

KARMA

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND
(AKA my God we've become Britain!!!)



British King George III, 1776



American President Theodore Roosevelt, 1898

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY 1890-1908

A Scalia Treatise on the Rise of American Imperialism

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PREFACE

OK, now, you just knew deep down that America couldn't stop its expansion just because the Pacific Ocean was in the way. This was (and still is) a well-known fact; Johns Hopkins and University of Wisconsin history professor **Frederick Jackson Turner** stated as much in his 1893 classic essay "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" when he declared that the American frontier, as of 1890, was officially closed. As a consequence America would have to find another outlet for its expansionist character as defined by the gospel of Manifest Destiny. Besides, sitting on a pat hand when there's still cards on the table, well, that's just not our style. We always think we have an ace in the hole.

American global expansion is a monumental factor in the history of the WORLD as well as in America's history; consequently the birth of American global expansion adds a totally new dimension to this course. Welcome to the birth of YOUR America, an America whose interests and influences are prevalent in practically every country on earth, from energy to politics, from Levis and Tommy Hilfiger to (GASP!!!) Larry the Cable Guy (which is, I suppose, appropriate . . . this expansion was initiated and nurtured by an American president whose life was the manifestation of GITTIN' 'IT DONE!!).

First of all, let's briefly consider the state of American foreign policy during the **antebellum** period; we have to set the precedent here, right? With the exception of the 1848 conflict with Mexico, the United States had few foreign interests, save for southern desires for a Cuban/Central American slave society (Jeopardy time: Who was the "Grey Eyed Man of Destiny?") Remember to phrase your answer in the form of a question). In short: American foreign policy existed subservient to the controversy over slavery, and consequently was based on internal, *domestic* issues. (1: Do you agree? 2: Do you see the basis for this contention?)

FOREIGN POLICY INFLUENCES

Americans did not simply wake up one day and decide to flood the world with American culture, influence, and, of course, products. In fact, the prevailing foreign policy attitude of the immediate post-Civil-War years was one of isolationism. **Isolationism** was easy and convenient for the United States: we were sandwiched between by two great oceans, sort of a "natural defensive moat," and were surrounded by weak neighbors, none of whom posed a threat to our security . . . unless, of course, you drank their water. However, as the Gilded Age progressed this began to change. Politicians and businessmen saw enormous economic potential for overseas markets (CHA-CHING!), and mid-level American producers, such as farmers, saw increased markets for their goods. Consequently, by the late 19th century, Americans began to look away from home for their future.

There had to be reasons for such an outward interest. Let's look at those reasons, and pay close attention: you'll see some of these again.

I. Manifest Destiny. HA! And you thought this ended with Wounded Knee. Referring back to Turner's **Frontier Thesis** by 1890 America had expanded as far as geography would allow (in other from sea to shining sea), and as a consequence **the frontier was officially considered closed.** Uh oh . . .

OK, Dr. Turner, anything else? C'mon, guys, give me a break, of course there was. This guy was a historian, and as you all know by now, we have an answer for everything.¹ According to Turner, America's unique spirit and success was a direct result of the country's westward expansion. The bold challenge of the wide open West, as opposed to the stagnant atrophy of the congested East, was where the distinct American national identity and characteristic emerged. The forging of this unique and rugged American identity occurred at the transference juncture between the civilization of settlement and the savagery of wilderness. This interaction produced a new type of citizen, one with the power and will to tame the wild and one upon whom the wilderness experience had conferred strength and individuality. As each generation of pioneers moved fifty to one hundred miles west, they abandoned traditional, old, and useless European practices, institutions and

¹ This drives my wife crazy. I suppose it IS notable that she points out that while I have AN answer for everything, in matters non-historic it is seldom the CORRECT answer for anything.

ideas, and instead found new solutions to new, American problems created by their new, American environment. Over multiple generations this frontier experience produced distinct characteristics of informality, violence, crudeness, rampant “Jacksonian-on-steroids” Democracy and initiative that the world recognized, and sometimes cursed, as “American.”²

This is powerful medicine when broaching the idea of expansion. American social momentum was forged and defined by this overwhelming Frontier Experience, and was a positive consequence as long as there was frontier left to contain it. However, absent an adequate environment in which this grand design would reach fulfillment, American social inertia and momentum would turn upon itself (sort of a social black hole), and result in internal, social upheaval and unhealthy class distinction. This is exactly what Turner feared would result as a result of the closing of the Frontier in 1890, and his paranoia sustained itself when the lack of a place in which this momentum could fulfill its destiny began to push America’s expansionist buttons.



Dr. Frederick Jackson Turner, ca. 1905

When Americans began to look abroad, they did so for a number of reasons, not the least of which was a desire to continue this search for the Holy Grail we know as **Manifest Destiny**. Remember this little jewel? It is the contention of many Americans (influential, powerful Americans) that American expansion is the result of God’s mandate that White, Anglo-Saxon Protestant, American culture rule the world. Wow, that’s a mighty big determination for a relatively young country to make. So . . . what gave American expansionists this idea?

II. Social Darwinism. Many Americans applied Herbert Spencer’s theory of Social Darwinism to nations as well as individuals. Darwin himself stated that “there is much truth in the belief that the progress of the United States, as well as the character of her people, is the results of natural selection.”³ Looking abroad, many Americans drew inspiration from growing imperialistic powers such as Britain, Germany, and Russia by determining that they became increasingly powerful because they were stronger than the peoples they conquered. In other, they were wealthy and powerful because they won “Survivor: World.” Such are the fruits of emerging on top in the “Survival of the Fittest.”⁴

Do not disregard the role of religion in Social Darwinist theory. By virtue of Manifest Destiny, many Americans argued that white Anglo-Saxon Protestantism was the ONLY mandated, appropriate religion, consequently it was America’s secular duty to spread Christianity to those millions of red, brown, yellow, and other peoples who were drowning in their own paganism. Congregationalist (yeah, they’re still around, having survived the First Great Awakening somewhat intact) minister **Josiah Strong** spoke for millions when he wrote “the Anglo-Saxon embodies two great ideas: civil liberty and pure spiritual Christianity . . . as such, he is divinely commissioned to be his brother’s keeper.”⁵ Hmmm: I suppose this depends on just what one considers the appropriate role of societal and cultural “keeper;” we do not seem to have learned very much from Cortez . . . or Custer, for that matter.

² Turner, Frederick Jackson. *The Frontier in American History*. 5th Edition, New York: Holt, 1921.

³ Darwin, Charles *The Descent of Man* 1871.

⁴ I get the image of Queen Victoria of England, Otto van Bismarck of Germany, and Czar Alexander of Russia running around the palace wearing those ridiculous big foam fingers and chanting “We’re Number One!”

⁵ Strong, Josiah *Our Country :Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis* (1885)

III. Expansion Theory and Policy. Although America was isolationist, like everything else in the Gilded Age this was bound to change. Many American politicians became proponents of an expansionist foreign policy, the most radical being **Theodore Roosevelt, Senator Albert Beveridge (R-In), and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass).**⁶ These influential men were fervent followers of the leading expansionist theoretician of the day, **Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan.** Mahan outlined historical precedent for the predominance of the

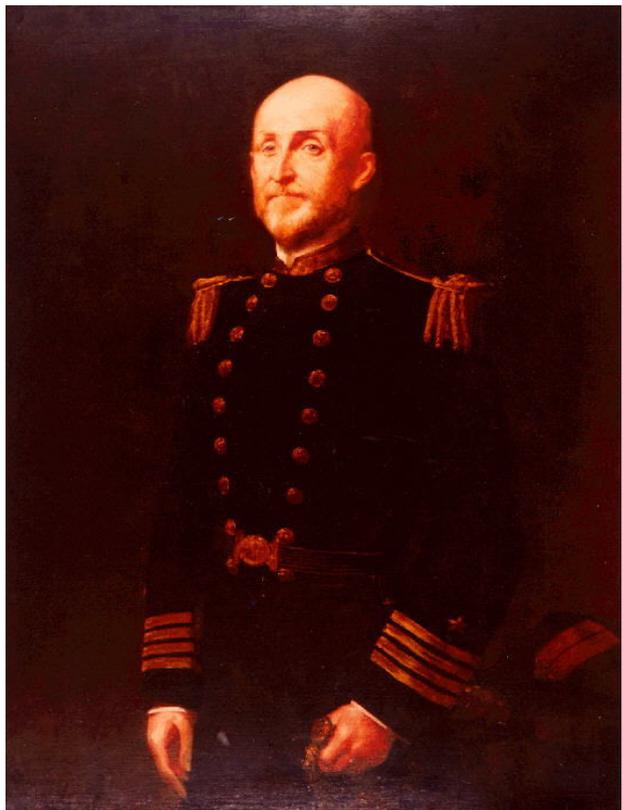


Photo #: NH 48056-KN A.T. Mahan

existing world powers his classic *The Effects of Sea Power upon History 1660-1783.*⁷ In this book, Mahan showed that national greatness and prosperity flowed from and was protected by sea power, which was of fundamental economic importance. In short, whoever controlled the seas controlled the means of transit which provided modern nations with their economic sustenance. Think this guy ever heard of mercantilism? This “control” consisted of **(a) a powerful navy, (b) strong merchant marine, (c) healthy foreign commerce, and (d) overseas colonies for raw materials and naval bases.** Simply put: If America wished to compete economically and politically on a global scale, she would have to place priority on constructing a state-of-the-art navy, and then become adept at using it. She did, and she did. In addition to this new navy, America would have to acquire remote possessions to serve as **coaling stations.** You see, 19th century vessels could only travel short distances before needing to refuel. These remote outposts, located primarily in the Pacific Ocean, would serve as trans-oceanic “Buckees:” in other words, refueling stations where naval ships could replenish their coal bunkers and fresh water supply. As such, this need gave strategic importance to garden spots such as Guam, the Samoan Islands, the Philippines . . . and Hawaii.⁸

IV. Global Trade. AH, NOW to the meat of the issue; you just KNEW that, at the heart of the matter, money had to be an issue. And it makes perfect economic sense: why limit your products at home when the entire world beckons? With a domestic *laissez faire* economy, a touch of mercantilism might be a healthy thing. Many Americans believed that by establishing world trade partners and markets, America would rise as a global economic power. (Guess what?? They were right.) Besides, knowing what you do about politics in the Gilded Age and the “effectiveness” of the Presidency and Congress . . . who’s REALLY calling the shots here? Now, if you are going to trade with the rest of the world, and the rest of the world lies across massive expanses of ocean . . . **COMMON SENSE ALERT!!!!!!** . . . what do you need to carry out and protect such trade?

V. Naval Power: AMERICA NEEDED A MERCHANT MARINE AND NAVY. At the close of the Civil War, America possessed a pitiful navy, most of which was designed for the “Brown Water” (or riverine) operations of the Civil War. Consequently, in 1880, Congress gave permission for the United States to upgrade her naval forces by building modern, ocean-going, ironclad ships. Now, please understand that, in the late 19th century, these ugly behemoths⁹ did not operate on nuclear power, nor did they use sails, nor were they propelled

⁶ Notice that they are all Republicans?

⁷ This classic is right up there with the Bible for naval historians. See the kind of stuff I read on weekends? Don’t complain to me about your reading list.

⁸ While few can argue that Hawaii is truly a garden spot, whether Guam, the Samoan Islands, or the Philippines are depends on whether or not you served there during World War II. It’s all a matter of perspective.

⁹ Look, I am a sailor and naval historian who loves and appreciates the aesthetic beauty of naval vessels, but outside of CSS *Stonewall*, these were the ugliest ships ever built. We’re talking butt-ugly.

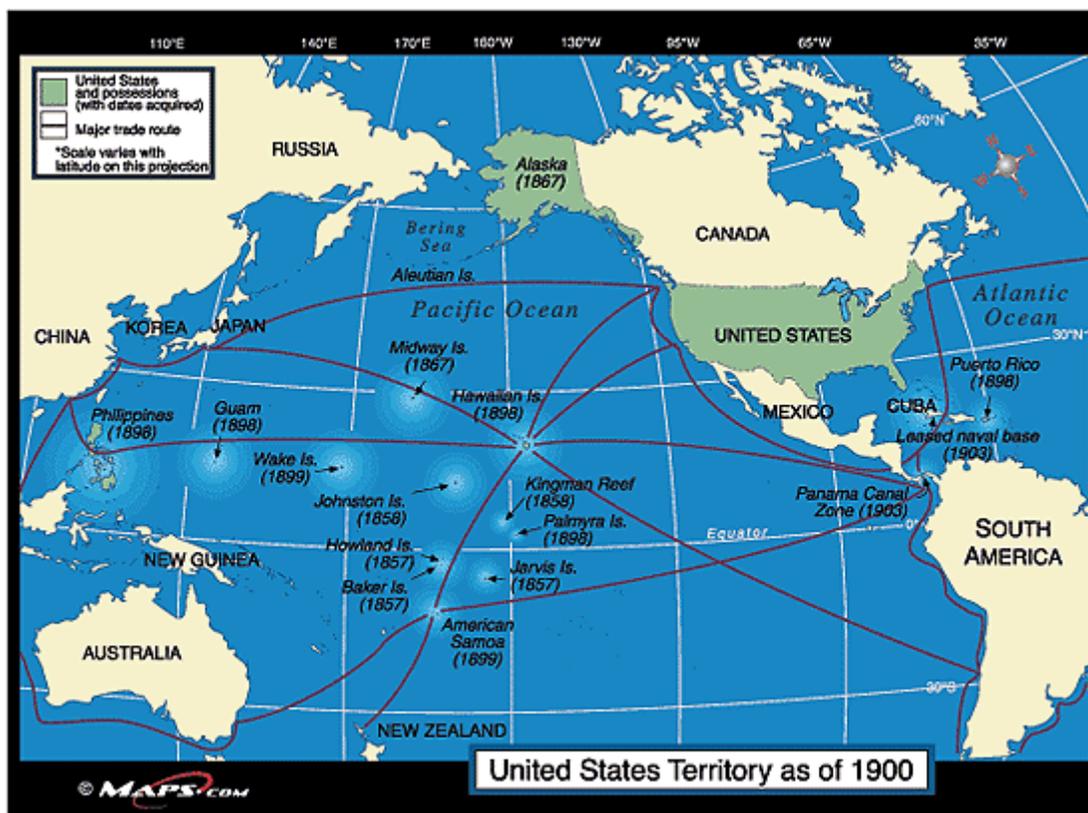
by diesel power. They ran (badly, I might add) and depended (heavily, I might add) on **coal, hence the need for coaling stations**. Jeez, these monstrosities did not get very good mileage (ie miles per chunk of coal), and could not make it across the Pacific Ocean on only one bunker of coal (or on only one tank of drinkable water, for that matter). They were good for about 3,500 nautical miles or so, at which point the captain started looking for Buckees.

One Last Thought . . . The transit from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean had historically presented nations with a logistic nightmare.¹⁰ The only way to complete this transit was around the tip of South America, a long and arduous journey that was incredibly time-consuming. Since the 1840s, England (and some Americans) dreamed of a short cut to the Pacific by way of cutting a canal across Central America; this desire lay at the heart of British support for the 1824 Monroe Doctrine. In such an eventuality, and by virtue of geography, the Caribbean would become geo-politically and economically strategically vital to the United States. Consequently, after the Civil War, Americans renewed their interest in a **trans-isthmusian canal**. The result would be one of the most notorious foreign policy episodes in American history. Knowing what you now know about American history, you have to feel that this is going to be good.

Questions to ponder (man this topic has 2012 DBQ written all over it):

- Make sure you are familiar with the factors behind the desire to expand.
- How do these differ from earlier American foreign policy episodes, such as those of the early Republic and the Jeffersonian Period?

EXPANDING INTO THE PACIFIC



American Mercantilism ca 1900: How did all of these places benefit the mother country?

¹⁰ Remember the passage around the tip of South American at Cape Horn in the movie *Master and Commander*, you know, when the young lieutenant learns that cannon balls don't float? That's not a cinematic stretch; take it from someone who has been there. Its terribly rough for modern vessels, impossible and wanton waste of life for 19th century ships.

I. The Northern Route. A primary area of interest for American expansionists was the Pacific Ocean and Asia. In 1867, to safeguard America's northern access to Asiatic ports, Andrew Johnson's Secretary of State **William Seward** engineered the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. Although vilified and scorned for the purchase--it was sardonically known as "**Seward's Folly**-- Alaska ultimately paid huge dividends for the United States (although anyone who has been stationed at the naval base on Adak Island can verify that the "folly" description is most accurate). Besides, Sarah Palin's gotta come from somewhere.

II. The Southern Route. Straddling the Equator were two island groups which held promise for American expansionist intentions. Both were strategically located as ideal coaling stations, and both possessed major natural harbors. These groups were the Samoan group and the Hawaiian Islands.

Samoa. In 1878 the United States approached the Samoans with an attractive treaty offer. The United States would receive port of call privileges¹¹ at the major harbor of **Pago Pago**; Americans in Samoa would receive extraterritoriality (subject to American . . . not Samoan . . . law) status; Samoa would become a favored trading partner; and the United States would protect Samoa from outside encroachment. Although a good deal for both parties, as usual something had to stink up the stew, usually a third party. In this case, add a fourth. During American negotiations, Britain and Germany arrived at similar arrangements with other islands in the Samoan group, and, you guessed it, tensions between the three powers led to war in 1887. The German-backed faction emerged victorious, prompting the three powers to confer in Berlin. The result was an uneasy **triumvirate protectorate** over the islands.

Hawaii. Initially, American officials regarded Hawaii in dual terms: an outpost to guard America's western flank and also a place to hold a meaningless post-season football all-star game for millionaires who jaunt off to Hawaii like the rest of us jaunt off to the restroom. Oops, sorry . . . I digress. Anyway, the possessor of the island group would pose a direct threat to America's west coast, a theory later verified on 7 December 1941. In addition, there was a sizable American planter and missionary presence in the islands. However, when everything came out in the wash, the primary motivator for American interest was **sugar**.

Because of the potential of the Hawaiian sugar crop, in 1875, the islands agreed to trade agreement with the US. This agreement guaranteed that Hawaiian sugar would enter the US **tariff-free** as long as the Hawaiians made no attempt to lease its territory to any other power. In return for its tax-free export status, the Hawaiians allowed the United States to build a naval base (coaling station) at Pearl Harbor.

Again, greed conquers all. In 1877, aware of their importance to the Hawaiian economy, American planters forced the king to accept a constitutional government which, of course, would be dominated by Americans. Although anti-American sentiment began to grow (gosh, this never happens today, does it?), the islands remained calm until the ultra-high **McKinley Tariff of 1890**, which stripped Hawaii of its tariff-free status. Unable to compete with domestic American sugar, Hawaii fell into an economic crisis. The Hawaiians blamed the Americans for this turn of events, and people began to get huffy.

Anti-American fever reached its zenith when the king's sister, **Queen Liliuokalani**, rose to the throne in 1891. Determined to return Hawaii to self-rule, she met with stiff resistance from American sugar and pineapple planters (primarily **Dole**), who, in 1893, backed and sponsored a revolt against the queen. The American minister in Hawaii called in American marines to aid the revolt (under the guise of "protecting American interests"), and subsequently smashed Hawaiian resistance and overthrew the queen (maybe they just got tired of butchering her name). In a Texas-type move, the new Hawaiian government asked for annexation, but in a Jackson-like move, newly-elected President Cleveland refused a treaty of annexation. Consequently, the islands remained a republic under the provisional American government until 1897.

In 1896, newly-elected expansionist Republican president William McKinley, aware that he did not have Democratic congressional support for annexation, was nevertheless looking for a reason to acquire the islands. He found it (or rather, it fell into his lap) in the fall of 1897, when a Japanese fleet arrived in Hawaii to seize control of the islands. Fearing the loss of the islands, McKinley utilized an emergency **joint resolution of**

¹¹ Meaning that American sailors were welcome there and probably would not get shot . . . at least not by the police.

Congress (which only requires a simple majority vote of both houses and not a two-thirds majority) to annex the islands. In 1898, Hawaii was annexed as a territory of the United States. Its déjà vu all over again (sorry, Yogi). Doggone it, I told you this joint resolution stuff was important!

The Bering Sea Incident Here's one that you won't learn anywhere else but here, and proof positive that Americans will fight over darned near anything. In 1886, the United States declared the Bering Straits between Russia and Alaska closed to Canadians engaged in the practice of seal hunting. You see, during open-water, or **pelagic, seal hunting**, hunters experienced difficulty distinguishing between male and female seals; guess it's hard to grab the seal and lift its tail to check while the animal is struggling for its life. Anyway, to be on the safe side, hunters just killed them all; it's a "deadliest catch" only if you're the seal. This, of course, resulted in the deaths of female seals, the absence of which, by 1880, began to threaten the herd. Therefore, to preserve the herd for future hunting, America shut the door on pelagic seal hunting. Canadians threatened action against America (what kind, nobody knows . . . I mean, what could they really do? Bore us to death?) but it was all bluster. In 1892, the two countries settled an arbitration which abolished pelagic hunting in the open sea. Canada agreed to sit back and watch the Discovery Channel follow a bunch of whining and bitching crab fishermen around the Bering Sea, while the US gave Canada the right to form lousy major league baseball teams (Montreal Expos? Really?) as well as permission to screw up American football with their own silly version.

War with Britain?? You know, it's almost comic. Some things in American history never change. When we get a bug in our shorts, we seem to always want to fight Britain over it. In 1887, the British disputed the boundary between **British Guyana and Venezuela**. Now, on the surface, who really cares, right? However, early in 1887 some idiot found a little yellow rock in a river, and, well, you know the rest. All of a sudden, this boundary was the end-all of British foreign policy. In any case, why in the world would America care? Simple: the dispute violated the **Monroe Doctrine** article that stated "any foreign threat to a western hemispheric country would be considered a threat to the security of the United States." So, after the appropriate bluster and grandstanding, the US decided that it would decide the boundary. When Britain protested that the Monroe Doctrine was not recognized in any international court,¹² Americans (led by Theodore Roosevelt) screamed for war. Before this all got out of hand, in 1897 Britain started experiencing trouble in South Africa with the Zulus, and finally agreed to American arbitration of the dispute. (It is also noteworthy that about this time, the gold discovery turned out to be a bust because the gold rocks were mostly pyrite, aka fool's gold, and not the real deal). After all of the trash talk, the British and Americans agreed to the exact stipulations about which they had originally argued ten years earlier. Yeah, and we want to spread this culture throughout the world. The Venezuelans remained conspicuously quiet on the entire matter, obviously having a good laugh at the entire episode. Loco gringos.

CUBA

Few topics have been as continually important in America foreign policy as the little "paradiso" 90 miles off the coast of Florida whose cigars are vastly overrated and definitely not worth the \$10,000.00 fine for smuggling them into the US (although we did get one helluva deal when the Puerta family set foot on US soil). Anyway, you will recall that Americans have coveted Cuba since the days of William Walker and the desire to spread slavery south to the Caribbean (recall the **Ostend Manifesto?**) By the late 19th century, Cuba remained a concern, albeit for entirely different reasons. In addition, it represented the last vestige of the late, great, deteriorating Spanish New World Empire. By the late 1800s, the Cuban people were sick of Spanish rule, and emulating the example of big brother El Norte, began the long struggle for their independence.

The US, of course, had to stick its nose exactly where it doesn't belong: right in the middle of Cuba's internal affairs. Won't be the first time, nor definitely not the last.

¹² It is interesting to note that the Monroe Doctrine was a British idea to begin with.



Anti-Spanish Political Cartoon ca 1896

Cuba Libre Cuban resistance to Spanish rule increased over the years, and in 1895, this resistance exploded into open rebellion. Led by **Jose Marti** (and spurred in part to an economic depression brought about by the **Wilson-Gorman Tariff**, which removed Cuban sugar from America's tariff-free list), Cuban revolutionaries waged guerilla warfare against Spanish troops.¹³ After a year of nasty, bloody rebellion, Spanish general Valeriano Weyler arrived in Cuba with instructions to crush further resistance. The resulting campaign was brutal and bloody, prompting American newspapers to label Weyler "**Butcher**" Weyler.

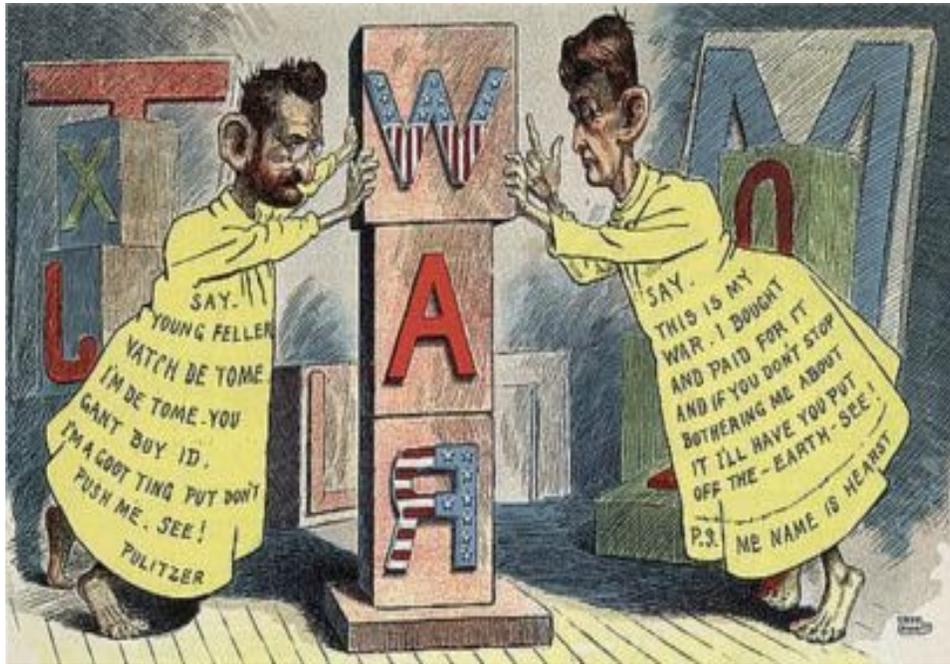
Yellow Journalism The events in Cuba gave newspapers cause to assault (and influence) public opinion. Led by **Joseph Pulitzer** (*The New York World*) and **William Randolph Hearst** (*The New York Journal*), American papers engaged in a contest of one-upsmanship. The war in the press was, as one journalist aptly described, "a battle of gigantic proportions, in which the sufferings of Cubans merely chanced to provide some of the most convenient ammunition."¹⁴ Knowing that Americans sympathized with the Cuban revolt because of their similar colonial experience with Britain, these publications not only reported the war, but also fed the flames with sensationalistic stories of brutality, rape, and other indignities. It worked.¹⁵

¹³ Marti planned the revolt from his hotel room in New York City; there was never any shortage of American complicity in Cuban unrest. During one skirmish with Spanish troops, Marti was killed, and became an instant martyr—one that would feed Fidel Castro's propaganda machine 50 years later.

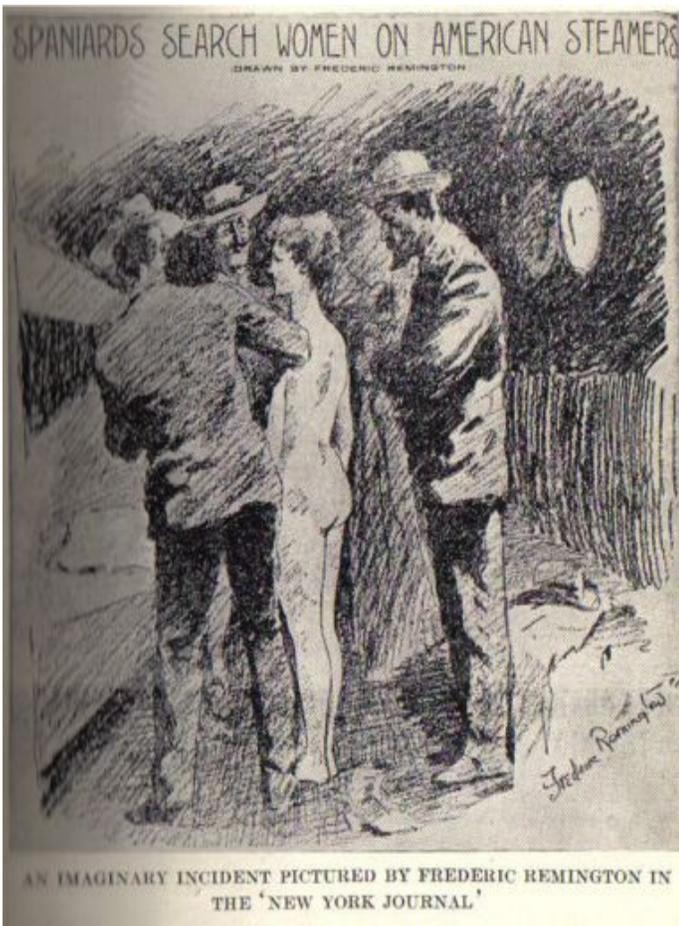
¹⁴ Anonymous, *New York World*

¹⁵ It worked all too well. Because photography was still in its infancy, newspapers relied on illustrations to document the war. When Hearst's illustrator, Frederick Remington, complained to Hearst that he was wasting time in Cuba because there was nothing to draw, Hearst wired back "You furnish the pictures. I'll furnish the war." Rather chilling, especially since Hearst delivered on his promise.

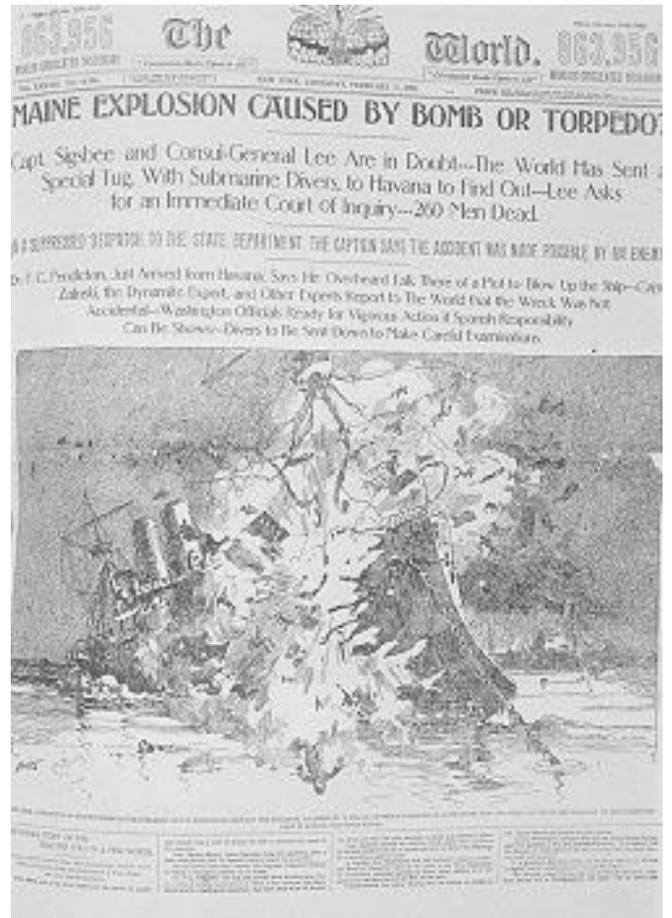
THE HEARST-PULITZER YELLOW Journalism EXTRAVAGANZA!



Pulitzer (left) and Hearst (right) fight over “their” war.



Hearst’s Brand of Yellow Journalism



Pulitzer Plays the Blame Game

\$50,000 REWARD.—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?—\$50,000 REWARD.

SPORTS FOR GREATER NEW YORK

NEW YORK JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER

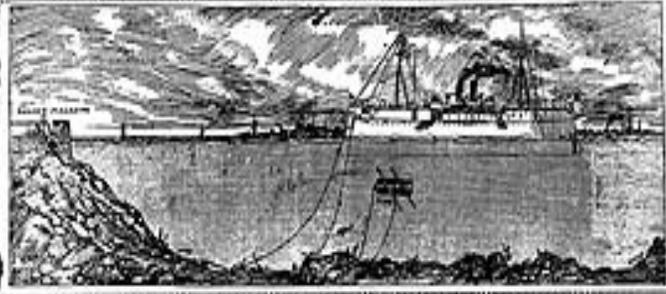
DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY.

\$50,000!
Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.

\$50,000!
For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!

\$50,000!
For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 25 American Sailors to Their Death, Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.



NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.

Historic Mine or a Sunk Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-of-War—Officers and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown Into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Fought to Key West Scud the Aftermath of Accident—Spanish Officers Pro

SPORTING SPECIAL. **NEW YORK JOURNAL** BASEBALL

SPANISH SHIPS ON OUR COAST! DIED IN FOLDS OF OLD GLORY!

Mysterious Warships Seen by Incoming Vessels May Be Privateers.

Bagley and His Men to be Revenged by the Machias and Wilmington.

WASHINGTON, MAY 12.—THE NAVY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT SPANISH TORPEDO BOATS AND AN AUXILIARY CRUISER ARE OFF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST. THREE INCOMING MERCHANT VESSELS REPORT HAVING COUNTERED WARSHIPS. THEY MAY BE PRIVATEERS.

KEY WEST, MAY 12.—BAGLEY AND HIS COMPANIONS WILL BE SWIFTLY AVENGED. THE MACHIAS AND WILMINGTON WERE ORDERED TO CONTINUE THE BOMBARDMENT OF CARDENAS TO-DAY. IT IS NOT IMPROBABLE THAT THE FORGOTTEN COMPANIONS HAVE SURRENDERED.

The American squadron, composed of nine war ships, is bombarding San Juan. Four American gunboats shelled Cardenas, Cuba. Five Americans were killed and two wounded. The Winslow was disabled. Reports that the Tecumseh was sunk in a battle off Cienfuegos are discredited by navy officials.

The Concord sunk a Spanish gunboat at Iloilo, Philippine Islands. George Downing, the Spanish spy, hanged himself in his cell in Washington to-day. Bewey wires: "I am taking Spanish guns." Two regiments of Pennsylvania troops and two of Massachusetts are ordered to Tampa.

NO. 10
NEW YORK - BROOKLYN

If Bagley and his men would have been firing their weapons rather than grasping the flag they may have been still alive.

And the Assistant Secretary's Evidence is . . . ?



Spain's "Sense of Justice"
C. G. Bush, *New York World*, 1898.

Hmmm . . . Looks Like Mr. Bush Slept Through Scalia's History of the Americas class

I wonder how many of these "patriotic citizens" will actually go and fight?
My guess is, not many.

The Examiner.

THE SPIRIT OF WAR PERVADES THE BREASTS OF ALL AMERICANS.

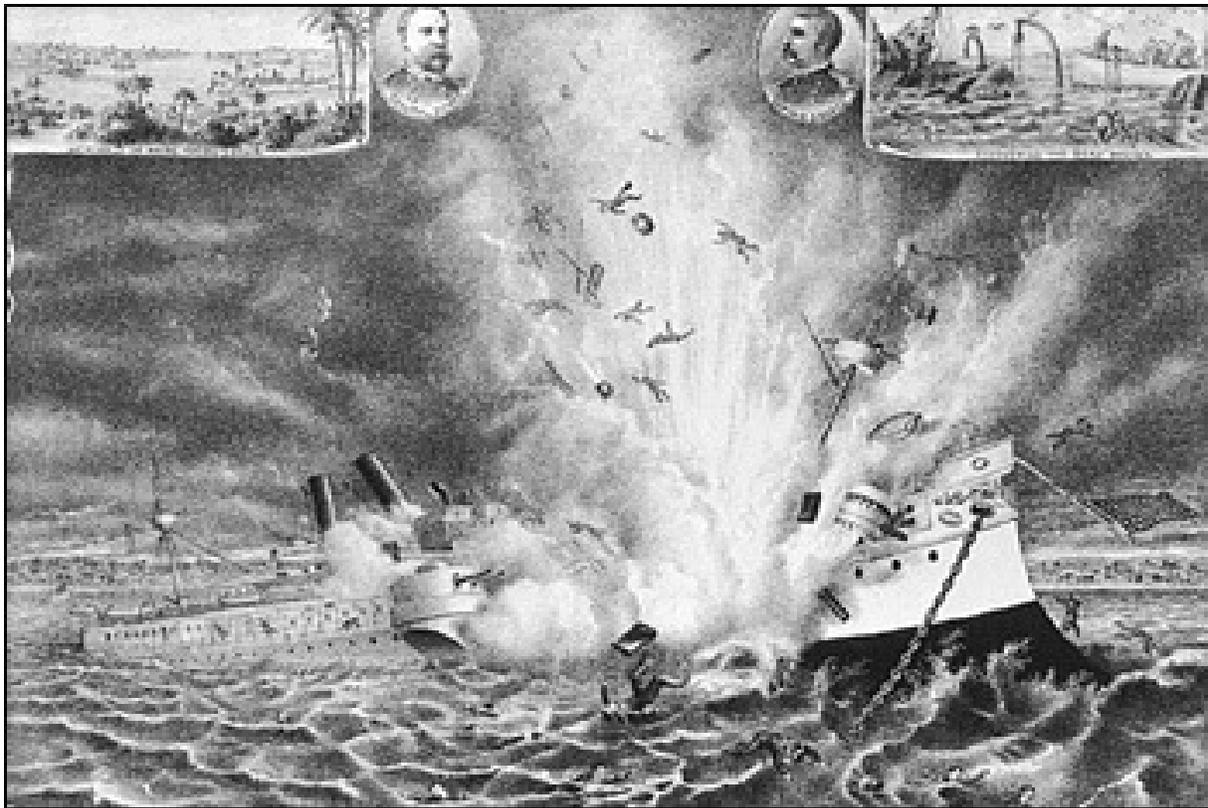
Patriotic Citizens Advocate Recourse to Arms to Wreak Vengeance Upon Spain for the Cruel and Cowardly Destruction of the Maine.



In April 1896, Congress, bowing to public pressure, recognized the Cuban patriots as belligerents against Spain and urged President Cleveland to press Spain for Cuban independence. What happened next is predictable: Cleveland asked Spain for Cuban independence; Spain said no, Cleveland was not re-elected. An expansionist Republican president, **William McKinley**, took office in 1896; the rules now changed.

War with Spain. McKinley's supportive views on Cuban independence were widely known; however, McKinley was ambivalent and unwilling to provoke war with Spain. However, soon matters escalated out of his control. In January 1898, Pulitzer's *New York World* published "**The DeLome Letter**," an intercepted letter from Spanish ambassador Depuy DeLome to a friend in Havana.¹⁶ In his letter, DeLome stated his disregard for McKinley, saying that the American president was "weak and a bidder for the admiration of the crowd . . . a would-be politician who cares for little more than keeping on good terms with the jingoes (loudmouthed power brokers) of his party."¹⁷ When McKinley refused to react to the insult, assistant secretary of the navy **Theodore Roosevelt** lashed out that McKinley was "white-livered" and had "no more backbone than a chocolate éclair." Tensions ran high until the night of 5 February, when all hell broke loose over Cuba.

McKinley felt the need to offer some sort of response to Spain's insult, so, to help the Spanish remember that America was always watching and not a happy camper, he sent the battleship **USS *Maine*** on a "courtesy call" (or, more appropriately, a show of force) to Havana in 1898. On the night of 15 February, an explosion ripped through the *Maine*, sinking the ship and killing 266 sailors (most of whom died while still in their bunks). Americans everywhere accused Spain of detonating a mine that sunk the *Maine*, and the war cry "**Remember the *Maine*!**" echoed through out America.¹⁸



¹⁶ Many people, then and now, suspect that Pulitzer forged the inflammatory letter for the sake of "stirring the pot." Interestingly, Pulitzer never fully denied the accusation.

¹⁷ DeLome, "The DeLome Letter," *New York World* 1898

¹⁸ In 1976, a research team headed by Admiral Hyman Rickover concluded that *Maine* was sunk from an *internal* explosion in the coal bunker, not an *external* explosion from outside the ship. Let's see . . . US to Spain: Ooops! Our bad. Tell you what: since Castro has it now, you can have it back!

In an attempt to avoid war, Spain agreed to allow Cuba some autonomy and settle claims for the *Maine* sinking; however, it was too late. American bloodlust, fed by virulent attacks in the newspapers, led to McKinley's war message to Congress on 11 April, 1898.

Utilizing admirable foresight, Congress did not want to face a Cuban annexation controversy as a result of the war, so a rider (or additional item) was added to the declaration of war. This was the **Teller Amendment**, which guaranteed Cuba that the United States had no intention of claiming any Cuban land for itself. The object of any war would be for Cuban independence only. We now know today that Spain had agreed to ALL American demands, as stated in the declaration of war, to avoid a conflict prior to the start of hostilities. However, public momentum, fueled by journalistic sensationalism, for Spanish blood overpowered any recognition of negotiation, and Spanish offerings of peace went down the tubes.



Original Photograph of the wreckage of the *Maine*

Where was the first battle of the Spanish-American War fought?

WARNING: LOADED QUESTION ALERT!! No, not in Cuba. It was actually fought . . . and easily won . . . in the Philippines, which, like Cuba, was a Spanish possession. Acting upon secret orders from Assistant Navy Secretary Roosevelt, Admiral **George Dewey**'s naval squadron was poised for action when the declaration of war was ratified by the Senate. Consequently, Dewey bottled up the Spanish fleet in **Manila Bay**, and quickly (and thoroughly) destroyed it.¹⁹ Although outraged at this violation of the governmental chain of command, McKinley could ill-afford to dampen on such an awesome (and wildly popular) American victory.

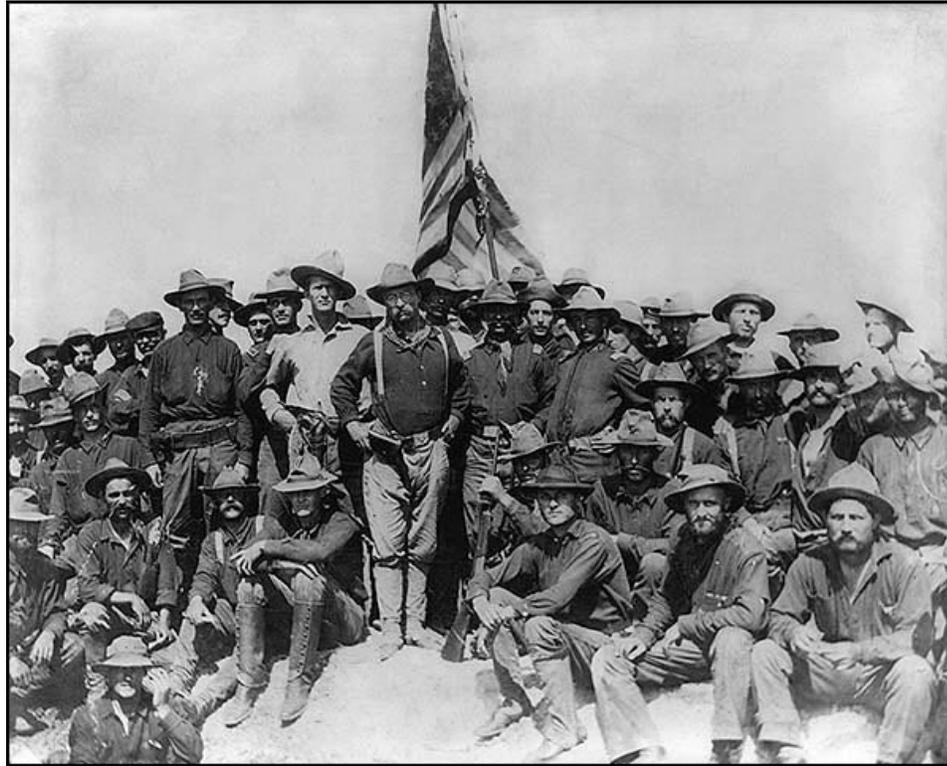
The “Splendid Little War” American forces made quick work of the Spanish in Cuba; the war lasted less than four months. There are, however, a few notable items which tell us a lot about this war.

- First, American war casualties totaled 5,462; however, only 379 of these died in battle. The remainder died from disease and food poisoning.²⁰
- The outstanding public relations stunt of the war came from the erstwhile assistant secretary of the navy, Theodore Roosevelt, who resigned his position to fight in Cuba. Give him credit, he wanted this war, he got this war, and doggone it, he went to kill Spaniards in this war! Roosevelt gathered an interesting collection of acquaintances from Harvard, the Dakotas, Indians, and ex-convicts, and called them the

¹⁹ The Spanish suffered 381 dead; Dewey suffered 8 wounded.

²⁰ Because American troops needed food that they could eat in the field, the Army ordered tons of canned meat from the Armour Meat Company in Chicago. Armour didn't have enough potted meat on hand to fill the order, so they retrieved some two year old meat from a non-refrigerated warehouse in England and sent it to Cuba. You tell me what it would be like to pop the top on two year old rancid meat. I mean, this stuff oozed goo. As a result of eating what the troops called “embalmed meat,” the majority of deaths in the war came from malaria and canned meat. Jeez, what a way to go.

“**Rough Riders.**” Once in Cuba, where he exhibited admirable courage under fire, he gained everlasting fame when, in his personally tailored (not army-issue) uniform, Roosevelt led a gallant charge to attack a Spanish artillery position. Although the position was actually on Kettle Hill, the press labeled the attack with the more romantic **San Juan Hill**.



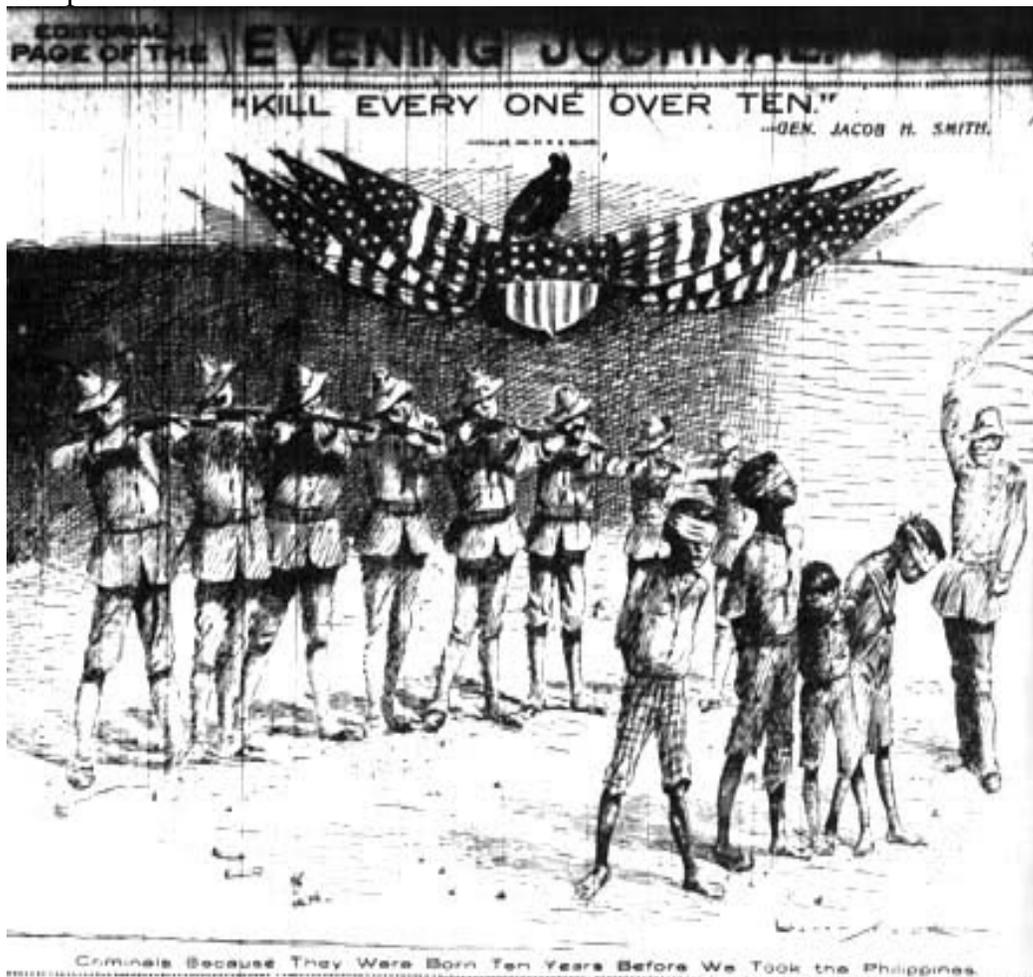
TR and his Roughriders on Kettle, uh, San Juan Hill 1898

- American troops occupied the Spanish possession of **Puerto Rico** on 25 July. The next day, Spain sued for peace. (14: What do the Mexican War and the Spanish-American War have in common? I mean besides the fact that our enemy in both wars spoke Spanish.)

Peace The United States and Spain signed the (yet another) **Treaty of Paris** in December 1898. The basic provisions of the treaty were:

- The United States gained possession of the Philippines. No one had any idea of exactly what to do with them, but the US got them anyway.
- The United States gained Puerto Rico in the Caribbean and Guam and Wake Island in the Pacific. These Pacific Islands, in addition to Hawaii and Samoa, not only provided major coaling stations for America’s Pacific Fleet, but also gave the US land bases with which they could lay a future trans-Pacific cable line.
- The US paid Spain \$20 million for its new possessions.
- Oh yeah, Cuba. Well, Cuba gained its independence; however, the United States required an American protectorate until the Cubans could govern themselves. **The Platt Amendment** to the Army Appropriations Bill, passed in 1901, dictated that (1) Cuba could not jeopardize her independence by signing any treaty with a third party; (2) Cuba had to maintain her debt to within the government’s ability to pay it off; and (3) Cuba must recognize the right of the United States to intervene in her affairs to preserve Cuban independence. The US also got a 99-year lease on a naval base at Guantanamo Bay. Needless to say, we are still at “Gitmo.” It is important to gain this basic understanding of the Cuban-US relationship, for we will return to Cuba

Trouble in the Philippines Let's see, the US wins the war, and everybody's happy: Congress is happy, Teddy's happy, the Cubans and Puerto Ricans are somewhat happy, the Filipinos are happy **WAIT A MINUTE!!!!** Who said the Filipinos were happy? Well Teddy did, and Congress did, but no one in the Philippines said anything about being happy. Sure, they were glad for their independence from Spain, but when the United States set up a provisional government, Filipinos, who expected their full independence, revolted in what amounted to a precursor to Vietnam.



More Yellow Journalism, This Time in the Philippines

(Notice the small print: “Criminals Because They Were Born Ten Years Before We Took the Philippines”)

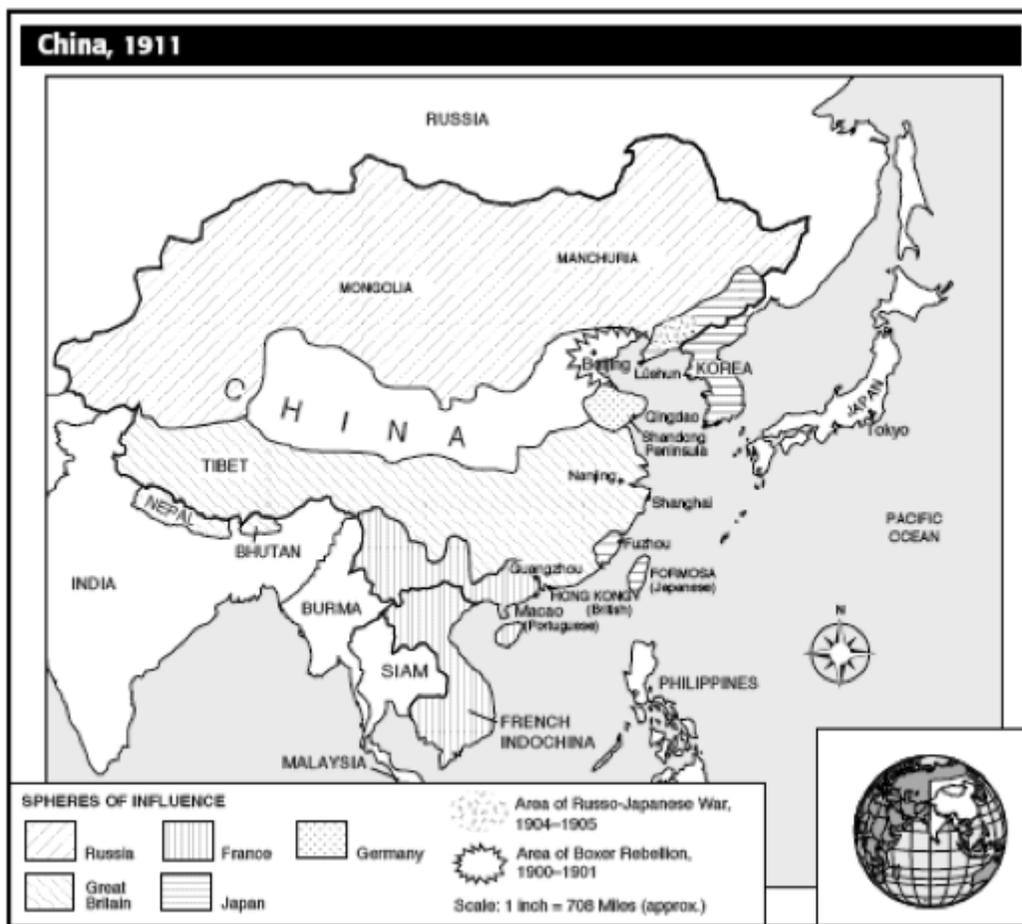
The Filipino Insurrection (1898-1901) was led by **Emilio Aguinaldo**, and lasted over two years. It was a classic guerilla jungle war, a sordid, nasty, brutal, and highly racist affair laced with atrocities from both sides. The sordid newspaper accounts (what other kind would they print; after all, this stuff sells!) of the details of this war and America's imperialistic plans for its new acquisitions led to the formation of several anti-imperialistic organizations in the United States. The most famous was the **American Anti-Imperialist League**. The League was funded by Andrew Carnegie and counted Mark Twain, Henry James, Samuel Gompers as members. After the cessation of hostilities, Congress passed the **Philippine Government Act** in 1901 which ended military rule and established a civil government under the leadership of American governor William Howard Taft. He will have as his military advisor a young colonel named Dwight D. Eisenhower, and would be later replaced by an American general named Douglas MacArthur.

CHINA

Man, for all of its power and majesty during ancient times, as well as a significant threat to the United States today, China was an outright mess by the dawn of the 20th century. The country had no solid government, and was ruled by factions and assorted nutcases. It was so messed up that Britain fought a war there over OPIUM! By 1900, China was nothing more than an imperialist's dream, sitting there just waiting to be carved up by the colonial Western powers. And carve they did.

Downfall China's troubles began, oddly enough, when the United States first visited Japan in 1848.

Commodore Matthew Perry opened Japan to Western commerce in 1848 and set the island nation on a course to modernization . . . I suppose whether that was good or bad depends on whether you are living in 1870 or 1941. Anyway, Japan became aggressive in her new digs as Budding World Player, and defeated China in the **1894-1895 Sino-Japanese War**. Japan only acquired Taiwan (renamed Formosa) as a result of the war, but the effects went much deeper. The war revealed how weak China had truly become, and prompted the Western powers (Britain, France, Germany, and Russia) to scramble to carve out **spheres of influence** (or economic areas of control) in China.



The Open Door Due to the aggressive nature of European and Japanese encroachment in China America's prospects for gaining a decent slice of the Chinese pie were dim. In addition American merchants worried that the European powers would erect stiff tariffs which would harm American trade with China. Realizing the potential danger, Secretary of State John Hay drew up what became known as the **Open Door Policy** for China. This policy amounted to an Asiatic Monroe Doctrine in that it proclaimed a "hand's off" policy for all nations with regards to colonization in China as well as a guarantee of Chinese autonomy. In return for this promise, all nations of the world would have equal trading rights with China, as no spheres of influence would be allowed. When presented to the world at the London Conference of 1899, Britain and the United States were the only

signatories. While the other nations did not accept the Open Door, neither did they reject it outright. In true American style, Hay consequently announced to the world that all nations had accepted the policy. Do you get the feeling that imperialism and assumption go hand-in-hand?

Here is how effective the Open Door was: First of all, if you'll look at the map above you'll see that by 1911 the major imperialist powers still occupied spheres of influence in China, a dead-on sign that no one really took Hay seriously. If you needed more proof, at the London Conference Japan, who was concerned about Russian pressure on China from Manchuria, asked how the US intended to enforce the Policy, Hay responded that "[the United States] is not prepared to do so at this time." You know, there are just some things you don't reveal to people, and your inability to enforce a law you created fits that description. Hmm, ask yourself: Why is it notable that Japan asked about enforcement?

TR AND THE BIG STICK

Yes, I have to admit it: I am a Theodore Roosevelt fan. In the *Scalia Book of Presidents, Misfits, and Goobers*, TR and Jackson are dead even for the number one spot on my hero list. TR was no classic politician, and if he might be a tad bullheaded at times and determined to have his way, he offset that by being incredibly decisive. TR played up to NO ONE; he was, without a doubt, the first president who ruled America by the sheer force of his will (hmmm, Jacksonians might argue with this). An ardent expansionist, TR believed in the greatness of America, foresaw his vision of that greatness, and went after it with a vengeance. He was such a fan of military intimidation that he described his foreign policy by quoting an old African saying: "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Thus was born TR's Big Stick Diplomacy.

Makin' the dirt fly If there was one issue that rivaled Cuba in the Caribbean, it was the need for an isthmus canal across Central America. The strategic need for a shorter route from ocean to ocean became apparent when, during the Spanish American War, the battleship USS *Oregon* took 80 days to sail from San Francisco to Cuba, arriving too late to be a factor in the war. Had a cross-isthmus canal been available, this distance would have been cut to approximately 4,000 miles. Perhaps more importantly, TR wanted a canal, and, as you will see, **NO ONE says no to TR.**



DUH! The Need for a Trans-Isthmian Canal Was a No-Brainer

Positioning and Politics Building the canal involved much more than grabbing an army of backhoes and lettin' it rip. First of all, due to treaty obligations, the US would first have to obtain permission from Britain to build a canal across Central America (Britain had colonial control over British Honduras—today Belize—and therefore had a stake in the canal). Consequently, in 1901, John Hay signed the **Hay-Pauncefote Treaty** which gave the US the go-ahead from Britain to build a canal.

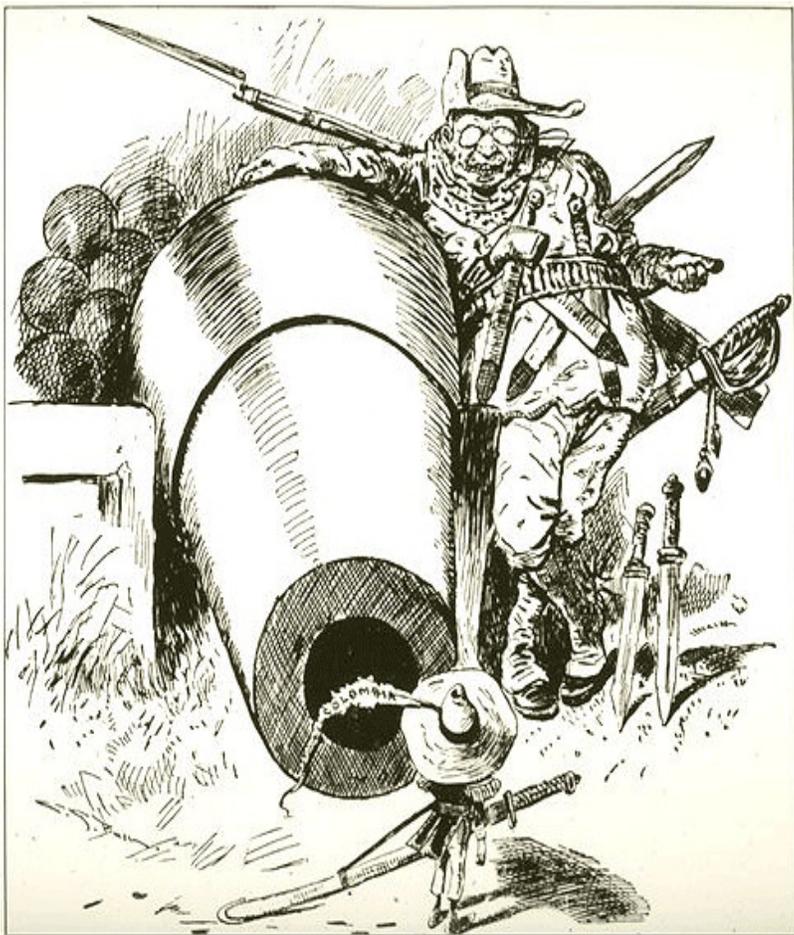
Ok, now: where to dig? After several Congressional fact-finding trips to Central America, the frontrunner for the canal was Nicaragua. The country's river system and presence of huge Lake Nicaragua provided the easiest construction route (remember this is 1901, and it takes a lot of labor—and money--to dig a ditch of this magnitude). However, a French company headed by Phillipe Lesseps (the designer and builder of the Suez Canal) had already been working on a route through the Colombian possession of Panama, and due to monetary problems, abandoned the partially-finished canal in 1887. The more fiscally-minded bureaucrats in Washington knew a bargain when they saw it, and therefore proposed buying the French project and completing construction of the partially-constructed canal through Panama. After much debate,²¹ in which proponents of the Panama site practically butchered the Nicaraguan endeavor, Congress designated Panama as the canal site.



The Infamous Nicaraguan Canal Stamp (see footnote 21)

Hay and Colombian Ambassador Thomas Herran met in New York to negotiate the rights to a 6-mile wide easement, or Canal Zone, across the 30-mile width of Panama. In 1903, they signed the **Hay-Heran Treaty** which sold the US the rights to a Canal Zone for \$10 million in cash and a rental fee of \$250,000 per year. Americans were ecstatic, the people of Panama, sensing the economic windfall they stood to inherit, were ecstatic, and President Theodore Roosevelt was ecstatic. What could go wrong?

²¹ A deciding factor in these debates was a Nicaraguan postage stamp, which pictured beautiful Lake Nicaragua resting beneath a towering volcano. The threat of a volcanic eruption helped turn the tide in favor of Panama, which, Hay pointed out, had no volcanoes. Hay neglected to mention the numerous mud and land slides in Panama.



Uh oh . . . You know, greed is a funny thing. As soon as you exhibit your greedy nature, there is always someone greedier than you. Both Americans and Colombians found this out the hard way.

Due to anti-imperialist Democrats in the United States Senate,²² a seemingly easy ratification became tenuous. Never one to exhibit patience, a frustrated TR traveled to Panama and gave American work crews there an executive order to begin work. Amidst protests from Congress, TR remained on-site to supervise the excavation, even operating earth moving equipment himself. When asked by a journalist about the political controversy and seemingly unconstitutional nature of his actions, TR replied “Let the Senate debate, and while the debate goes on, so does the canal.”

Ultimately, and probably sensing that they had met their match in TR (remember that both TR and his canal project were wildly popular with the American people), the US Senate ratified

the Hay-Herran Treaty. However, the Colombian Senate decided that \$10 million was not enough, so they rejected the treaty and held out for \$25 million. Bad move; remember, you don’t say NO to TR! An incensed (as in pissed off) Roosevelt labeled the Colombians as “foolish and homicidal corruptionists at Bogota” who were “contemptible little creatures” and “dagoes.” Needless to say, TR would not allow America to be blackmailed by anyone . . . not when he had an entire nation and it’s military to play with.

Panama Libre!! Colombia’s rejection of the treaty also infuriated Panamanians who wanted independence from Colombia. Sensing the time ripe for a potential revolution, in 1903 **Phillipe Bunua-Varilla** of the French Canal Company (who stood to lose millions if the US could not buy their abandoned project) traveled to New York and secretly met with Hay and TR. Curiously, after this meeting, Bunua-Varilla informed the Panamanian rebel leaders that, by coincidence (you believe this, right??) the battle cruiser **USS Nashville** would arrive at the Panamanian capital and port city of Colon on a “courtesy call.” (Remember the *Maine* in Havana?) This information put American sugar in the Panamanian coffee, therefore upon arrival of *Nashville*, 500 Panamanians led a revolt and overthrew the Colombian government. Marching north from Colombia to crush the revolt was the Colombian army;



²² Remember: The Senate holds control of ALL foreign policy issues due to its constitutional check over the President.

however, they were unable to penetrate the dense jungle. The only other route to Panama was by sea, but when Colombian troop ships arrived at Colon, they found their way blocked by, you guessed it, *Nashville*. Funny how the US cruiser was unwilling to move; perhaps she experienced engine failure? Subtle, huh?

Back on shore, and immediately upon seizing power, the rebel commander proclaimed that Panama was now a sovereign republic, and, on November 1903, Hay instantly recognized the new country by acknowledging its new ambassador to the US, which, more coincidence here, happened to be Bunua-Varilla. Thus, the United States obtained permission to begin construction on the Panama Canal, which opened in 1914.²³ Immoral? Perhaps. Unethical? Absolutely. Did the entire episode suck? I'd say that was an affirmative. However, you gotta admire the effort, no matter how misplaced. Man I love back-door politics!

Not through with Latin America Yet. Now saddled with a strategically and economically important canal to protect, TR was understandably concerned with stability in the Caribbean. If the new canal wasn't enough, TR was terribly concerned with the habit of European nations to intervene in Latin American affairs to collect debts.²⁴ To guard against further intrusion into the region, TR set in motion what became known as the **Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine**. In the Corollary, TR stated that since the Monroe Doctrine prohibited foreign intervention in Latin America, the US was justified in intervening first to forestall the actions of foreign governments; this included debt collection. In other words, sit tight, England, and we'll get your money for you. In effect, TR announced that the US would become the "Policeman of the Caribbean." Set in motion in 1905, this Corollary would be the basis for American military incursions later.



Teddy, His Lake, His Toys, and His Corollary

²³ In 1921, due to an interest in Colombian oil, the Harding Administration paid \$25 million to Colombia to "remove any misunderstandings growing out of the political events in Panama in November 1903." What a wuss!

²⁴ European nations weren't fools. They knew that, even though it was never an international law, the Monroe Doctrine was diplomatic gospel to the Americans. Therefore, to maintain influence in the region and still respect the spirit of the Doctrine, many European nations, especially Britain and France, used the excuse of debt-collection to seize control of small Latin American nations. In other words, if the island nation of St. Lucia owed the British any money at all, the British would land troops and seize the country until that debt was repaid. No self-respecting American would argue with a nation's right to collect money owed, right?

Dollar Diplo. Just to jump ahead a bit, when TR left office in 1908, his chunky flunky William Howard Taft (he tipped the scales at over 300 pounds) ascended to the presidency. Taft was much more of a Robber Baron-friendly guy than TR, and his views on Latin American foreign policy followed the interests of American business. As such, he urged American industry to invest capital and business in Latin America. Taft reasoned that this influx of money and jobs would develop far better goodwill than guns; however, as we will see later, the influx of American money and prosperity was NOT evenly distributed among the Latin American people. Because of Taft's attempts to co-join the economic fortunes of Latin America and the United States, his diplomacy became known as **Dollar Diplomacy**.

TR and Japan

War in Asia OK, back to my man TR. In 1904, Russia and Japan went to war over a conflict involving hegemony (political control) over Korea. The **Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905** saw Japan drive the Russians out of Korea and back into Manchuria. Because neither side wanted a protracted war, they agreed to meet in Portsmouth, NH for peace negotiations with TR as arbitrator. In 1905, both countries signed the **Treaty of Portsmouth**, which gave all concessions to Japan. Russia agreed to recognize Japan's hegemony over Korea, and both powers agreed to evacuate Manchuria.

Two interesting tidbits about this obscure war:

1. The war opened with a surprise Japanese attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. In this surprise attack, the Japanese destroyed the Russian Navy. I am sure that you have heard that history repeats itself, well, hmmm, if it worked once . . .
2. TR received the Nobel Peace Prize for his mediation of the Treaty of Portsmouth. Go figure.

The initial era of good feeling between Japan and the US As Japan grew in industrial and military might, Americans became concerned about US Pacific possessions—particularly the Philippines. Wary that Japan might covet the archipelago, in 1905 TR's Secretary of War William Howard Taft and Japanese foreign minister Katsura signed the **Taft-Katsura Agreement of 1905**. In this treaty, Japan agreed to recognize American hegemony over the Philippines while America recognized Japanese control over Korea, sort of a diplomatic tit for tat. Three years later, President Taft's Secretary of State Elihu Root and Japanese Ambassador Takahira signed the **Root-Takahira Agreement of 1908**, in which both countries (1) endorsed the status quo of the Taft-Katsura Agreement; (2) called for equal respect of each country's possessions; (3) reinforced the Open Door Policy for China by supporting independence for China; and (4) agreed to support the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China."²⁵

The era begins to sour Some things, you just can't control. This applies to the worsening relationship between Japan and the US after 1900. Although the two agreements symbolized diplomatic goodwill, in actuality relations began to get testy, primarily due to the most basic of human fallibilities: racism.

In Europe, traditional American allies Germany and Russia grew wary of Japanese imperialist designs on their possessions in the Pacific, a danger that Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany called the "**Yellow Peril**." In the United States, racial tensions in California (not the most Asian-friendly place in the world) erupted in 1906 when the San Francisco School Board ordered all students of Asian descent to attend separate schools (this was legal under *Plessy v. Ferguson*-remember?) In response to the Japanese government's protest, TR was able to convince the School Board to change its mind (wish I knew what his secret was . . . I could use some School Board Mind Changing myself), while Japan sharply limited future immigration to American. This compromise is known as the **Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907**, and its precise terms have never been revealed. It did,

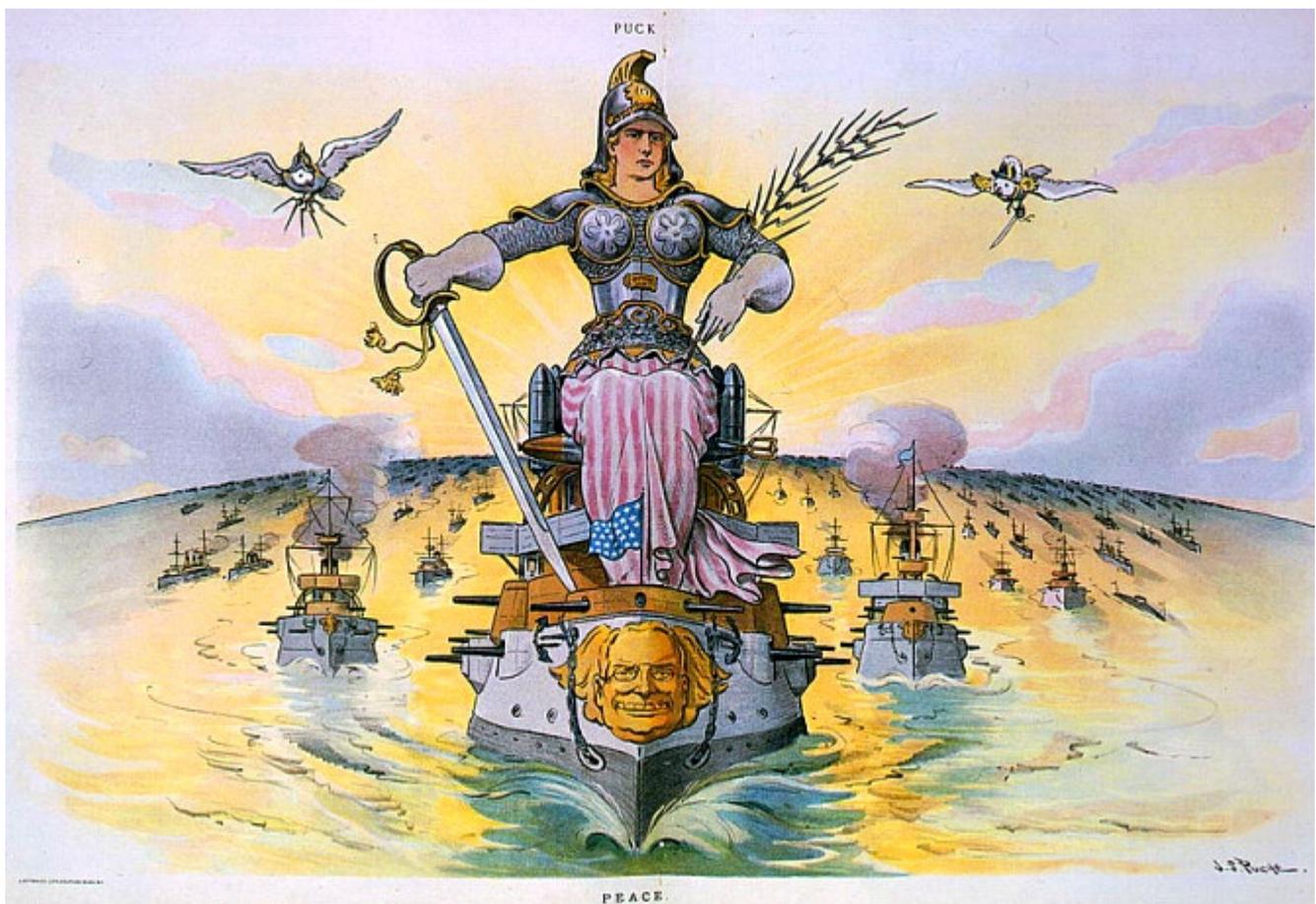
²⁵ You will soon see where this was merely a time-buying attempt by Japan, designed to keep the Americans fat, stupid, and happy (we tend to be naïve with things of this nature). Japan had no intention of leaving China alone, and in the early 1930s would ravage China and the Chinese people with a furor and vengeance seldom seen in human history. Tragically its not called it the "Rape of Nanking" for nothing.

however, ease tensions in America for a while. However, it is important to understand that a developing rift between two culturally-different world powers is growing, and taking on an Energizer Bunny persona: it keeps on growing, and growing, and growing . . .²⁶

TR and Europe For the most part, TR regarded Europe as a necessary evil. Aside from Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, whom TR greatly admired, the American president had little regard for Europe or Europeans (vastly unlike his cousin, Franklin Roosevelt). However, when duty called, TR rode into the fray, no matter where it was.

In 1906, France and Germany crept closer to war over control of the North African nation of Morocco. At the Kaiser's request, TR dressed in his old Portsmouth peacekeeping clothes and mediated **The Act of Algeciras** in 1906. This act guaranteed independence for Morocco and developed an Open Door Policy for the North African nation. Talk about a walking paradox! The ever-belligerent TR as peacekeeper of the age! This guy has got it going on; where was he in the 1850s?

TR's Navy As a disciple of Mahan, TR championed a strong, powerful, global navy second to none (now THERE'S my kind of guy!) Throughout his administration, the US built a world-class, powerful fleet, of which TR was justifiably proud. To celebrate America's success in foreign matters, in 1907 TR ordered the new fleet painted white and sent around the world on a global Good Will Tour (or, as some regarded it, a tour of intimidation. Actually, it was a little of both). The voyage of the **Great White Fleet** was a resounding success, and was representative of TR's term in office. When he left office in 1908, Theodore Roosevelt had indeed molded American foreign policy into his mantra of "speak softly and carry a big stick."



TR and His Great White Fleet . . . a Picture is worth a Thousand Words

²⁶ I despise that stinking rabbit!

American Diplomacy Finds God (according to the Right Reverend Woodrow Wilson)

As you will see, in 1912 both TR and Taft lost the presidential election to Virginia Democrat Woodrow Wilson, a Presbyterian minister's son who realigned American foreign policy according to his version of morality. Wilson flat out rejected Taft's Dollar Diplomacy and installed his own "**Moral Diplomacy**," a policy that would eventually send American troops across the border to Mexico for the first time since 1848, and across the Atlantic Ocean for the first time ever. Indeed by 1916 Washington's warning about avoiding European affairs was but a memory; which translated into a situation in which a bunch of people are going to die.

Mexico. Woodrow Wilson was a fervent believer in democracy (in his mind, the only moral form of government), and what he saw going on in Mexico during the throes of the Mexican Revolution was anything but moral. By 1913 a succession of military strongmen had seized and lost power in Mexico; the latest to experience the thrill of Mexican politics Francisco Madero. In 1913 renegade General Victoriano Huerta seized power and ordered Madero's execution, a quite immoral thing to do. An enraged Wilson publicly stated his opposition to Huerta's seizure of power and hinted that the US may intervene to restore popular government, and Huerta responded by warning the US that it would never again gain one foot of Mexican territory by conquest. Wilson responded by enacting an arms embargo against Mexico, which cut off all arms shipments to the Mexican government. OK, here we go, hang on . . .

American agents in Mexico discovered that a group of pro-democracy revolutionaries led by Venustiano Carranza were plotting to overthrow the Huerta government; however they were short on ammunition and weapons. Consequently Wilson removed the arms embargo ONLY for Carranza's troops, an overt signal that the US supported the overthrow of the Mexican government. As you might expect tensions began to rise, and Mexico was flush with anti-American fever (this is never good).

On 9 April 1914 a group of American sailors went ashore to gather supplies at Tampico and were immediately arrested by the local yokel police for, well, being Americans. The regional Mexican army commander realized what a colossal screw-up this was and ordered the sailors released along with an apology to the American naval commander. The entire episode should have ended here; however the jackass naval commander (I've known a few of these in my day) demanded that the Mexican government fire a twenty-one gun salute to the American flag. The Mexican government answered with the Spanish version of "when pigs fly outta my butt," an insult so severe that Wilson asked Congress for permission to use force to remove Huerta from office. Congress agreed, and on 21 April 1914 American Marines were sent to the Mexican Gulf coastal town of Vera Cruz to investigate reports that Huerta's men were intercepting shipments of American arms meant for Carranza. When the Marines met with Mexican resistance a fire fight broke out resulting in 19 American deaths and over 200 Mexican fatalities.

By this time alarmed Latin American nations realized that the situation was getting out of hand, and offered arbitration. The **ABC Powers** (Argentina, Brazil, Chile) brokered a deal in which (1) American troops would leave Mexico, (2) Huerta would leave office, and (3) a democratic provisional government, led by Carranza, would take control. In 1915 the Carranza government was recognized as the official government of Mexico. Case closed, right?

You know better that that; it's way too easy, too clean. During the interregnum period of the Carranza government several revolutionary bands arose to challenge for control of Mexico. Since all of the revolutionaries knew that Carranza was backed by the US these banditos targeted Americans as well as pro-Carranza Mexicans. The best known, most effective, and wildest of these goobers was Francisco "**Pancho**" **Villa**.



Villa, a self-styled “generalissimo,” first caught Wilson’s attention when he and his men attacked an American mining train in northern Mexico and killed sixteen American miners, an overt attempt by Villa to provoke the Americans to retaliate and discredit Carranza. When this attempt failed Villa grew bolder. On 9 March 1916 he attacked the town of Columbus New Mexico, burned the town, and killed seventeen Americans.

Wilson was finally forced to abandon his policy of “watchful waiting” and respond to an attack on American soil. First, Wilson mobilized 150,000 National Guardsmen along the US-Mexican border and placed them on a war footing, then, with the VERY reluctant consent of Carranza, Wilson ordered 11,000 American troops under **General John J. Pershing** to invade northern Mexico and catch Villa. Pershing chased Villa through the Mexican desert for over a year, never catching the elusive bandit. In 1917, due to growing problems in Europe, Wilson ordered Pershing home.

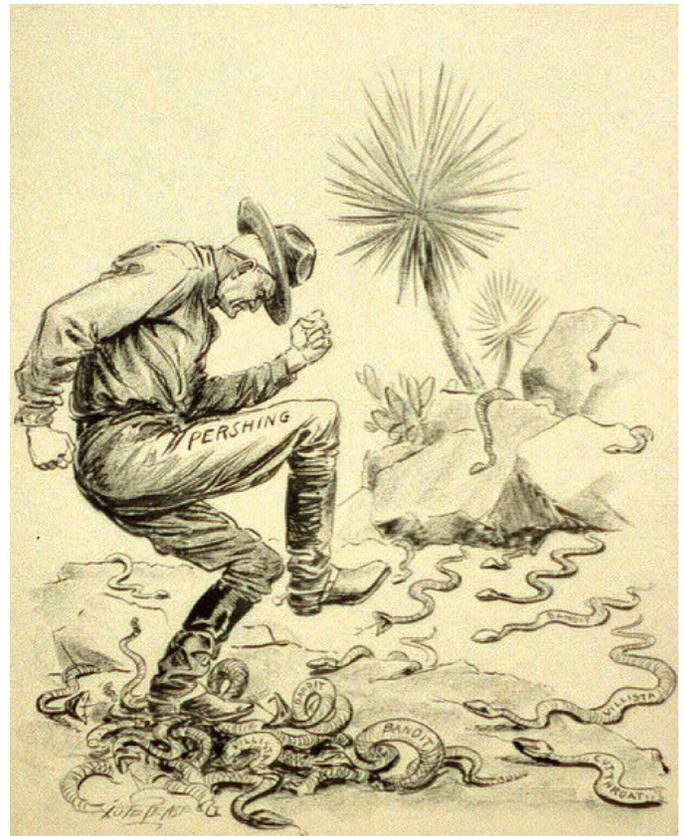
Wilson’s problems in Latin America were not over, however. In response to protecting American interests in the area (the residue of Taft’s Dollar Diplomacy) Wilson sent American forces into Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, where they stayed until 1924. Many Latin American nations could not see the morality in American intervention, resulting in growing resentment throughout the area.

Conclusion

(Notice the extent that America spread its influence in such a relatively short time.)

Simply put, The United States entered the twentieth century as the new kid on the global block. Drawing its impulse through precedent set by the British, the United States embarked on a dangerous journey of trying to compete with nations that had been conquering the world for centuries.

The years from 1890-1914 are the grand years of global imperialism and colonialism in which several nations, Britain and Germany most prominent, competing for global hegemony. This dynamic will explode out of control, and when the competing mercantile powers infuse their national agendas with nationalism and militarism, the ultimate result will be a heartbreaking tragedy of proportions never seen in human history. The trouble is, after this disaster subsides we will do it all over again; it will be far worse the second time around.



Pershing’s Troubles with the Villaistas