ultimately declared against Spain.

Spanish-American War

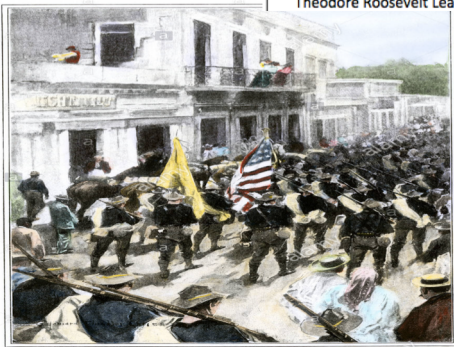
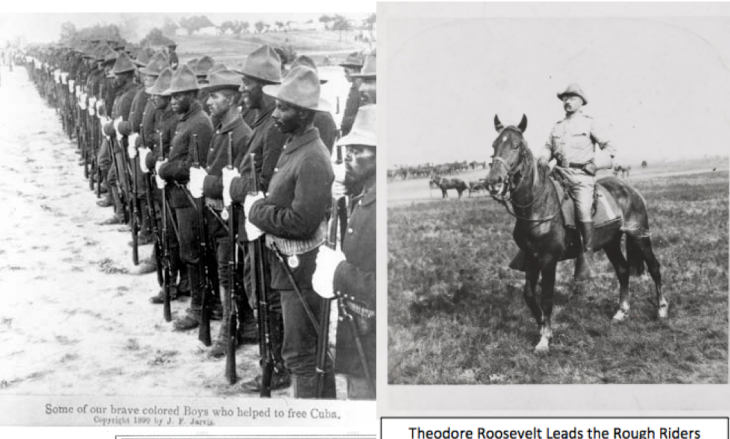
- ❑ The initial phases of the Spanish-American War actually began in the Pacific, rather than in Cuba.
 - Since 1882, the United States Navy had undergone a modernization campaign that resulted in the creation of a two-ocean fleet.
 - Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, positioned ships near the Philippines prior to the declaration of war.
 - When war was declared, Roosevelt ordered the Navy to immediately proceed to the Philippines.
 - The U.S. Navy surprised the anchored Spanish ships and destroyed them.
- ❑ After the naval operation, the United States moved quickly to bring land forces to the Philippines. The United States Army was not prepared for an overseas war.
 - Numbering only 28,000 men, the Army was mainly composed of veterans of the Plains Indian War.
 - Between the April 25th declaration of war and early summer, the Army grew to 220,000 men.
 - The new soldiers had to be quickly trained, clothed, armed, and transported to Cuba.



Spanish-American War



- ❑ While the army prepared, the U.S. Navy blockaded the Cuban coast, trapping Spain's Atlantic Fleet.
- ❑ The U.S. Army landed in Cuba and began its advance.
 - However, Spanish forces were better armed and had more combat experience than the Americans.
 - As a result, the American advance slowed to a crawl allowing the Spanish to create a fortified line in the hills around Santiago, Cuba.
- ❑ Due to the determined efforts of the U.S. Army, including four regiments of Black troops and Theodore Roosevelt's all-volunteer unit known as "The Rough Riders," the Americans forced the Spanish to retreat.
 - The Spanish fleet sailed out into the waiting guns of the American fleet and was destroyed.
 - Meanwhile, other American units captured Puerto Rico.



Lead-up to Philippine-American War



- ❑ Prior to the United States' entry into the war, Spain had refused to grant independence to Philippine rebels, who were fighting the European nation in a revolutionary war.
- ❑ The U.S. Navy quickly defeated the Spanish navy and questions immediately began about what to do with the Philippines.
 - Americans debated whether the United States should expand its territory to include the Philippines or respect Filipino independence.
- ❑ The United States decided to administer the islands as a territory because officials were afraid a free and independent Philippines would be a weak nation vulnerable to foreign take over.



Philippine-American War



- ❑ Angered by the United States' decision, Filipino freedom fighters under the leadership of Emilio Aguinaldo continued their fight.
 - This time, the fight was against the United States in what is known as the Philippine-American War.
- ❑ By 1902, the guerrilla forces were defeated and the United States began administration of the islands, gradually releasing control until final independence of the Philippines occurred in 1946.



Acquisition of Hawaii

SEE-SAW!



Uncle Sam in Hawaii.

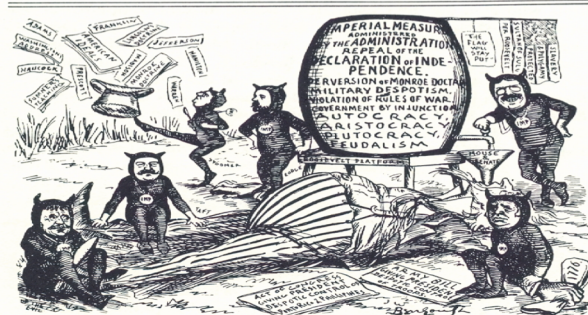
- ❑ The United States Congress had debated and rejected the annexation of Hawaii many times since 1893, when a group of American businessmen led a rebellion against the Hawaiian monarch and petitioned to become part of the United States.
- ❑ The prize naval base at Pearl Harbor had been leased by the United States for decades and it proved to be crucial to naval operations in the Pacific during the Spanish-American War.
 - As a result, Congress considered the value of this resource and annexation of Hawaii was approved in 1898.



Impact of Acquisition of New Territories

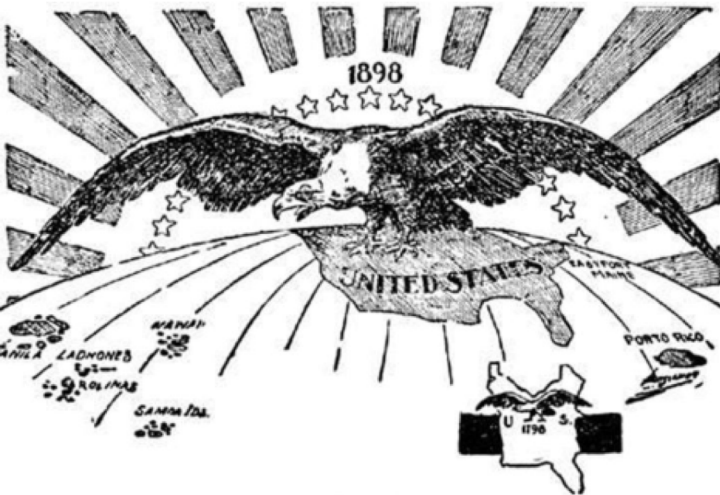
□ The acquisition of the new territories of Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico prompted an intense debate over American expansionism.

- Several prominent Americans including Williams Jennings Bryan, Mark Twain, and Andrew Carnegie founded the American Anti-Imperialist League.
 - The League opposed the annexation of the Philippines on grounds that it was the antithesis of America's founding principles.
 - The League launched a series of court challenges regarding the right of the United States to rule areas outside of the continental United States.
- Others believed that the expansion of the United States beyond its North American boundaries was important for trade, diplomatic power, and national defense.



"EXPANSION."

The water-cure method of extorting from Uncle Sam the confession that an Empire is better than a Republic.



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

□ Ultimately, the court rulings created a stratification of territories in which some could, at some future date, become states (e.g., Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Alaska) and some would not (e.g., Philippines).