

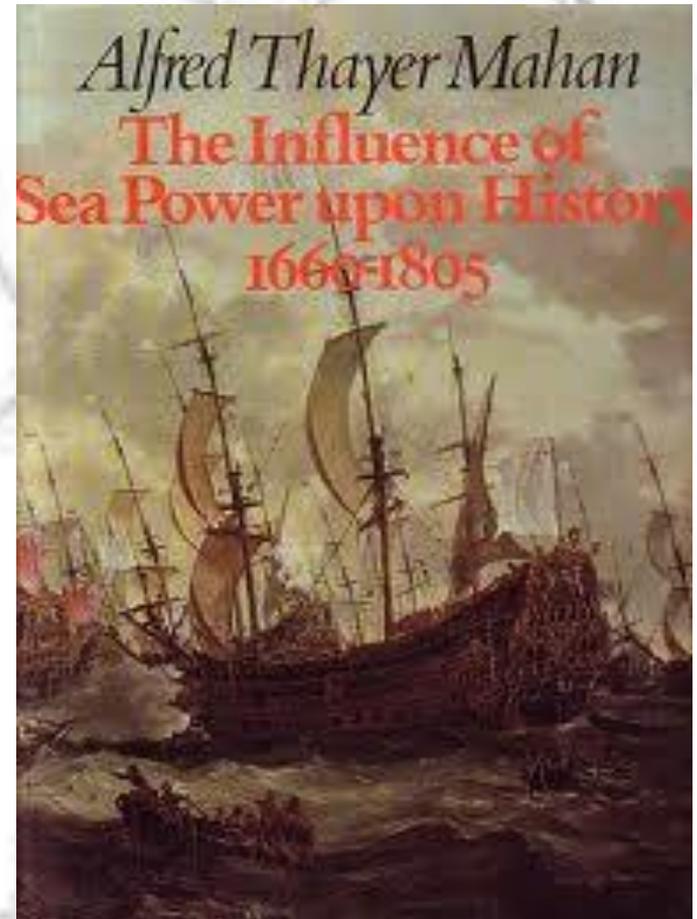


# IMPERIALISM

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# IMPERIALISM

- “Americans must now begin to look outward” - Alfred T. Mahan
- With the closing of the frontier in 1893, America began to look overseas to expand her markets, resources, power, and prestige
- This was the “New Manifest Destiny” as at the turn of the century America quickly became an imperial power



# REASONS FOR IMPERIALISM

1. Native Americans had been pacified and the frontier had been closed
2. Economic \$\$\$ = New natural resources and markets
3. More aggressive foreign policy to distract people from political and social tensions
4. We'll be left out if we don't act soon; European's gobbling up the world
5. The Influence of Sea Power Upon History (1890) was Alfred Thayer Mahan's thesis that being bounded by two oceans, America must have a great navy to be a great nation in history
6. Religious and humanitarian concerns was our duty to bring civilization to the barbarous and backward people of the world
7. Social Darwinism also justified the acquisition of colonies

# HAWAII AND SAMOA



- In the early 1800s, American merchants, missionaries, and planters started to descend on Hawaii
- They unknowingly brought infectious diseases that wiped out  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the population by 1900
- In 1887, American signed a treaty with Hawaii to build a naval base at Pearl Harbor
- In 1891, Queen Liliuokalani a Hawaiian nationalist was elevated to the throne to challenge American authority on her islands

# HAWAII AND SAMOA

- In 1893, American planters (sugar cane) staged a revolution and received help from an American warship and marines at Pearl Harbor
- A provisional government of American's was established and Hawaii was annexed in 1898
- In 1878, American extracted a treaty for a naval base at Pago Pago, Samoa
- By 1899, American and Germany had divided the islands among themselves (American Samoa)



# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)

- This is the start of American as an overseas empire
- The Spanish American War emerged out of events in Cuba
- In 1895 the Cubans rose up against the Spanish
- The Spanish commander General Valeriano “Butcher” Weyler herded civilians into concentration camps where they died of malnutrition and disease



# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)



- In the 1890s, Hearst and Pulitzer were engaged in a circulation war and both saw Cuba as an opportunity for sensational headlines
- “Yellow Journalism” = lurid and sensational accounts of Spanish atrocities played on reader’s emotions
- William Randolph Hearst said, “You furnish the pictures, and I’ll furnish the war”

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

EDITION FOR GREATER NEW YORK

**NEW YORK JOURNAL**

AND ADVERTISER

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898

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

<b>\$50,000!</b> For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!	Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.  The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death. Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.	<b>\$50,000!</b> For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!
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# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)

- Two events led to war in February 1898
  1. A Cuban agent stole a letter by the Spanish foreign minister that described President McKinley as a weak man (The de Lôme Letter)
  2. American Battleship The Maine blew up in Havana Harbor, 260 dead
    - Yellow Journalism blamed Spain (Actually an accident)
    - “Remember the Maine” becomes a battle cry



# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)

- McKinley asked for and received a declaration of war on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1898
- Secretary of State John Hay called the Spanish American War, “A splendid little war”
  - April → August
  - More soldiers died of disease (5,200) than combat (460)
- On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1898, George Dewey sailed into Manila Bay (under the orders of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt) and destroyed the Spanish fleet thus conquering the Philippines for America



# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)



- Theodore Roosevelt resigned his government post and formed The Rough Riders unit which took part in the charge up San Juan Hill and the conquest of Cuba
- By August, Spain signs an armistice to recognize Cuban independence and give America Puerto Rico and Guam, the fate of the Philippines was to be determined later

# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)

- By 1917, American annexed Puerto Rico and made it a US Territory and its people citizens of the United States. The economy depended on sugar cane exports and later tourism
- The Treaty of Paris formally ended the war and American received the Philippines for \$20 million dollars, after much debate in the country over whether or not to keep the Philippines



# THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR (1898)

- An Anti-Imperialist League arose to oppose acquisition of the Philippines, why?
  1. Half way around the world, and densely populated
  2. Some feared “polluting” the American population
  3. Possible flood of cheap laborers
  4. Entangling foreign alliances may ensue
  5. Goes against America’s beliefs of freedom and democracy
- In 1900 election, McKinley defeated W.J. Bryan (again) by a wide margin due in part to his pro-imperial stance which the public supported



# RULING AN EMPIRE



- The Platt Amendment was forced onto Cuba
  - Cuba could not make treaties with other nations without US approval
  - US has the right to intervene in Cuba whenever “independence, lives, or property are threatened”
  - Allow American naval bases on the island (Guantanamo Bay)
- American capital quickly took over the island’s economy and made Cuba and appendage of the US

# RULING AN EMPIRE

- ◉ American became involved in a long, bloody war with insurgents fighting for independence in the Philippines
- ◉ 1898 - 1902: 200,000 American troops fought and 4,300 died in the Filipino War
- ◉ Emilio Aguinaldo led the resistance movement
- ◉ American was brutal in its treatment of the Filipino guerillas and people
- ◉ By 1901, Aguinaldo was captured and the resistance movement fell apart
- ◉ The Philippines became economically dependent on trade with America



# RULING AN EMPIRE



- The acquisition of the Philippines peaked American interest in becoming more involved in China
- Secretary of State John Hay sent the Open Door Notes to imperial powers in China announcing that America wanted the door left open to trade in China
- American military forces helped to put down the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900)
- Out of the Spanish American War came military reforms including the creation of a central planning agency, known as the Joint Chiefs of Staff