

Rebellion in Cuba While the US was expanding, Spain - once the holder of a great empire in the Americas - was shrinking. Most Spanish holdings had declared independence and those remaining were eager to be free of Spanish rule. In 1895, Cuban revolutionary Jose Marti return from exile to lead the fight for Cuban independence. This worried many in the US, who were concerned about trade with Cuba and the islands proximity to Florida. However, neither president Cleveland, who was in his second term at the time, nor his successor, President McKinley, wanted to interfere.

Yellow Journalism The fighting in Cuba became very violent, and Spanish troops treated Cuban prisoners terribly. The American public was shocked, but shock sold newspapers. In a tactic known as yellow journalism, Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst exaggerated and sensationalized the stories, stirring up public fury. They were in competition with one another and scandals sold well.

Remember the Maine! McKinley wish to avoid war. However, rioting in Havana, the capital of Cuba, put Americans in the area in danger. McKinley sent the ship **USS Maine** to Havana in January 1898 to protect them. With no warning, the ship exploded on February 15. Although evidence later suggested that it was an accident, Spain was blamed and "Remember the Maine!" became a rallying cry for war. On April 20, Congress recognized Cuban independence and demanded that Spanish troops leave the island. In the Teller Amendment, the US stated that it had no interest in control in Cuba. On April 25, 1898, Congress declared war on Spain. The Spanish American war had begun.

Dewey in the Philippines The Philippines were another holding of the Spanish empire, and like the Cubans, the Filipinos revolted in the 1890s. When Commodore George Dewey led an American fleet to the Philippines on April 30, 1898, he had the support of the people there. On May 1, in the first battle of the Spanish American war, Dewey destroyed the Spanish ships in Manila Harbor and then, with the help of Filipino rebels led by Emilio Aguinaldo, took control of the city.

The Roughriders and Fighting in the Caribbean Although the Navy did much of the fighting, the army also played a role in the Spanish American war. Many volunteers signed up to fight, including the first US volunteer cavalry, a diverse regiment of cowboys, students, and others organized by Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt that became known as the Roughriders. On July 1, 1898, the Roughriders captured the hills around Santiago, Cuba. They helped the Americans win the battle of San Juan Hill.

The treaty of Paris (Again (Again)) On August 12, only a few months after fighting had begun, armistice was declared. Armistice is a temporary end to hostilities by warring parties or a truce. The Spanish empire was over and the fighting had cost very few American lives. In fact, many more Americans died of tropical diseases than of battle

wounds. In the 1898 Treaty of Paris, signed on December 10, Spain ceded control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the US. This was not the first Treaty of Paris. The 1763 Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years' War, the 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolutionary War, and the 1898 Treaty of Paris ended the Spanish American War.

Expansionism Expands Once the Spanish left, Americans needed to decide what to do with their new lands. Many, including the founders of the Anti-Imperialist League, thought that the islands should be given their independence – to do otherwise would be anathema (something hated or opposed) to American democratic ideals and betray America's own history fighting for independence from British colonialism. Others argued that colonies would provide the US with markets, resources, navel stopovers, and places to spread those democratic ideals. Although each island nation was treated differently, in the end imperialist reasoning prevailed. Puerto Rico and Guam became territories, meaning that they remained under US control. In 1917, Puerto Ricans gained citizenship. Cuba became an American protectorate, an independent country with American oversight. When Cuba rewrote its constitution in 1901, the Platt Amendment specified that the US still had a right to make decisions for the Cuban government and that the US could maintain a military presence at Guantánamo Bay. The Philippines became an American colony, prompting Aguinaldo to lead another fight for independence. This second struggle in the Philippines was much more challenging for the US, but the US managed to capture Aguinaldo in 1901. In 1946, the Philippines became independent by allowing the US to retain military bases there and agreeing to trade agreements favorable to the US.

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did the Cuban revolution worry many people in the US?
2. Why did American newspapers sensationalize the conflict in Cuba?
3. Why were people supposed to remember the Maine?
4. How did the Filipinos react to Commodore George Dewey's arrival in the Philippines?
5. Who were the Roughriders?
6. What is an armistice?
7. What happened to the Spanish empire during the Spanish American war?
8. Why did the anti-imperialist league oppose expansion?
9. What were some arguments for expansion?
10. What happened to the territories gained by the US at the end of the war?
11. Compare the stated goals of the Teller and Platt Amendments.