

American Upon the Global Stage

Was America Imperialist? Or Was America Exceptional?

History of American Foreign Policy

- ✿ Neutrality & Isolationism
 - ⊕ Neutrality Proclamation (1793) & Washington's Farewell Address (1796)
 - ⊕ Failure of Diplomacy--Jay's Treaty (1794) & XYZ Affair (1797)
- ✿ Setting Boundaries & Continental Expansion
 - ⊕ Louisiana Purchase (1803)
 - ⊕ War of 1812 as Second American Revolution
 - ⊕ Monroe Doctrine (1823)
 - ⊕ Manifest Destiny

Was it imperialism?

- ✿ Colonialism
- ✿ Sphere of Influence
- ✿ Open Door Policy
- ✿ Gunboat Diplomacy
- ✿ Dollar Diplomacy
- ✿ Cultural Imperialism
- ✿ Definition of New Imperialism: The extension of a nation's authority by territorial acquisition -OR- by the establishment of economic & political hegemony over other nations.
- ✿ Intent or Purpose of Initial Involvement
 - ⊕ Religious Mission
 - ⊕ Economic Markets, Resources & Investment
 - ⊕ Diplomatic Ties
 - ⊕ Military & Strategic Need
- ✿ Method of Takeover & Control
- ✿ Duration of Involvement & "Exit Strategy"
 - ⊕ Liberation & Independence
 - ⊕ Protectorate
 - ⊕ Annexation

Basis for Imperialism

- ✿ Economic Basis--Growing importance of foreign trade as domestic markets were saturated.

- ✿ Military or Strategic Basis--Connected to Economic Basis, spurred by Mahan Thesis in *The Influence of Sea Power upon History*
- ✿ Exacerbated by International Competition--Perceived "carving up" of the globe, America's primary competition was Germany, another New Imperialist power.

Imperialism--Justifications & Influences

- ✿ Social Darwinism ⇒ Right of Conquest
- ✿ Social Gospel ⇒ Duty of Civilization
- ✿ Pan-Americanism ⇒ Regional Responsibility
- ✿ Nationalism & Jingoism
 - ⊕ Everything filtered through the "yellow press"
 - ⊕ Sensationalism sold better than fact;
 - ⊕ Politicians sought out the Pulitzer & Hearst papers to publicize their proposals (Modern Navy)

Spanish-American War

America's Splendid Little War or the First Imperialist Quagmire

Spanish Misrule in Cuba

- ✿ One of the last colonies of Spain;
- ✿ Stalemate of the Ten Year's War followed by emancipation & Hispanization in 1880s;
- ✿ Jose Marti (Washington & Jefferson rolled into one) mobilizes mixed-race forces & begins attacks in 1894;
- ✿ Spain sends more than 200,000 troops to suppress rebellion & General Weyler institutes policy of Reconcentration Camps that leads to ~100,000 deaths due to inadequate food & sanitation;
- ✿ Spain granted limited autonomy in 1898.

American Concerns in Cuba

- ✿ "Cuban" Sugar Industry
 - ⊕ Estates transferred to American ownership in 1880s;
 - ⊕ 90% of Cuban sugar exports were to US;
 - ⊕ Wilson-Gorman Tariff (1894) took sugar off the "Duty-free List" placing American producers in Cuba at a disadvantage.
- ✿ Policies of the McKinley Administration
 - ⊕ McKinley elected on a more aggressive, Imperialist platform;
 - ⊕ Replaced Cleveland who had stressed neutrality.

- ✿ Competition among Hearst & Pulitzer
 - ⊕ Cuba was the front-page story for months;
 - ⊕ "You furnish the pictures & I'll furnish the war."

De Lomé Letter

- ✿ "Besides the natural and inevitable coarseness with which he repeats all that the press and public opinion of Spain has said of Weyler, it shows once more what McKinley is: weak and catering to the rabble, and, besides, a low politician, who desires to leave a door open to me and to stand well with the jingoes of his party." February 9, 1898.

Military History

- ✿ Spain agreed to US demands
 - ⊕ End Reconcentration Camps & sign armistice with Cuban rebels;
 - ⊕ Giving in to media & public pressure, McKinley declared that this was not enough.
- ✿ Combat in Cuba
 - ⊕ Spanish fleet blockaded in Santiago Harbor;
 - ⊕ Outgunned by USS *Oregon* which steamed in from Pacific;
 - ⊕ US army forces took high ground with little opposition;
 - ⊕ 379 American battle deaths but 5,000 deaths due to disease
- ✿ US combat in the Philippines
 - ⊕ Largely a fluke, as Roosevelt ordered the attack though he had no authority to do so;
 - ⊕ Dewey's fleet saw no opposition from the Spanish fleet;
 - ⊕ Land forces assisted by Filipino exile Emilio Aguinaldo & the Katipunans.
- ✿ US Combat in Puerto Rico
 - ⊕ Invaded as an afterthought, possibly an attempt to lay claim to the island before the war officially ended;
 - ⊕ American troops met no opposition, welcomed as liberators.

Cuba as Spoils of War

- ✿ Cuba on the Road to Independence
 - ⊕ Teller Amendment declared that American intent in war against Spain was not territorial acquisition;
 - ⊕ Military Government until 1902 improves financial, medical & educational facilities until withdrawal of troops;

- ✿ Platt Amendment introduced into Cuban Constitution
 - ⊕ Ostensibly to protect Cuba while it was vulnerable to foreign interference;
 - ⊕ Restricted Cuban treaties with other nations;
 - ⊕ Allowed the US to intervene to restore order or in cases of mutual protection;
 - ⊕ Promised to lease facilities to US (Guantanamo Bay)

Puerto Rico as Spoils of War

- ✿ Made into a US Protectorate by Treaty of Paris (1898)
- ✿ Foraker Act (1900)--Appointment of civilian government
- ✿ Jones Act (1917) US Citizenship for Puerto Ricans.
- ✿ Puerto Rico made a Commonwealth in 1952.

Insular Cases (1901-1904)

- ✿ Dealt with questions of:
 - ⊕ Right of US to acquire territories ⇒ Yes.
 - ⊕ Whether all Constitutional protections applied to people of those territories ⇒ No, only the fundamental ones, because some populations were not "fit" enough.
 - ⊕ Overall question of whether the "Constitution followed the flag" ⇒ Not necessarily.

The Philippines as Spoils of War

- ✿ Engendered the most debate
 - ⊕ Most complex in terms of negotiations with Spanish; US took Manila after Spain sued for peace;
 - ⊕ Largest land mass & populations of Spanish possessions (7 million Filipinos);
 - ⊕ Philippines seen as most foreign acquisition:
 - ⊕ Need for standing army for occupation;
 - ⊕ Competition for labor, relocation of factories;
 - ⊕ Fears of "mongrelization" of white race.
- ✿ McKinley's calls for "Benevolent Assimilation"
 - ⊕ Believed that an inner voice told him to take the Philippines to Christianize & civilize them;
 - ⊕ Fit with argument that Filipinos were not ready for independence, would be preyed upon by other Imperial powers;
 - ⊕ US did a great deal to advance infrastructure, sanitation & public health with little profit to US.

Philippine Insurrection

- ✿ Filipinos under Aguinaldo had expected independence
 - ⊕ Defeat of Spanish was not possible without them;

- ⊕ Wanted less sanitation & more liberty;
- ⊕ Insurrection did not survive the capture of Aguinaldo.
- ⊗ Filipinos early on switched to Guerilla tactics
 - ⊕ Infuriated American soldiers, led to atrocities;
 - ⊕ Nearly 5,000 American soldiers killed (primarily from disease); more than 50,000 Filipino soldiers killed in combat;
 - ⊕ More Filipinos killed in captivity after US Military applied **General Order 100** denying POW status allowing torture such as "Water Cure"
- ⊗ Civilian casualties grew as war dragged on
 - ⊕ US Military relocated civilians into protected zones around towns & villages, similar to Spanish Reconcentration camps;
 - ⊕ In Batangas nearly 300,000 civilians died as malaria & dysentery spread through the zones.

Legacy of Philippine Insurrection

- ⊗ Most Filipinos accepted the paternalistic policies of the Philippine Commission led by William H. Taft, who referred to Filipinos as is "little brown brothers."
 - ⊕ Philippines gained official independence in 1946; US maintained lease on Subic Bay & other military bases.
- ⊗ Senate Investigation & War Trials publicized the combat tactics
 - ⊕ High-ranking officers defended their "Kill & Burn" policy;
 - ⊕ General "Hell Roaring Jake" Smith court-martialed for Samar campaign where he issued the order to "kill everyone over the age of ten" and turn the region into a "howling wilderness."
 - ⊕ Major Edwin Glenn