

There's More Online!

- ✓ **BIOGRAPHY** Emilio Aguinaldo
- ✓ **BIOGRAPHY** William Randolph Hearst
- ✓ **BIOGRAPHY** Joseph Pulitzer
- ✓ **CHART/GRAPH** Spanish-American War Deaths
- ✓ **IMAGE** Guerilla Fighters
- ✓ **IMAGE** Yellow Journalism
- ✓ **MAP** Distance Between the U.S. and the Philippines
- ✓ **VIDEO** The Spanish-American War
- ✓ **INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ**



## LESSON 2

# The Spanish-American War

ESSENTIAL QUESTION • How are empires built?

### Reading HELPDESK



#### Academic Vocabulary

- intervene • volunteer

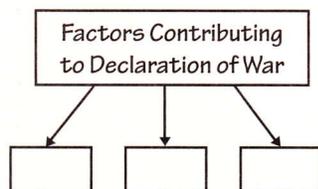
#### Content Vocabulary

- **yellow journalism**
- **autonomy**
- **jingoism**

#### TAKING NOTES:

##### Key Ideas and Details

**Organizing** As you read about the Spanish-American War, complete a graphic organizer like the one below by listing the circumstances that contributed to war with Spain.



## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

*During the Spanish-American War, the United States defeated Spanish troops in Cuba and the Philippines. Afterward, the United States annexed the Philippines and became an imperial power.*

## The Coming of War

**GUIDING QUESTION** Why was the United States willing to go to war with Spain over Cuba?

By 1898, Cuba and Puerto Rico were two of Spain's last remaining colonies in the Western Hemisphere. Cubans had periodically revolted against Spanish rule, and many Americans regarded the Spanish as tyrants. Ultimately, the United States issued a declaration of war against Spain. Although the fighting lasted only a few months, the war dramatically altered the position of the United States on the world stage.

### The Cuban Rebellion Begins

Cuba was one of Spain's oldest colonies in the Americas. Its sugarcane plantations generated considerable wealth for Spain and produced nearly one-third of the world's sugar in the mid-1800s. Until Spain abolished slavery in 1886, about one-third of the Cuban population was enslaved and forced to work for wealthy landowners on the plantations.

In 1868 Cuban rebels declared independence and launched a guerrilla war against Spanish authorities. Lacking internal support, the rebellion collapsed a decade later. Many Cuban rebels then fled to the United States, including their leader, José Martí.

By the early 1890s, the United States and Cuba had become closely linked economically. Cuba exported much of its sugar to the United States, and Americans had invested approximately \$50 million in Cuba's sugar plantations, mines, and railroads. These economic ties created a crisis in 1894, when the United States imposed a new tariff on sugar that devastated Cuba's economy. With Cuba in financial distress, the Cuban rebels launched a new rebellion in February 1895. Martí died during the fighting, but the

rebels seized control of eastern Cuba, declared independence, and formally established the Republic of Cuba in September 1895.

### America Supports Cuba

When the uprising began, President Grover Cleveland declared the United States neutral. However, stories of Spanish atrocities in two of the nation's major newspapers, the *New York Journal* and the *New York World*, swayed many Americans in the rebels' favor. This sensationalist reporting, in which writers exaggerated or made up stories to attract readers, became known as **yellow journalism**. Although some stories were invented, Cubans indeed suffered horribly.

The Spanish sent nearly 200,000 troops to the island to put down the rebellion and appointed General Valeriano Weyler as governor. The rebels' raids destroyed a considerable amount of property, some belonging to Americans. The rebels hoped that the destruction of American property would lead to American intervention in the war. To prevent villagers from helping the rebels, Weyler herded hundreds of thousands of rural men, women, and children into "reconcentration camps," where tens of thousands died of starvation and disease.

### Calls for War

In 1897 Republican William McKinley became president of the United States. In September 1897, he asked Spain whether the United States could help negotiate an end to the conflict, so that the United States would not have to **intervene** in the war. Spain removed Weyler from office and offered the Cubans **autonomy**, but only if Cuba remained part of the Spanish Empire. The rebels refused to negotiate.

Spain's concessions enraged many Spanish loyalists in Cuba. In January 1898, the loyalists rioted in Havana. McKinley sent the battleship USS *Maine* to Havana to protect Americans living there. On February 9, 1898, the *New York Journal* printed a letter written by the Spanish ambassador to the United States, describing McKinley as "weak." The United States erupted in fury over the insult.

Then, on February 15, 1898, the *Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor. To this day, no one is sure why the *Maine* exploded. Many Americans believed the Spanish did it. "Remember the *Maine*!" became the rallying cry for those demanding a declaration of war against Spain.

McKinley faced tremendous pressure to go to war. Within the Republican Party, **jingoism**—aggressive nationalism—was very strong. On April 11, 1898, McKinley asked Congress to authorize the use of force.

**yellow journalism** type of sensational, biased, and often false reporting for the sake of attracting readers

**intervene** to get involved in the affairs of another

**autonomy** the quality of or state of being self-governing

President McKinley sent the battleship *Maine* to Cuba to help Americans evacuate. When the ship exploded, an enraged nation blamed Spain, although the explosion may have originated within the ship. "Remember the *Maine*!" became the battle cry for war.

#### ► CRITICAL THINKING

**Analyzing** What do you think contributed to American sympathy with the Cubans?

PHOTO: The Granger Collection, New York



On April 19, Congress proclaimed Cuba independent, demanded that Spain withdraw from the island, and authorized the president to use armed force. On April 24, Spain declared war on the United States.

### ✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Examining** What events led to the war with Spain in 1898?

## A War on Two Fronts

**GUIDING QUESTION** *How was the Spanish-American War different from earlier U.S. wars?*

The U.S. Navy was ready for war with Spain. The navy blockaded Cuba, and Commodore George Dewey, commander of the American naval squadron based in Hong Kong, was ordered to attack the Spanish fleet based in the Philippines, then a Spanish colony. American naval planners wanted to prevent the Spanish fleet from sailing east to attack the United States.

### The Battle of Manila Bay

On May 1, 1898, the American ships in Dewey's squadron entered Manila Bay in the Philippines. They quickly destroyed the outdated and outgunned Spanish fleet.

Dewey's quick victory surprised McKinley. Hastily, the army assembled 20,000 troops to sail from San Francisco to the Philippines. On the way, the Americans also seized the island of Guam, another Spanish possession.

While waiting for the American troops to arrive, Dewey contacted Emilio Aguinaldo, a Filipino revolutionary leader who had staged an unsuccessful uprising against the Spanish in 1896. Now, while Aguinaldo and his rebels took control of most of the islands, American troops seized the Philippine capital of Manila.

### American Forces in Cuba

The Spanish in Cuba were not prepared for war. Their soldiers were weak and sick, and their warships were old with untrained crews. If the United States could defeat the Spanish fleet, Spain would not be able to supply its troops in Cuba. Eventually, Spain would have to surrender.

The U.S. Army was not prepared for war, either. The army had recruited **volunteers** but lacked proper resources to train and equip them. One volunteer cavalry unit was a rough mix of cowboys, miners, and law officers known as the "Rough Riders."

Between June 22 and 24, some 17,000 U.S. troops had landed east of Santiago, Cuba. The Spanish fleet, well protected by powerful shore-based guns, occupied Santiago Harbor. Americans wanted to capture those guns to drive the Spanish fleet out of the harbor and into battle with the American fleet waiting nearby. The Rough Riders accompanied the army as it advanced. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt was second in command.

On July 1, American troops attacked a village near Santiago and the San Juan Heights. The Rough Riders and the all African American 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments attacked and held Kettle Hill, then assisted in the capture of San Juan Hill.

In Santiago the Spanish commander panicked and ordered the Spanish fleet to flee the harbor. On July 3, American warships attacked them, destroying every Spanish vessel. Later, the Spanish in Santiago surrendered, leaving American troops to occupy nearby Puerto Rico.

### ✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Summarizing** On what two fronts was the Spanish-American War fought?

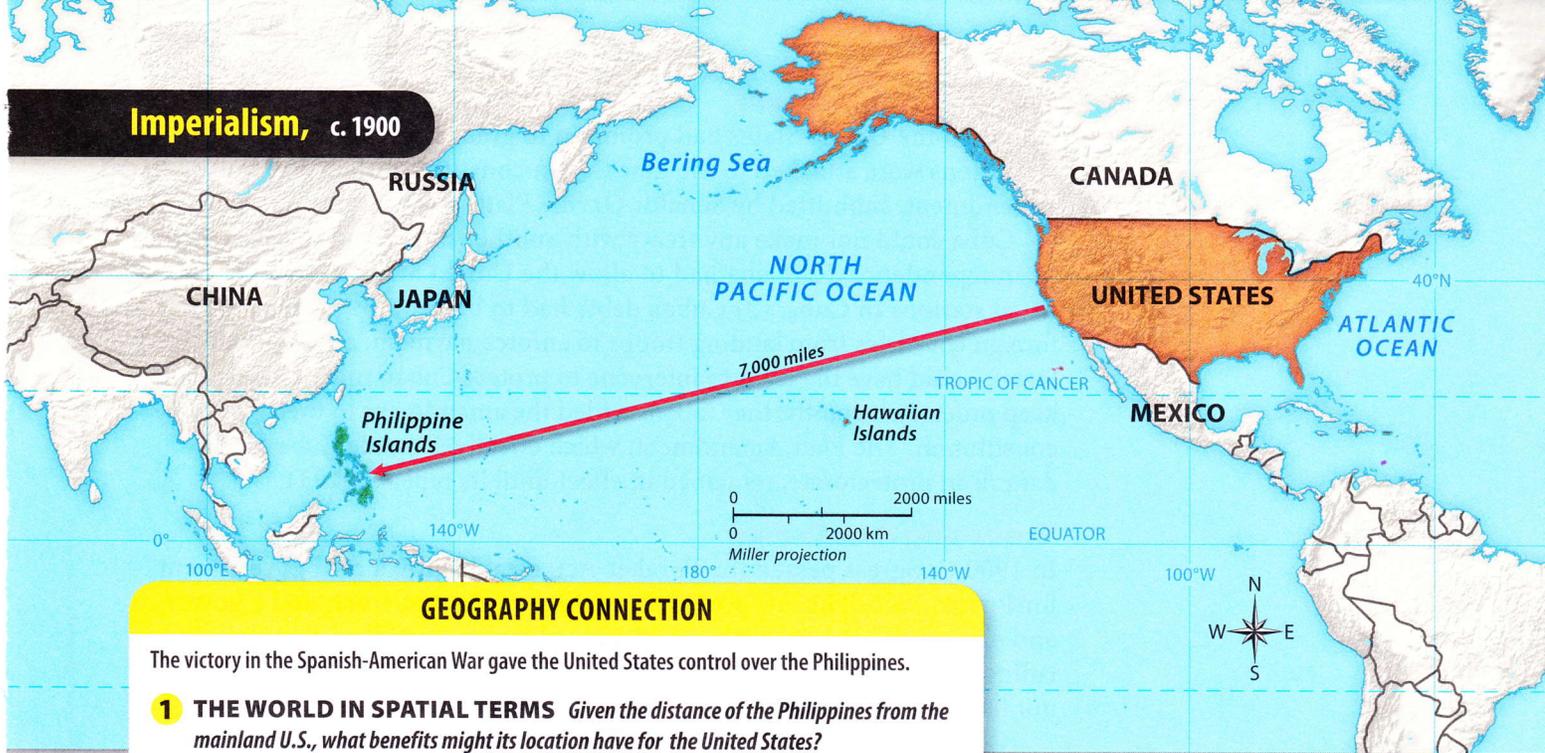
**jingoism** extreme nationalism marked by aggressive foreign policy

**volunteer** person who joins the military by choice

Rough Rider and future president Theodore Roosevelt



## Imperialism, c. 1900



### GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

The victory in the Spanish-American War gave the United States control over the Philippines.

- 1 THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS** *Given the distance of the Philippines from the mainland U.S., what benefits might its location have for the United States?*
- 2 PLACES AND REGIONS** *To what other countries would the United States gain easy access by establishing a naval base in the Philippines?*

## An American Empire

**GUIDING QUESTION** *How did the United States develop an overseas empire?*

As American and Spanish leaders met to discuss the terms for a peace treaty, Americans debated what to do about their newly acquired lands. Cuba would receive its independence as promised, and Spain had agreed to the U.S. annexation of Guam and Puerto Rico. The big question was what to do with the Philippines. The United States faced a difficult choice—remain true to its republican ideals or become an imperial power that ruled a foreign country without the consent of its people. The issue sparked an intense political debate.

### The Debate Over Annexation

Many people emphasized the economic and military benefits of taking the Philippines. It would provide the United States with another Pacific naval base, a stopover on the way to China, and a large market for American goods. Other supporters believed America had a duty to help “less civilized” peoples. “Surely this Spanish war has not been a grab for the empire,” commented a New England minister, “but a heroic effort [to] free the oppressed and to teach millions of ignorant, debased human beings thus freed how to live.”

Other Americans argued that the cost of an empire far outweighed the economic benefits it provided. Some worried that competition from cheap Filipino labor would drive down American wages. Still others believed imperialism violated American principles. President McKinley ultimately decided to annex the islands.

On December 10, 1898, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris, under which Cuba became independent. Also, the United States acquired Puerto Rico and Guam and paid Spain \$20 million for the Philippines. After an intense debate, the Senate approved the treaty in February 1899. The United States had become an imperial power.

## The Platt Amendment

Although the United States had promised to grant Cuba its independence, conditions were attached to the new Cuban constitution. The Platt Amendment, submitted by Senator Orville Platt, specified the following: (1) Cuba could not make any treaty with another nation that would weaken its independence; (2) Cuba had to allow the United States to buy or lease naval stations in Cuba; (3) Cuba's debts had to be kept low to prevent foreign countries from landing troops to enforce payment; and (4) the United States would have the right to intervene to protect Cuban independence and keep order. Reluctantly, the Cubans added the amendment to their constitution. The Platt Amendment, which effectively made Cuba an American protectorate, remained in effect until its repeal in 1934.

## Governing Puerto Rico

In 1900 Congress passed the Foraker Act, establishing a civil government for Puerto Rico. The law provided for an elected legislature, and a governor and executive council that were appointed by the president. Supreme Court rulings later held that Puerto Ricans were not American citizens and so did not have rights of citizens.

Congress gradually allowed Puerto Ricans greater self-government. In 1917 it granted Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship. Thirty years later, Puerto Ricans were allowed to elect their own governor. A debate eventually began over whether Puerto Rico should become a state, become independent, or continue as a self-governing commonwealth of the United States. The debate over Puerto Rico's status continues today.

## ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES



### The Annexation Debate

Americans were divided over whether the United States should give the Filipinos their independence or become an imperial power by annexing the Philippines.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“The Opposition tells us that we ought not to govern a people without their consent. I answer, The rule of liberty that all just government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, applies only to those who are capable of self-government. We govern the Indians without their consent, we govern our territories without their consent, we govern our children without their consent. . . . Would not the people of the Philippines prefer the just, humane, civilizing government of this Republic to the savage, bloody rule of pillage and extortion from which we have rescued them?”

—from *The Meaning of the Times*



Albert J. Beveridge  
United States Senator

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“A harbor and coaling station in the Philippines would answer every trade and military necessity and such a concession could have been secured at any time without difficulty. It is not necessary to own people in order to trade with them. We carry on trade today with every part of the world, and our commerce has expanded more rapidly than the commerce of any European empire.

. . . Imperialism finds no warrant in the Bible. The command ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’ has no Gatling gun attachment. . . .”

— from *Speeches of William Jennings Bryan*



William Jennings Bryan  
Presidential Candidate

### DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents

- 1 Making Inferences** According to Albert Beveridge, why is annexation of the Philippines an honorable course of action?
- 2 Analyzing** What are William Jennings Bryan's two main criticisms of imperialism?



Many people debated the decision to annex the Philippines, arguing over costs and benefits of the new empire.

President McKinley raises the American flag over the Philippines while William Jennings Bryan tries to chop it down.

- 1 **Identifying Central Ideas** Based on the cartoon, what do you think McKinley is trying to accomplish?
- 2 **Drawing Conclusions** How do the actions of McKinley in the cartoon represent his feelings about U.S. imperialism?

### Rebellion in the Philippines

In 1899 the United States met resistance in the Philippines when Emilio Aguinaldo ordered his troops to attack the American soldiers who had been sent there. The conflict continued for almost three years. To fight the Filipino guerrillas, the U.S. military established reconcentration camps to separate Filipino guerrillas from civilians. Thousands died from disease and starvation. Many U.S. soldiers died fighting the guerrillas.

While American troops fought the guerrillas, the first U.S. civilian governor of the islands, William Howard Taft, tried to win over the Filipinos by improving education, transportation, and health care. These reforms slowly reduced Filipino hostility.

In March 1901, American troops captured Aguinaldo. On July 4, 1902, the United States declared the war over. Gradually the Filipinos gained more control over their government. By the mid-1930s, they elected their own congress and president. In 1946 they gained full independence from the United States.

#### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Explaining** What did the United States do to expand its territorial interests?

### LESSON 2 REVIEW



#### Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Describing** Describe the level of autonomy that Cuba obtained after the Spanish-American War.
2. **Identifying Central Ideas** Identify two results of the United States's intervening in the revolution in Cuba.

#### Using Your Notes

3. **Finding the Main Idea** Review the notes that you completed during the lesson to identify what all the events had in common.

#### Answering the Guiding Questions

4. **Explaining** Why was the United States willing to go to war with Spain over Cuba?

5. **Contrasting** How was the Spanish-American War different from earlier U.S. wars?

6. **Analyzing** How did the United States develop an overseas empire?

#### Writing Activity

7. **NARRATIVE** Suppose that you are a Filipino living during the time of the U.S. annexation of the Philippine Islands. Write a journal entry in which you describe your feelings about American control of the islands.