



The Spanish-American War

Objectives

1. Describe how Americans reacted to the revolt in Cuba.
2. Identify the reasons the United States declared war on Spain.
3. Explain how the Spanish-American War led to the creation of an American overseas empire.

Prepare to Read

Reading Skill

Ask Analytical Questions

Reading about history may sometimes leave you puzzled. Ask questions that focus on these puzzles, then research to find answers. Start by looking at what doesn't make sense to you, such as why people acted in a particular way. Use the question starters *who*, *what*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to begin. Then, think about how events changed over time and what caused the changes.

Vocabulary Builder

High-Use Words

revolt, p. 688

prospect, p. 690

Key Terms and People

reconcentration, p. 688

José Martí, p. 688

William Randolph Hearst, p. 689

Emilio Aguinaldo, p. 690

protectorate, p. 692

★ **Background Knowledge** In the previous section, you read how the United States took its first steps on the world stage in the late 1800s. In this section, you will learn how it fought a war that transformed it into a major world power.

Main Idea

Americans sympathized with rebels who sought to gain Cuba's independence.

War Clouds Loom

Cuba, 90 miles off the coast of Florida, had been under Spanish rule since Columbus came in 1492. Over the centuries, Cubans grew increasingly discontented with Spain's harsh rule. In 1868, the Cubans began an uprising that was finally put down 10 years later.

Vocabulary Builder

revolt (ree VOHLT) *n.* uprising; rebellion

Rebellion in Cuba Cubans rose up again in 1895. To suppress this new revolt, the Spanish began a policy of reconcentration. **Reconcentration** is the forced movement of large numbers of people into detention camps for military or political reasons. In the Spanish camps, food was scarce and sanitation poor. As a result, an estimated 200,000 Cubans died.

Cuban exiles in the United States, led by **José Martí**, urged the United States to help the rebels. Martí, Cuba's greatest poet, had long dreamed of an independent Cuba. However, he was killed in a skirmish in Cuba before he could see his dream come true.



Ask Analytical Questions

Revolts in Cuba interested many Americans. Suggest a possible research question on this topic.

Americans React Many Americans were sympathetic to the Cuban rebels. They called on the U.S. government to intervene to oust the Spanish. Other Americans wanted to intervene for economic reasons, to safeguard American investments in Cuba. At the time,

Americans had about \$50 million invested in Cuban sugar and rice plantations, railroads, and iron mines.

President Cleveland ignored the calls for intervention. He remarked that “there seems to be an epidemic of insanity in the country.” When William McKinley became President in 1897, he also tried to maintain neutrality. Still, the clamor for war continued.

Some of the loudest cries came from the New York press. As you have read, Joseph Pulitzer of the *New York World* had developed a style of reporting that became known as yellow journalism. Pulitzer’s rival, William Randolph Hearst of the *New York Journal*, tried to outdo Pulitzer in the use of sensational stories and headlines.

The two publishers focused much of their attention on Cuba. “FEEDING PRISONERS TO THE SHARKS,” read one headline in the *Journal*. The *World* called Cuba a land of “blood on the roadsides, blood in the fields, blood on the doorsteps, blood, blood, blood.” This daily barrage of horror stories fed American outrage against Spain.

“Remember the *Maine*” Early in 1898, fighting broke out in Havana, Cuba’s capital. President McKinley ordered the battleship *Maine* to Havana harbor to protect American lives and property.

On February 15, at 9:40 P.M., a great explosion sank the *Maine* and killed 260 men. To this day, no one knows what caused the explosion. However, the press and the public blamed Spain. With cries of “Remember the *Maine*,” Americans demanded revenge.

Checkpoint Why was the *Maine* in Havana harbor?



Explore More Video

To learn more about the sinking of the *Maine*, view the video.

The Yellow Press Reports on the *Maine* Sensational coverage of the explosion of the battleship *Maine* by New York’s yellow press helped feed the fever for war.

Critical Thinking:
Distinguish Facts From Opinions From these examples and from what you have read, state two facts and two opinions that appeared in coverage of the *Maine*.



Main Idea

The United States declared war on Spain and won a speedy and overwhelming victory.

Vocabulary Builder

prospect (PRAHS pehkt) *n.*
expectation; likely outcome



Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider

The United States Goes to War

War fever swept the United States. At first, President McKinley favored a peaceful settlement between Spain and the rebels. He feared that war would disrupt the U.S. economy. In the end, though, McKinley gave in to the public pressure. On April 11, 1898, he asked Congress to declare war on Spain. Nine days later, Congress did so.

Surprise in the Philippines The first great battle of the war was not fought in Cuba. It took place halfway around the world.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt was eager to expand U.S. naval power. After the *Maine* blew up, Roosevelt saw the prospect of war growing. Roosevelt telegraphed Commodore George Dewey, head of the Pacific fleet. He ordered Dewey to move his ships so as to strike the Philippines when war broke out. On May 1, Dewey, with a small fleet of American warships, sank the entire Spanish squadron at Manila Bay, in the Philippines. The Americans did not lose a single ship or life.

Fall of Manila Like the Cubans, many Filipinos were in rebellion against the Spanish. Dewey enlisted **Emilio Aguinaldo**, a rebel leader, to help him seize Manila from the Spanish. Soon, the United States found itself in control of the Philippine Islands. Aguinaldo was a major help to the Americans. But the Americans overlooked the fact that Aguinaldo was fighting for Philippine independence. Soon he would be fighting against the Americans.

War in the Caribbean The war's focus next shifted to Cuba. The main fighting took place around Santiago and at sea. American ground forces arrived in Santiago in late June. They were poorly trained and poorly equipped—but eager to fight.

One of the best known units was the Rough Riders, led by Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt had given up his navy post to join the war. On July 1, Roosevelt helped lead his men in a successful charge up San Juan Hill that became the most celebrated event of the war.

Americans—both black and white—fought in the Santiago campaign. First Lieutenant John J. Pershing wrote:

“White regiments, black regiments . . . fought shoulder to shoulder, unmindful of race or color . . . and mindful only of their common duty as Americans.”

—First Lieutenant John J. Pershing, speech, November 27, 1898

Meanwhile, U.S. ships had trapped the Spanish fleet in Santiago harbor. When the fleet tried to escape, U.S. ships destroyed it. The 24,000 Spanish soldiers at Santiago surrendered two weeks later.

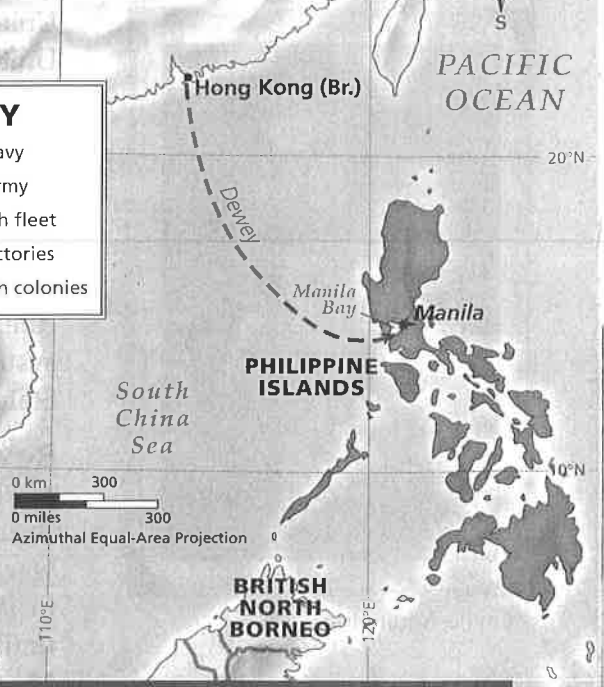
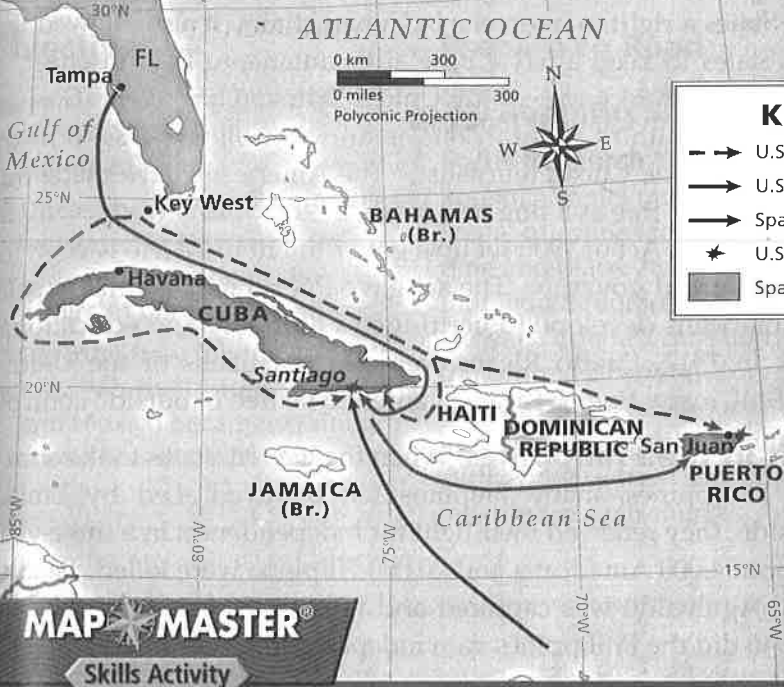
After the Spanish surrendered Cuba, American troops invaded Puerto Rico, another Spanish possession in the Caribbean. They quickly brought the island under U.S. control.

Checkpoint What lands did Spain lose in the Caribbean?

Spanish-American War

War in the Caribbean

War in the Pacific



MAP MASTER

Skills Activity

The two fronts in the Spanish-American War were on opposite sides of the world.

(a) **Read a Map** Locate these places: Philippine Islands, Manila Bay, Santiago, San Juan. Which are located in the Pacific Ocean? Which are in the Atlantic Ocean or the Caribbean Sea?

(b) **Interpret Maps** Describe the different routes taken by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army to reach Santiago.

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Checkpoint What lands did Spain lose in the Caribbean?

An American Empire

In December 1898, Spain and the United States signed a peace treaty. Spain accepted Cuban independence. It granted Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Pacific islands of Guam and Wake to the United States. In return, the United States paid Spain \$20 million.

Debating the Treaty The treaty triggered an angry debate in the United States. Many Americans said taking colonies violated the principle of the Declaration of Independence—that all people had a right to self-government. Besides, they said, acquiring colonies brought the risk of future wars.

Expansionists, by contrast, welcomed the treaty. It gave the United States important bases, they said, and provided new business opportunities. Also, they argued, the United States had a duty to spread the ideas of democratic government to other parts of the world.

Main Idea

Over opposition from some Americans, the United States took on an overseas empire.



Emilio Aguinaldo

Governing Cuba and Puerto Rico The United States replaced Spain as the leading Caribbean power. As a result, Cuba did not gain the true independence it sought. In 1902, Congress forced Cuba to include the Platt Amendment in its new constitution. The amendment limited Cuba's power to make treaties or borrow money. It gave the United States a right to intervene in Cuban affairs. It also allowed the United States to keep a naval base at Guantánamo Bay. In effect, it made Cuba a protectorate of the United States. A **protectorate** is an independent country whose policies are controlled by an outside power. Wrote one Cuban journalist, "The Americans have made our country free. As free as a dog on a leash."

The Foraker Act of 1900 set up a government in Puerto Rico, with a U.S.-appointed governor. The act gave Puerto Ricans limited self-rule. Americans developed Puerto Rico's economy and educational system. In 1917, Puerto Ricans were made citizens of the United States. Still, many Puerto Ricans wanted to be free of outside control.

Revolt in the Philippines When the United States took control of the Philippines, many Filipinos felt betrayed. Led by Emilio Aguinaldo, they renewed their fight for independence. In a three-year war, about 4,000 Americans and 20,000 Filipinos were killed. Finally, in 1901, Aguinaldo was captured and fighting came to an end. Not until 1946 did the Philippines gain independence.

✓Checkpoint How did the treatment of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines differ?

★ **Looking Back and Ahead** The Spanish-American War gave the United States an overseas empire. Next, you will read how the United States extended its influence in Latin America.

Section 2 | Check Your Progress

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Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Identify** What role did the press play in rallying American support for a war in Cuba?
(b) Draw Inferences What motivated the United States to enter into a war with Spain?
- (a) List** What were the terms of the peace treaty between the United States and Spain?
(b) Analyze Cause and Effect How had the United States replaced Spain as a colonial power in the world?

Reading Skill

- 3. Ask Analytical Questions**
Reread the text following the subheading "Debating the Treaty." What were the arguments in the debate? Suggest a possible research question on this topic.

Vocabulary Builder

Answer the following questions in complete sentences that show your understanding of the key terms.

- 4.** How did reconcentration suppress the people of Cuba?

- 5.** Why did a Cuban describe protectorate status as like being a "dog on a leash"?

Writing

- 6.** Write a persuasive paragraph either for or against the Spanish-American War. Exchange papers with a classmate who took the opposite view. Next, write comments opposing the other person's arguments. Finally, take back your own paper and rewrite it to respond to your classmate's notes.