

Chapter 20

American Imperialism

Manifest Destiny

- Early ideas of westward expansion were limited to North American territories where a growing population could expand.
 - By 1890 the U.S. first began to consider expansion into foreign territories, Much like France, Britain, and Germany.
 - The subjugation of Indian tribes in the west established a precedent in America to control inferior peoples.

Justification for Expansion

- Trade: American consumers could not support the rapid industrial growth.
 - As European powers jockeyed for control of African and Chinese markets U.S. businessmen feared they would lose opportunities.
- Anglo-Saxonism: movement that claimed the English speaking cultures were destined to control uncivilized territories of the world.
 - Followed the theories of Social Darwinism
 - Rev. Josiah Strong wrote the popular book *Our Country* which suggested it was the Christian duty to spread religion to such territories.

Justification Cont.

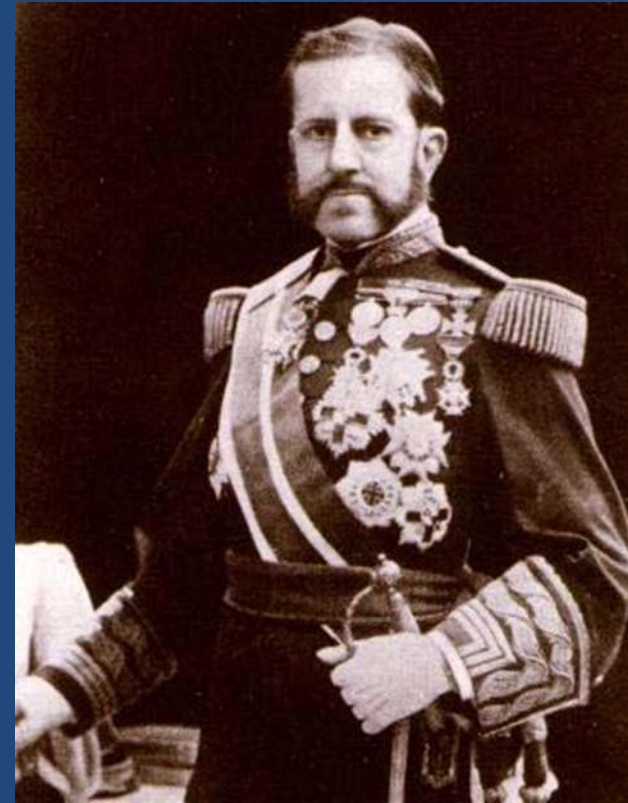
- Mahan and Naval Power
 - Alfred Mahan, Admiral of the U.S. Navy proposed that American safety was dependent upon imperialism.
 - Location between two oceans required America to develop a strong navy.
 - Island colonies in both oceans would create a network of bases that would strengthen navy.
 - Imperial colonies would open new markets, strengthen defense, and provide new sources of raw materials.

Annexation of Hawaii

- In early 1800s American merchants made contact in Hawaii
 - since then many U.S. businessmen immigrated there to create a thriving sugar, fishing, and merchant industry
 - But they also brought diseases that destroyed the native population, along with most traditional society.
 - The U.S. convinced Hawaiians to sign a treaty giving control of Pearl Harbor and most trade.
- In 1891 Hawaiians rallied behind Queen Liliuokalani and revolted against U.S. control
 - When the U.S. ceased the sugar trade and sent naval ships the Hawaiians were forced to cede control of the islands.

The Situation in Cuba

- The U.S. began to take an interest in Cuba because American investors had invested massive amounts of money in sugar plantations there.
- Valeriano Weyler: Spanish General placed in control of Cuba
 - As part of his martial rule Weyler placed Cubans who resisted him in concentration camps.
 - U.S. Newspapers used this to gain headlines.



Yellow Journalism

- Yellow Journalism: outrageous stories published by journalists with the intention of creating anger in the reader.
 - Got their name from the cheap yellow ink newspapers used.
- William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer:
 - Hearst wrote for the New York Journal
 - Pulitzer wrote for the New York World
- In many cases these two men embellished their stories about Cuba and made Weyler sound worse than reality.

The De Lome Letter:

- American outrage increased with the stories told by Hearst and Pulitzer.
- President William McKinley took a stance of “patient waiting” in order to keep America out of war.
 - This stance became increasingly unpopular.
- William Randolph Hearst intercepted a letter from Spanish Ambassador Enrique De Lome.
 - In his letter De Lome claimed McKinley was weak and would refuse any war.
 - This outraged Americans and increased calls for war.

“Remember the Maine”

- The U.S.S. Maine mysteriously sank in an explosion during patrols off the coast of Cuba.
- Racing for headlines, Pulitzer and Hearst published articles claiming the Spanish had fired on the Maine and sank it.
 - Even though government officials couldn't confirm it, McKinley was forced to declare war on Spain.
- Later it was revealed that a boiler room explosion caused the demise of the Maine.

Sinking of the Maine



The Philippines

- At the outbreak of war Teddy Roosevelt was acting as Sec. of Navy
 - He quickly ordered the U.S. fleet to attack Spanish territory in the Philippines before they could mobilize for war.
 - Under George Dewey, American ships easily defeated an aging Spanish fleet in Manila Bay and became heroes.
- They were easily able to win and gain a major advantage before the war even started.
 - Also changed many of the objectives of the war
 - Rather than Freeing Cuba, a major objective seemed to be conquering Spanish territories.

A Splendid Little War

- Sec. of State John Hay called it this because the war was so short and easily accomplished so many American objectives.
- However, America was terribly underprepared for war.
 - Soldiers were given left over wool uniforms, hard tack, and salted pork from the Civil War.
- The U.S. military was largely dependent on volunteer National Guard units, and volunteers from communities back home.
- They were able to achieve quick victory largely because Cuban rebel units weakened Spanish strongholds before American arrival.

The Rough Riders

- Collection of former college athletes and adventure seekers that Teddy recruited to fight with him in the war.
- The Battle of San Juan Hill
 - TR and his Rough Riders attacked Spanish forces at this strategic location in Cuba before they could defend themselves.
- Eager to sell newspapers, American journalists created outrageous headlines about the exploits of the Rough Riders.
 - As their popularity grew so did the legend of Teddy Roosevelt.

The Legend of Teddy Roosevelt

- Following the war TR ran for Senate in New York and easily won based on his reputation.
 - Roosevelt was immensely popular with Americans, but most politicians didn't like him.
- To bolster McKinley's popularity in the 1900 election, he was selected as Vice President.
 - Became the youngest president in American history when McKinley was assassinated.

American Colonies

- The Treaty of Paris ending the war granted America FOUR new Spanish colonies
 - Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines
- America still controls Puerto Rico and Guam today.

Cuba

- The Teller Amendment was passed to ensure America would give Cuba its own government as soon as possible when the war was over.
 - However, peace was not easily restored in Cuba
- The Platt Amendment was passed in 1902: (lasted 33 years)
 - Granted Cuba limited independence, but with U.S. guidance..
- The Platt Amendment had FOUR goals:
 1. U.S. had to consent to all Cuban treaties with other countries
 - 2. Cuba had to allow American Naval Bases (Guantanamo Bay)
 - 3. U.S. could control Cuban finances for them
 - 4. The U.S. reserved all rights to intervene should Cuba need help.

The Philippines as a Territory

- During the war Americans placed Emilio Aguinaldo on the islands to fight the Spanish for them.
 - Aguinaldo was a native rebel who had been expelled by the Spanish for his resistance.
 - He was under the impression that he would become president after the war was over if American should win.
- Aguinaldo turned on America when the U.S. didn't grant independence right away.



Aguinaldo's War

- Aguinaldo retreated into the jungle and began a TWO year guerilla war against America.
 - The U.S. eventually sent 60,000 troops, more than four times the force in the Spanish American War in Cuba.
- Eventually they were able to capture him and put down the rebellion, but the longer it took the more unpopular imperialism became.

Filipino Government

- In 1907 America attempted to install a new government.
 - The problem was an ethnic one in the Philippines
 - There were over 43 different ethnic groups that struggled to get along, and any new government usually failed.
- The U.S. did not pull out and grant complete independence until 1946.