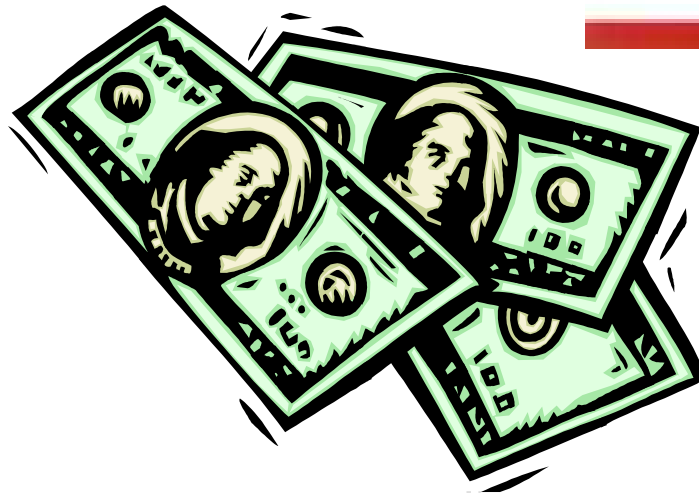
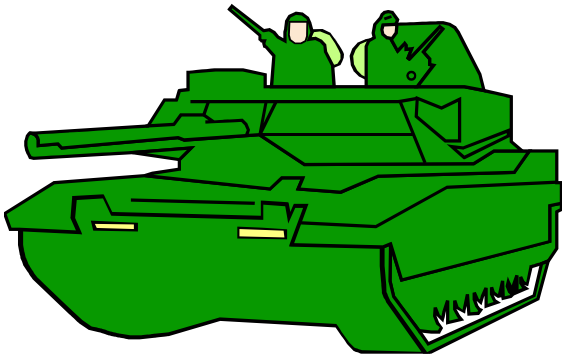


Why did America
join the imperialist
club at the end
of the 19th Century?

Imperialism

❖ Policy in which stronger nations extend their economic, political, or military control over weaker territories

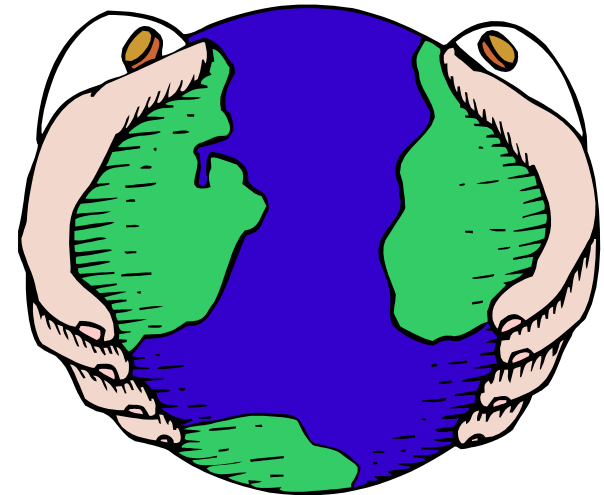


Global Competition

- ❖ European nations had been establishing colonies for years
 - ❖ Asia (all of Southeast Asia but Thailand)
 - ❖ Africa (all but Liberia and Ethiopia)

3 factors fueled American involvement

1. Desire for military strength
2. Thirst for new markets
3. Belief in cultural superiority

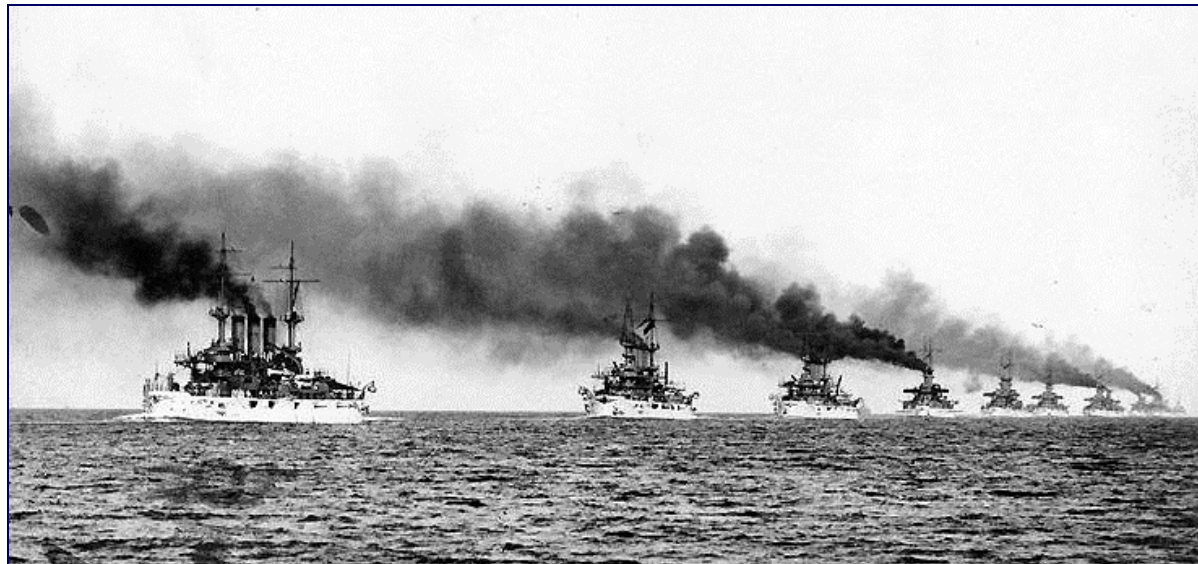


Desire for Military Strength

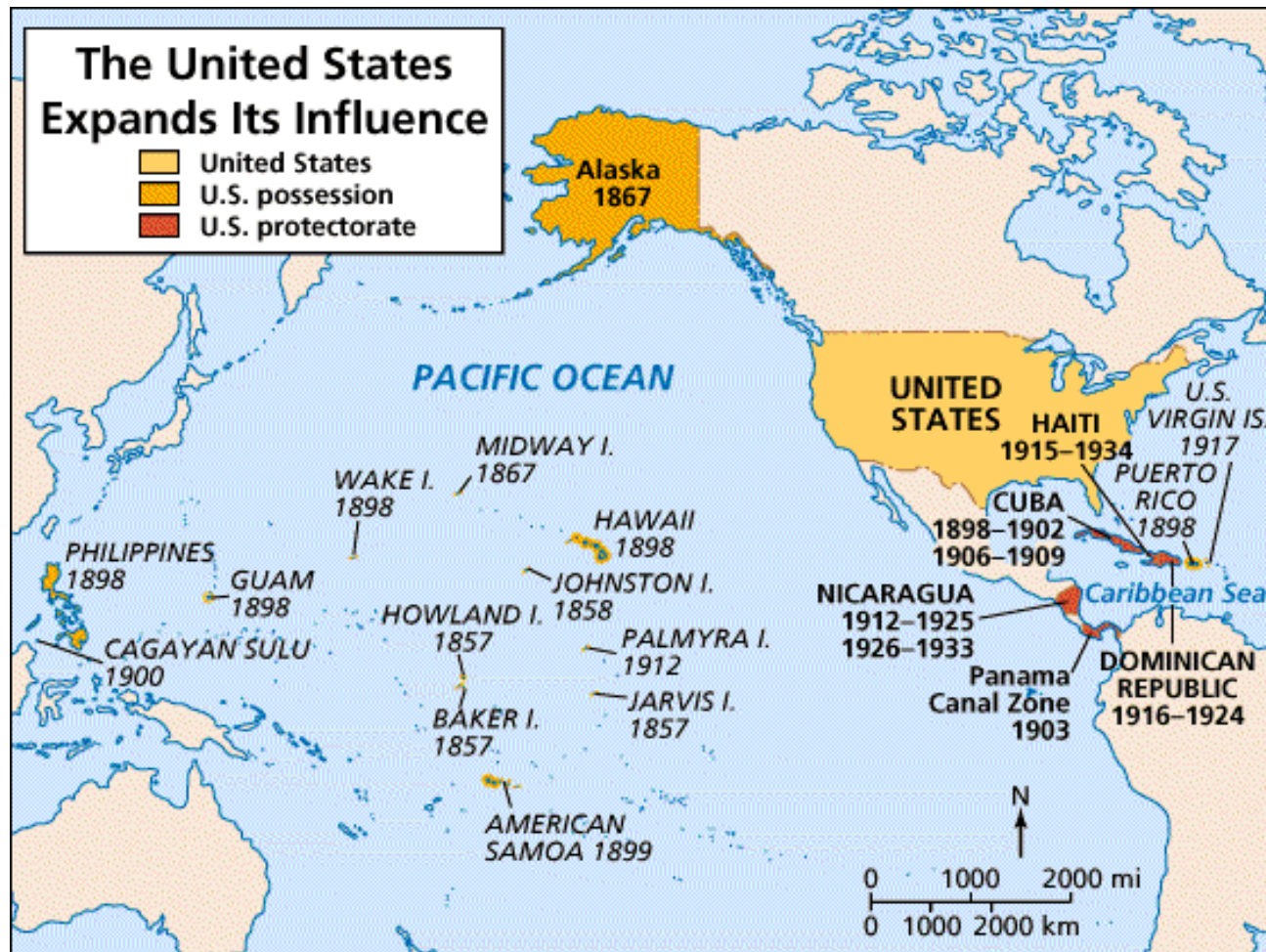
- ❖ Other countries were building strong militaries, so the U.S. needed to to compete
- ❖ Alfred Mahan build U.S. Navy.



The Great White Fleet: 1907



Military/Strategic Interests

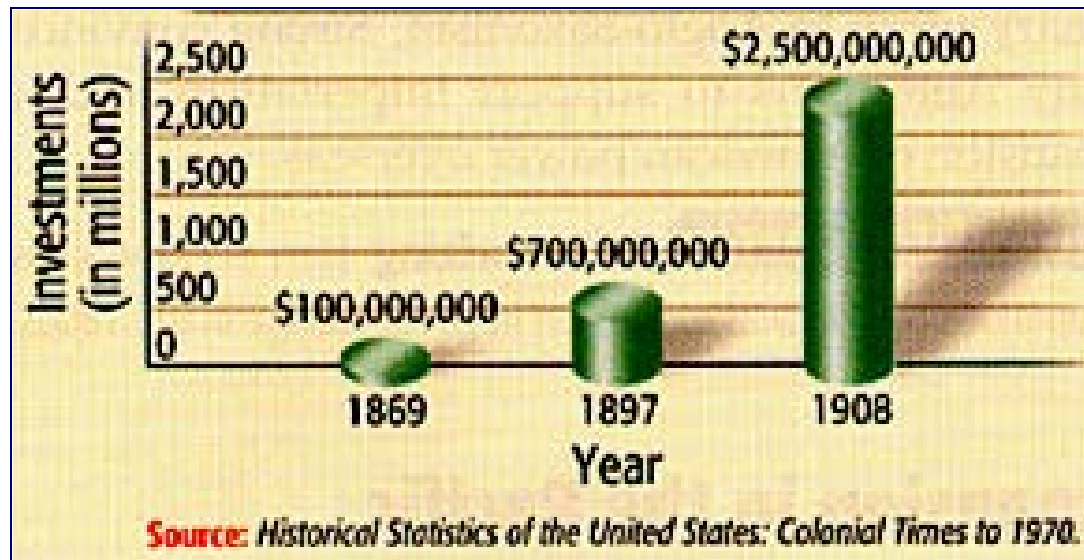


Alfred T. Mahan → *The Influence of Sea Power on History: 1660-1783*

Thirst For New Markets

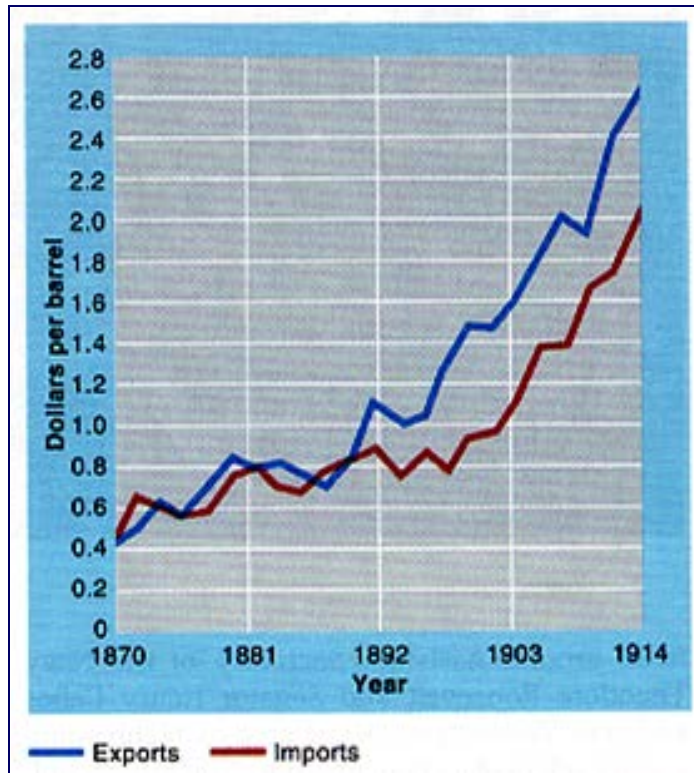
- ❖ Advances in technology and industry led to overproduction of foods and goods.
- ❖ Sell products in new lands
- ❖ Get raw materials (natural resources) to produce manufactured goods.

Commercial/Business Interests



U. S. Foreign Investments: 1869-1908

Commercial/Business Interests



**American Foreign Trade:
1870-1914**

Closing the American Frontier



Cultural Superiority

- ❖ Believed American way of life was best
- ❖ Manifest Destiny
- ❖ Social Darwinism
- ❖ “Civilize” the “inferior” and “savage” people
- ❖ Spread Christianity and WASP values



WASP = White Anglo-Saxon Protestant

U.S. Acquires Alaska

❖ Purchased by Sec. of State William Seward in 1867 from Russia for \$7.2 million

❖ “Seward’s Folly,” “Seward’s Icebox”

❖ Land rich in natural resources for approx. 2 cents per acre

❖ Became a state in 1959



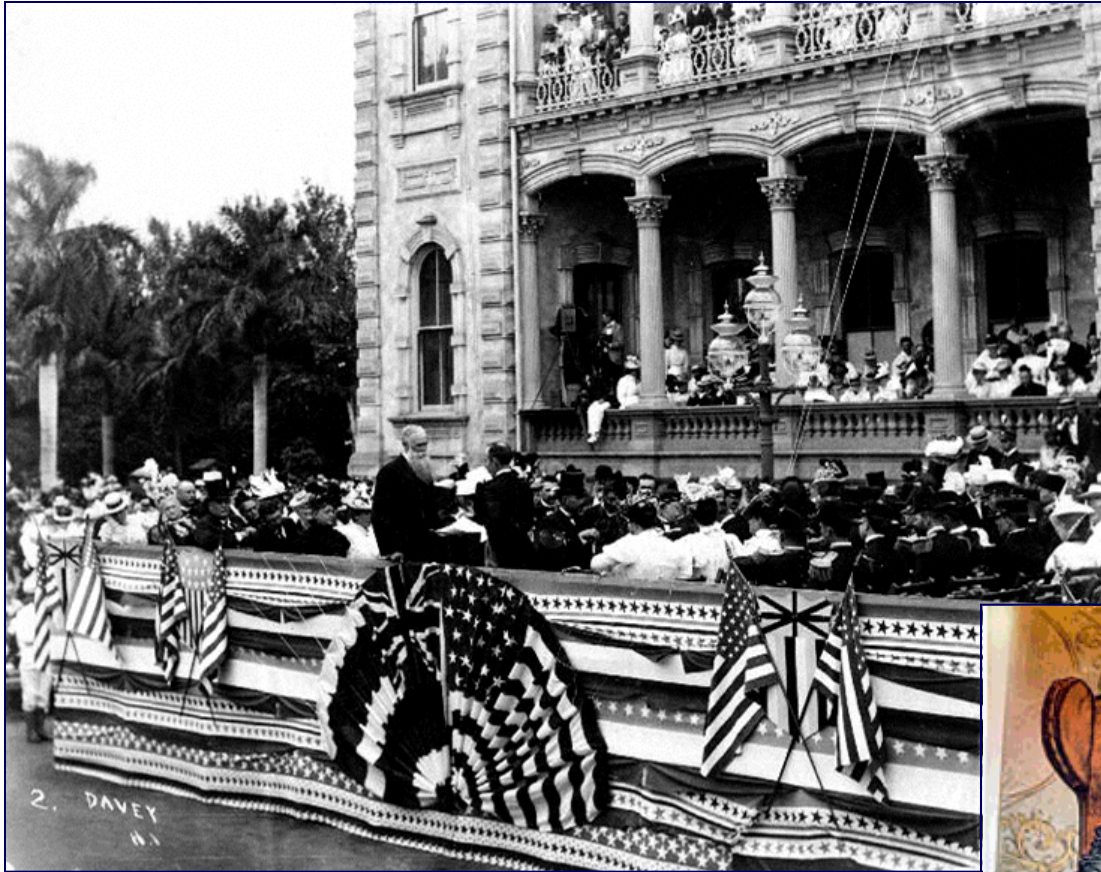
U.S. Takes Hawaii

- ❖ Important economic and military location
- ❖ Pearl Harbor Naval Base est. 1887
- ❖ Hawaii imported sugar to U.S. for free
- ❖ McKinley Tariff (1890) ended this
- ❖ Business groups overthrew Queen Liliuokalani and took control of Hawaii
- ❖ Sanford Dole led new government

Hawaii, continued...

- ❖ President Cleveland disagreed with this, but was ignored
- ❖ He said Hawaii would not be annexed unless the people of Hawaii voted for it.
- ❖ When President McKinley took over, he annexed Hawaii without a vote (1898)
- ❖ Hawaii became 50th state – 1959.

To The Victor Belongs the Spoils



**Hawaiian
Annexation
Ceremony, 1898**



Causes of the Spanish-American War

1. U.S. Interest in Cuba
2. Jose Marti – Cuban Revolutionary in U.S.
3. Yellow Journalism
4. De Lome Letter
5. Explosion of USS Maine blamed on Spain

U.S. Interest in Cuba

- ❖ The U.S. had wanted Cuba for a long time
- ❖ 1854 – Tried to buy Cuba from Spain

- ❖ Business interests

- ❖ Sugar Cane



- ❖ Sympathy for Cuban Rebels trying to free themselves from Spanish rule.

- ❖ 2 failed rebellions – 1868 and 1878

Jose Marti

- ❖ Cuban Revolutionary living in exile in NY
- ❖ Tried to spread public sentiment for Cuban independence
- ❖ American opinion was split
 - ❖ Business people supported Spain in order to protect their investments
 - ❖ Other Americans enthusiastic about rebel cause – *Cuba Libre!*

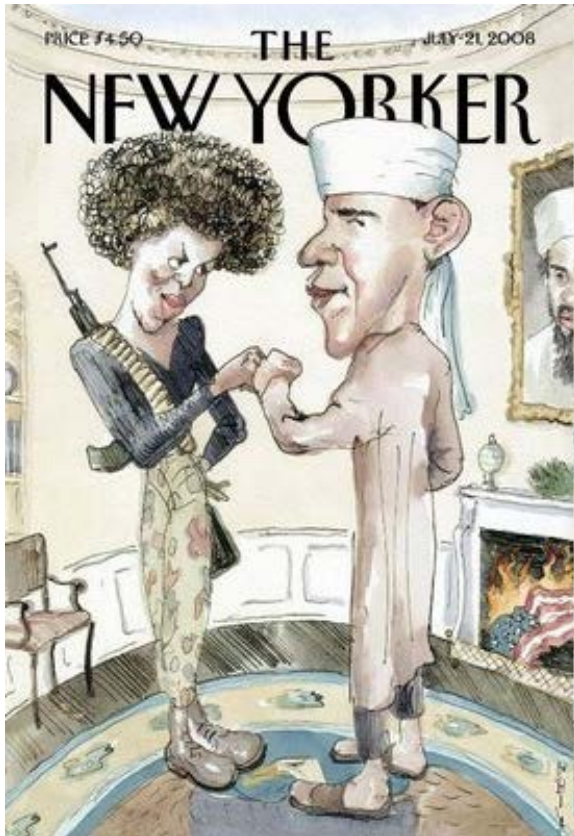


Yellow Journalism

- ❖ Sensational media designed to draw in readers by exaggerating the news.
 - ❖ Name comes from cartoon character – Yellow Kid
- ❖ Media leaders – William Randolph Hearst (NY Journal) and Joseph Pulitzer (NY World)
- ❖ Published articles to increase war fervor against Spain
 - ❖ “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war.”
 - ❖ Targeted Spanish Gen. Weyler’s camps

Yellow Journalism

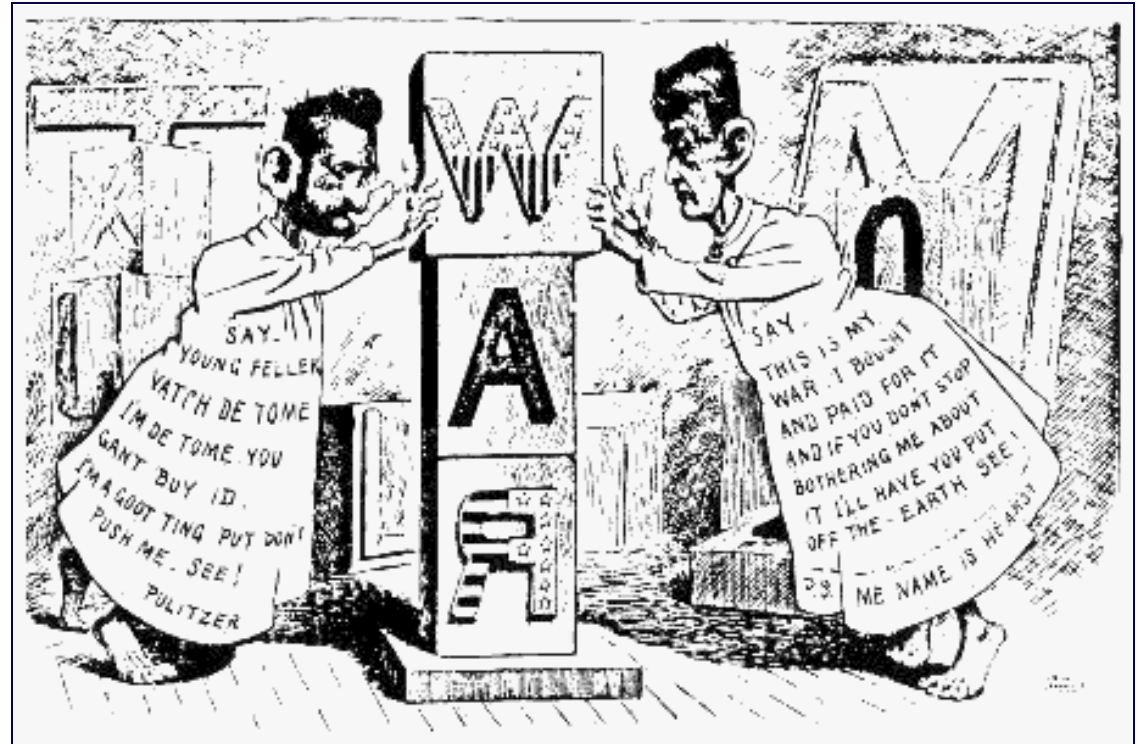
Modern Examples



“Yellow Journalism”



Joseph Pulitzer



Hearst to Frederick Remington:
*You furnish the pictures,
and I'll furnish the war!*



William Randolph Hearst

Spanish Misrule in Cuba



THE DUTY OF THE HOUR:—TO SAVE HER NOT ONLY FROM SPAIN BUT FROM A WORSE FATE.

Valeriano Weyler's “Reconcentration” Policy



De Lôme Letter

- ❖ 1897 – McKinley tries to avoid a war with Spain using diplomacy
 - ❖ Weyler modifies concentration camp policies and offered Cuba limited self-government
- ❖ Feb. 1898: Spanish diplomat calls Pres. McKinley weak
- ❖ Leaked to the media and increased anti-Spain feelings

De Lôme Letter



- ❖ Dupuy de Lôme, Spanish Ambassador to the U.S.
- ❖ Criticized President McKinley as *weak and a bidder for the admiration of the crowd, besides being a would-be politician who tries to leave a door open behind himself while keeping on good terms with the jingoes of his party.*

USS Maine Explodes

- ❖ February 15, 1898 in Havana Harbor
- ❖ 260 men killed
- ❖ Spain blamed by media (yellow journalism)
 - ❖ Hearst's paper headline - "The Warship *Maine* was Split in Two by an Enemy's Secret Infernal Machine"
- ❖ Increases war fervor against Spain
 - ❖ "*Remember the Maine!*"
- ❖ April 20 – U.S. declared war on Spain

Remember the Maine and to Hell with Spain!



***Funeral for Maine
victims in Havana***

Spanish American War

- ❖ War in the Philippines (April – Aug. 1898)
 - ❖ George Dewey attacks Spanish fleet in Manila (capital of Philippines)
 - ❖ Filipinos join fight against Spain
- ❖ War in the Caribbean
 - ❖ Rough Riders – U.S. cavalry led by Theodore Roosevelt and Leonard Wood
 - ❖ Gained victories at Kettle and San Juan Hills

Spanish American War

- ❖ July 25 – U.S. invades Puerto Rico
- ❖ August 12, 1898 – Cease fire – the “splendid little war” was over.
- ❖ Actual fighting lasted approximately 16 weeks.
- ❖ Dec. 10, 1898 – Treaty of Paris officially ends war

The “Rough Riders”



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Harvard College Library



Video – [Spanish-American War](#)

The Treaty of Paris: 1898

- ❖ Cuba was freed from Spanish rule.
- ❖ Became US Protectorate
- ❖ Spain gave up Puerto Rico and the island of Guam to the US
- ❖ The U. S. paid Spain \$20 mil. for the Philippines.
- ❖ The U. S. becomes an imperial power!

