



Spanish- American War

April 25 – August 12, 1898

"A Splendid Little War" John Hay,
Secretary of State, 1898

Do Now: Twitter Wall

When is it appropriate for the United States to send soldiers to fight and face death on foreign soil? Choose up to 3 reasons and post your tweet.

Share which reasons you chose with the class.

- to assist an ally of the United States
- to protect territory that is close to U.S.

borders

- to stop human rights abuses
- to acquire resources
- to gain power
- to acquire territory
- to improve national security
- to spread or protect American values

and moral beliefs

- to fight against tyrannical governments

• under no circumstances is it ever appropriate

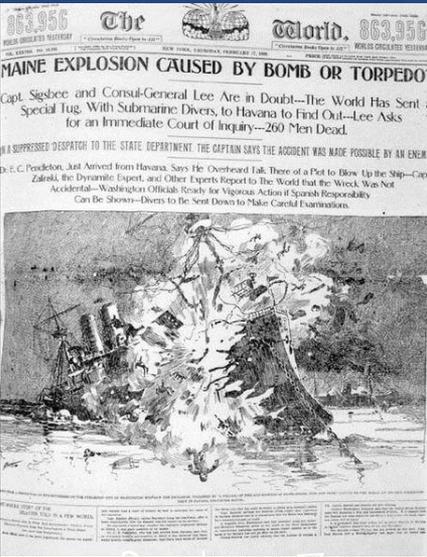
- other (explain)

Which reasons were chosen more than others? Why do you think that is?





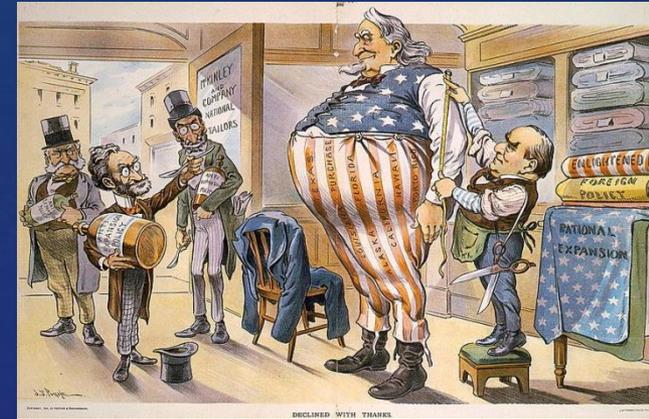
Section 2



Section 3



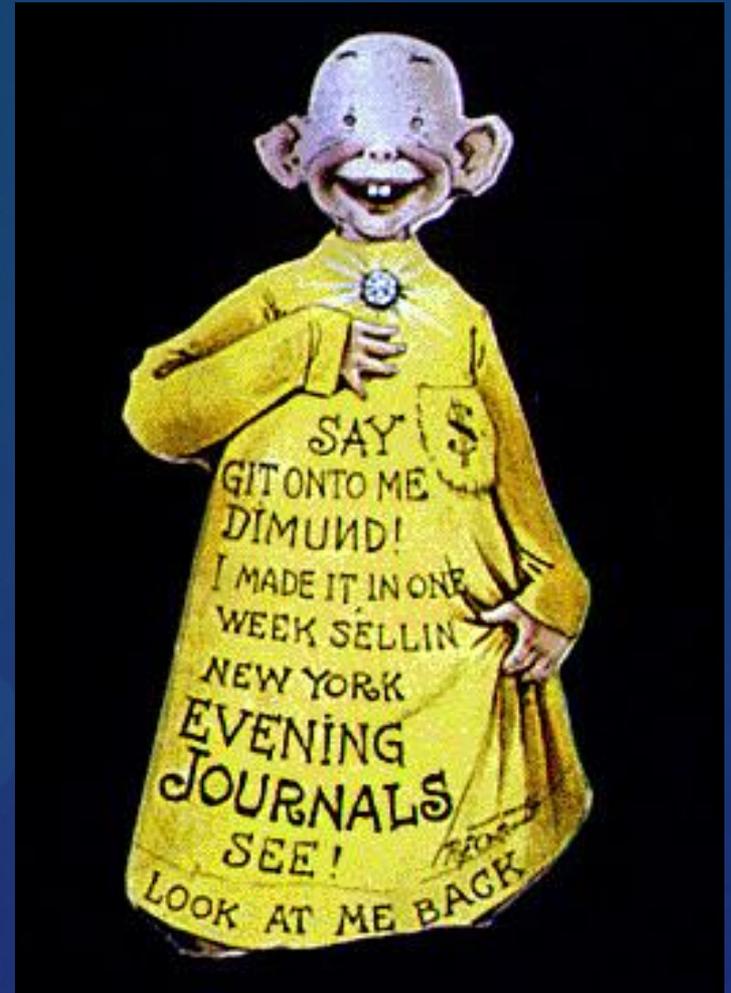
Section 4



Section 5

• Who was the Yellow Kid? How did he contribute to the “newspaper war” between Hearst and Pulitzer?

• What role did competition for readership between newspapers play in the U.S. decision to go to war?



Yellow Journalism

Background:

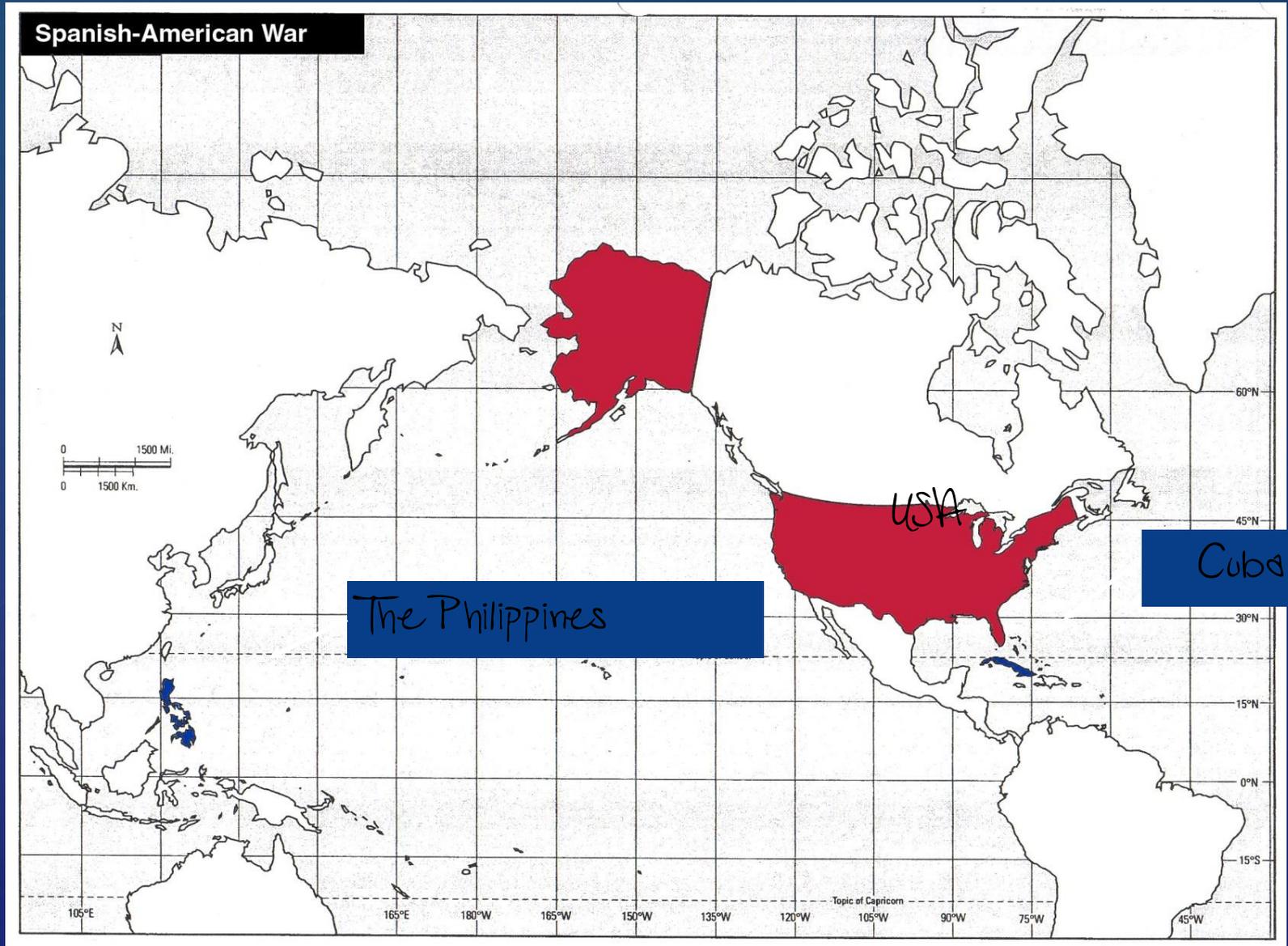
Who?

- Spain vs. America

Where?

- Phillipines, Cuba (Spain's Colonies)

Background:



Why?

Help give freedom to Spain's colonies!



& Introduction – Political Cartoon
Analysis

& Skit Presentation with multiple
scenes (about 2 – 3)

& Yellow Journalism article –
exaggerating the details of the
events presented

Group Assignments

Station 1



What do you see? What seems to be happening?
What does the woman represent? The skillet? The
island on fire?

Background



Spanish Flag

- Cuba founded by Christopher Columbus for Spain in 1492.
- For centuries, Spain had slaves working on sugar cane plantations.
- Eventually, the Spanish colony of Cuba became one of the leading producers of sugar.
- By the late 1800's, Cuba began a movement towards independence from Spain



Sugar Cane

Cuban Uprising

- 1st Rebellion: lead by poor whites, free blacks, and slaves.
 - **Result:** Spain crushed revolt, but gave Cubans some representation in government and abolished slavery in 1886.
- Second Rebellion: lead by Jose Marti, a Cuban poet, journalist, and statesman.
 - Cubans used guerilla warfare, or surprise attacks against the Spanish (like a hit and run tactic).
 - **Result:** Spanish General Valeriano Weyler (known as “The Butcher”) ended the revolt in 1896.
 - In order to decipher between good Cubans from revolutionary Cubans, Weyler built reconcentration camps in which he imprisoned a large portion of the population.
 - Under the harsh and unsanitary conditions in the concentration camps, Cuban prisoners died rapidly, particularly from disease and starvation.

General Weyler “The Butcher”



American Sentiment



- This hit home for Americans for two reasons:

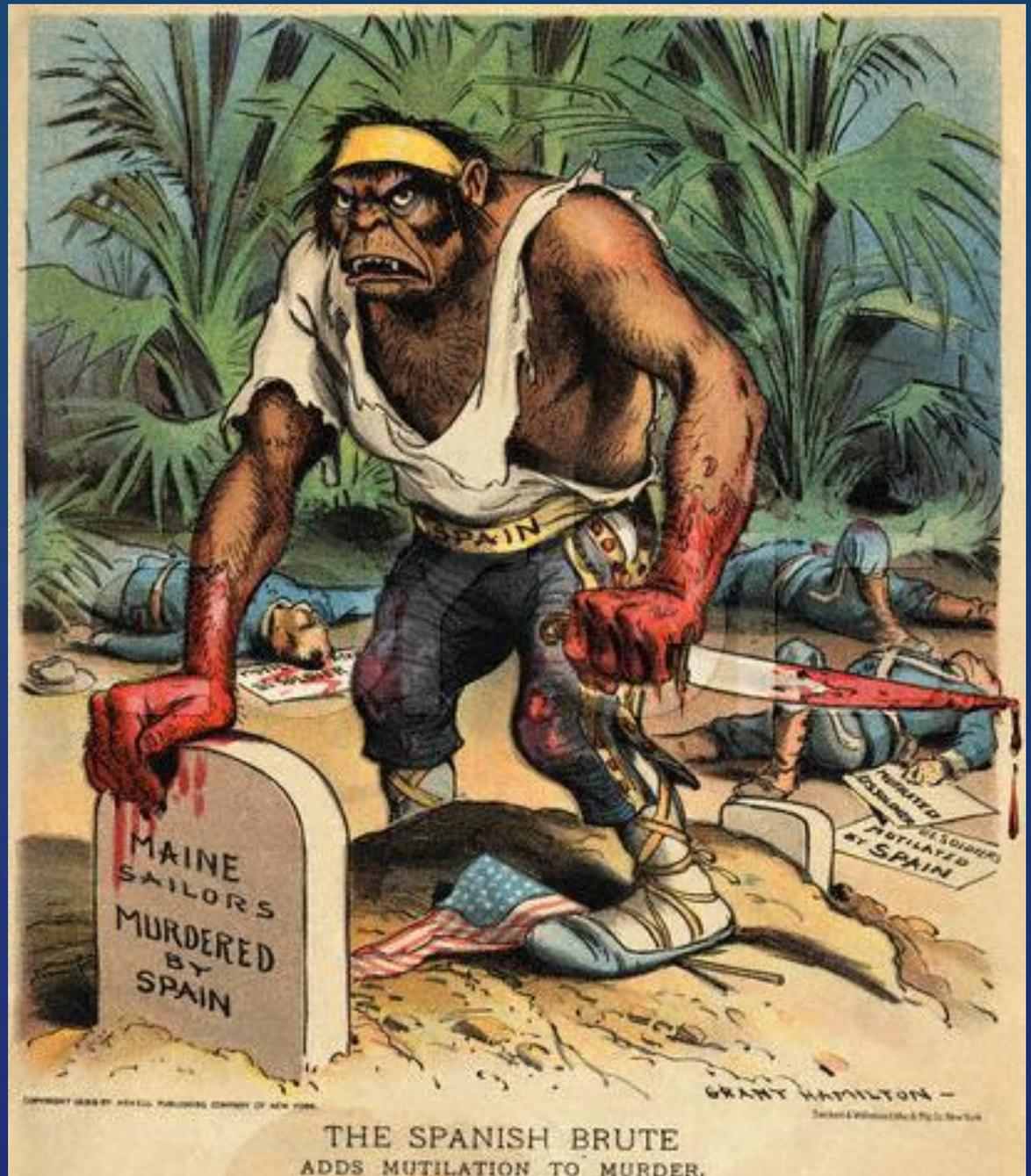
1. Americans sympathized for Cuba's fight for independence, similar to the American Revolution against Great Britain.

2. American investment in Cuban sugar plantations – Americans who purchased land and invested in the production of sugar were concerned that this political unrest may hurt their investment.

American Newspapers React

- ⌘ Most Americans learned about the events in Cuba through newspapers and magazines. At that time, these were the only forms of mass media—methods of communicating to a mass audience.
- ⌘ Newspapers were very popular in the late 1800s. With the yellow journalism of the time, however, many papers were not as careful in their reporting as they are today. To sell newspapers, publishers like Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst sensationalized the news. Both the *New York World* and the *New York Journal* saw reporting on the Cuban rebellion as a good way to gain new readers. Reporters and artists were encouraged to stretch the truth about the bravery of Cuban rebels and the horrors of Spanish rule, especially "Butcher" Weyler's brutality. Many readers were shocked by these reports. Some demanded that the United States help Cuba win independence. In this way, yellow journalism helped stir public support for U.S. intervention to aid the rebels.

Yellow Journalism



Overview

Spain's Reconcentration Policy

What?

- Civilians were forced into government run camps (with bad conditions)

Why?

- Spain was fighting a guerilla war and needed to separate “good” from “bad guys

How did it lead to war?

- Made Spain look bad in American eyes

“Yellow Journalists”

What?

- Newspaper created highly exaggerated stories

Why?

- Make more ♡ if they keep you scared and interested

How did it lead to war?

- Made Americans want war!

American Interests

What?

- Many of Cuba's sugar plantations were owned by Americans

Why?

- Protecting their economic interests

How did it lead to war?

- Made Americans more likely to help out Cuba

News Article



Write a letter to the editor expressing your feelings about the coverage in the New York World and the New York Journal of events in Cuba. Your letter should include:

- *Your thoughts on the accuracy of these stories.*
- *Your ideas on the coverage of these events as an effort to keep Americans informed.*
- *The term “reconcentration camps”*

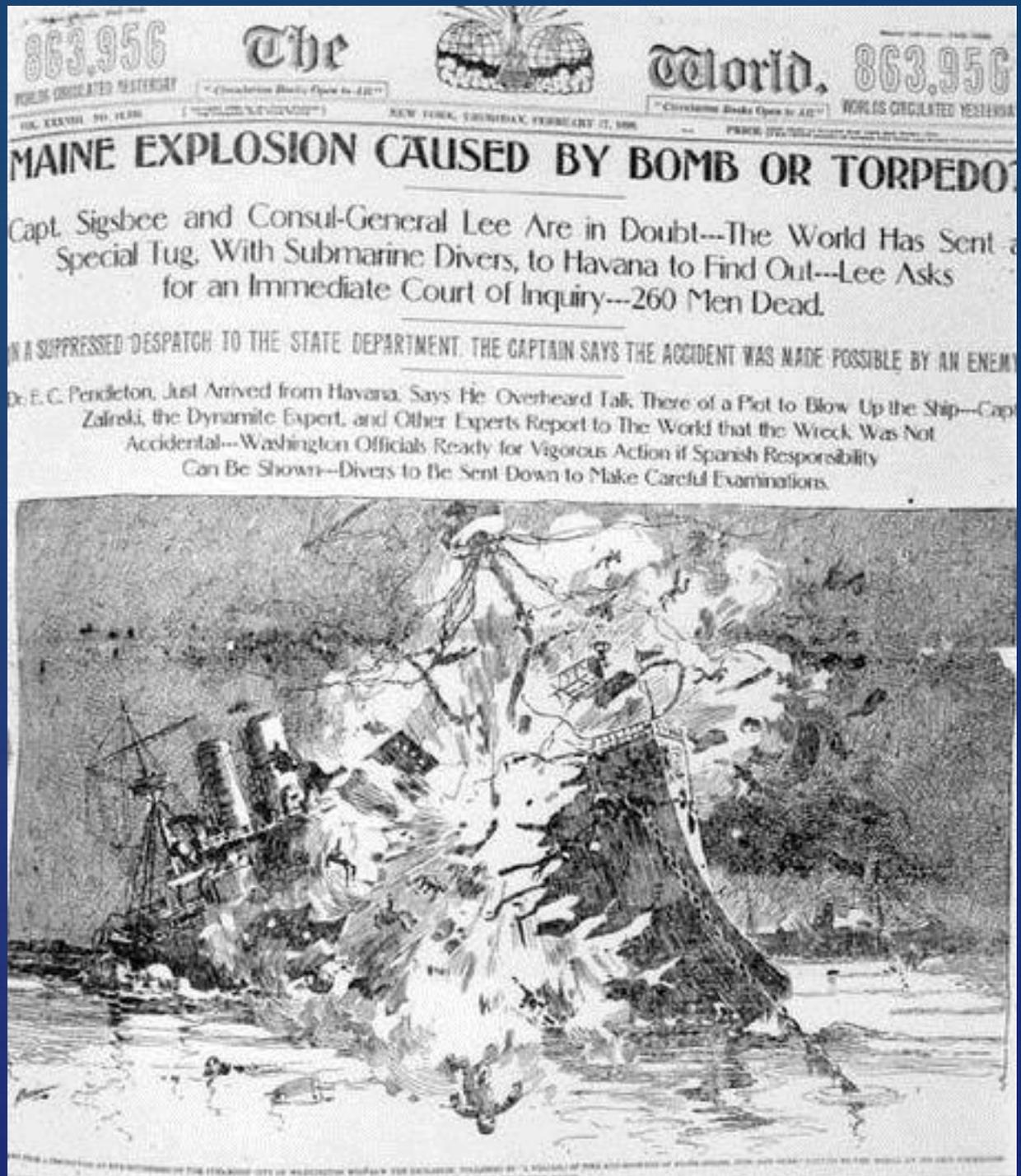
Station 2

What do you see here?

What seems to have happened?

According to the headline, what is the likely cause of the explosion?

How do you think Americans felt when they saw this image?



Americans Call for War

- Three reasons lead to the American public's outcry for war:
 1. Enrique Dupuy de Lome's (Spanish ambassador to U.S.) letter insulting President McKinley – de Lome's letter had been addressed to a friend in Cuba, however, it was stolen from the mail and sent to the New York Journal for publication. 
 - ⌘ The letter called McKinley “weak and catering to the rabble and, besides, a low politician.”
 2. Sinking of the USS Maine 
 3. Senator Redfield Proctor's report of the reconcentration camps on Senate floor

Sinking of the Maine in Havana Harbor

What?

- **USS Maine explodes in Havana, Cuba Harbor – McKinley had sent the Maine to Cuba to protect American interests after riots broke out.**
- **Most Americans believe it was Spain's fault**
 - **1976 US Navy analyzed the sunken ship, decided that the hull blew OUT not IN**

How did it lead to war?

- **"Spark" that started the war**
- **"Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain!"**

America declares war

⌘ McKinley calls for an *armistice* – stop to fighting until a formal peace can be discussed.

⌘ Spain agreed to armistice and to close reconcentration camps, but refused to give up control of Cuba



⌘ U.S. Response:



⌘ Congress passed a *resolution* – a formal statements recognizing Cuban independence and the use of military force to liberate Cuba from Spain.

⌘ Congress passed *Teller Amendment* – after Cuba was liberated the U.S. would leave control to the people of Cuba.

News Article



Write a lead story sensationalizing the publication of the de Lome letter and the explosion of the USS Maine in order to fuel public anger toward Spain. Your story should include:

- *The basic details of each incident*
- *Attempts to encourage Americans to press the U.S. government into war with Spain.*
- *The terms “²⁷de Lome letter” and “USS Maine”*

Station 3



What do you see in this image? Which countries appear to be fighting each other? Where do you think this battle is being fought? Why do you think these two countries are fighting? Who appears to be winning this battle?



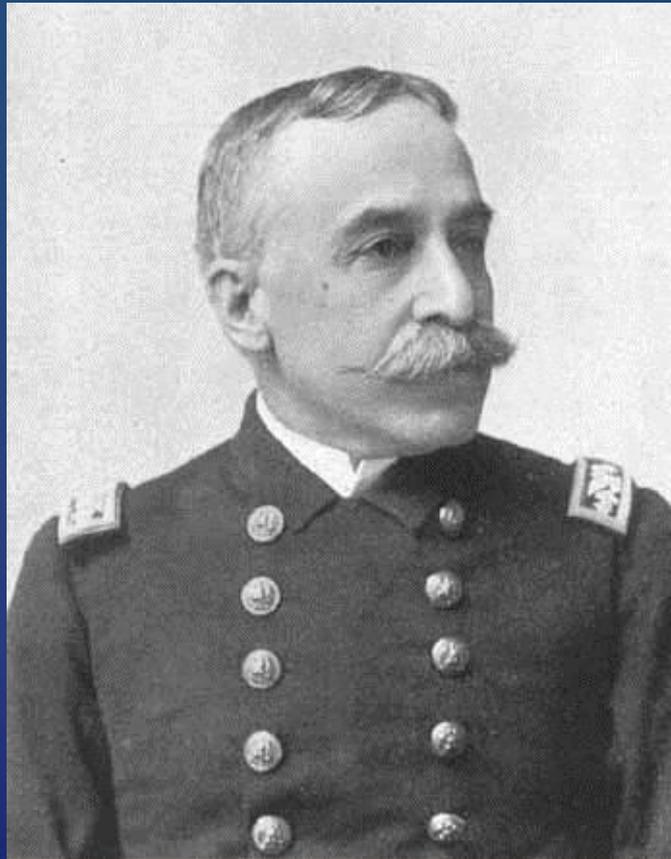
Fighting in the Philippines

- & Before war in Cuba, there was war in the Philippines.
- & Philippines was Spain's largest remaining colony.
- & Similar to Cuba, Filipino natives were fighting against Spain for independence led by Emilio Aguinaldo, an exile living in Hong Kong.

Commodore George Dewey

(Roosevelt is Assistant Secretary of the Navy at the time)

Order from TR



- & May 1, 1899 — Commodore Dewey and his Asiatic Squadron defeated the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay
- & During and after the war, George Dewey became one of the war's most celebrated heroes
- & Dewey did not lose a single ship and suffered only a few battle casualties.

Overview: Philippines

& What Happened at Manila Bay?



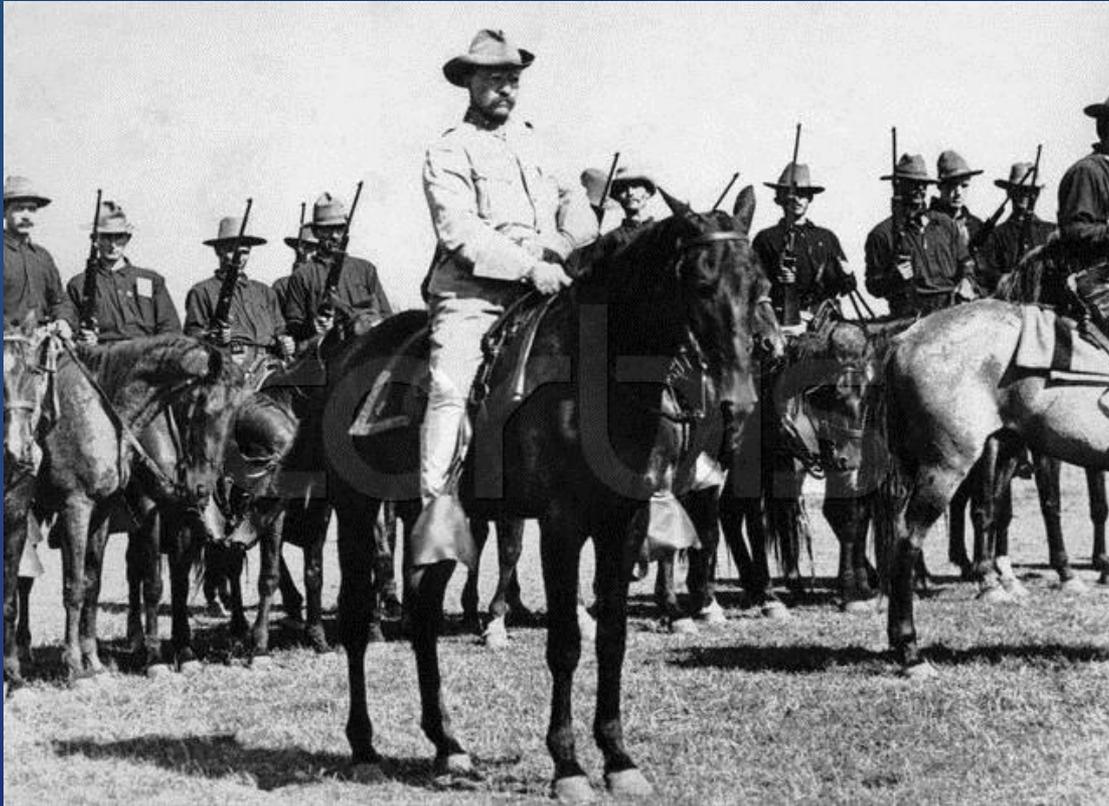
- Surprise naval attack sunk the crumbling Spanish Navy
- Made Americans feel very superior
- Philippines was not given independence. US claimed rights to it until 1946. Filipinos were not happy.

Battle at San Juan Hill

- ⌘ June 20, 1898 – U.S. Navy led by General William Shafter arrived outside Santiago, Cuba.
- ⌘ U.S. Army consisted of various forces:
 - ⌘ 4 regiments of African-American soldiers – Buffalo Soldiers
 - ⌘ Volunteer regiments including one led by Teddy Roosevelt.
- ⌘ When the war began, Roosevelt resigned from his position as Assistant Secretary of Navy to fight in the battle.
 - ⌘ Together with Colonel Leonard Wood, he helped form the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry known as the Rough Riders.
 - ⌘ The Rough Riders were handpicked by Roosevelt and consisted of a mix of college athletes and western cowboys.
- ⌘ July 1, 1898 – fighting began
 - ⌘ Gen. Shafter led an assault on Santiago Bay.
 - ⌘ In the initial attempts to charge up San Juan Hill and Kettle Hill, the American forces were met by heavy fire power. Spanish guns fired 8 rounds in the 20 seconds it took the Americans to fire 1 round.
 - ⌘ Roosevelt frustrated by the lack of leadership, took command of the front line and persuaded the other commanding colonel to charge the hill full-on. Roosevelt and the Rough Rider charge stirred the rest of the troops into action as the entire regiment followed Roosevelt's lead up the hill. Roosevelt trained his men to stay by him at all times, and not one of them retreated.
 - ⌘ The unsung hero of the battle was Lt. John Parker who manned the Gatling Guns which fired 18,000 rounds per 30 seconds.
 - ⌘ Kettle Hill was taken in within 20 minutes of this action and San Juan Hill an hour later.
 - ⌘ This was a key victory for now American forces held the high ground to lead a charge down to Santiago, the Spanish stronghold. – July 17, 1898 – Santiago surrendered.

Battle of San Juan - Overview

& Who were the Rough Riders? Who was their leader?



- Teddy Roosevelt resigns as Asst. Secretary of the Navy to lead a “Cowboy Calvary”

- Teddy’s popularity from this leads to his becoming V.P. and President.

- 5,500 Americans died in war – mostly from tropical diseases like malaria and yellow fever.

Rough Riders

Teddy Roosevelt & Rough Riders



New Article

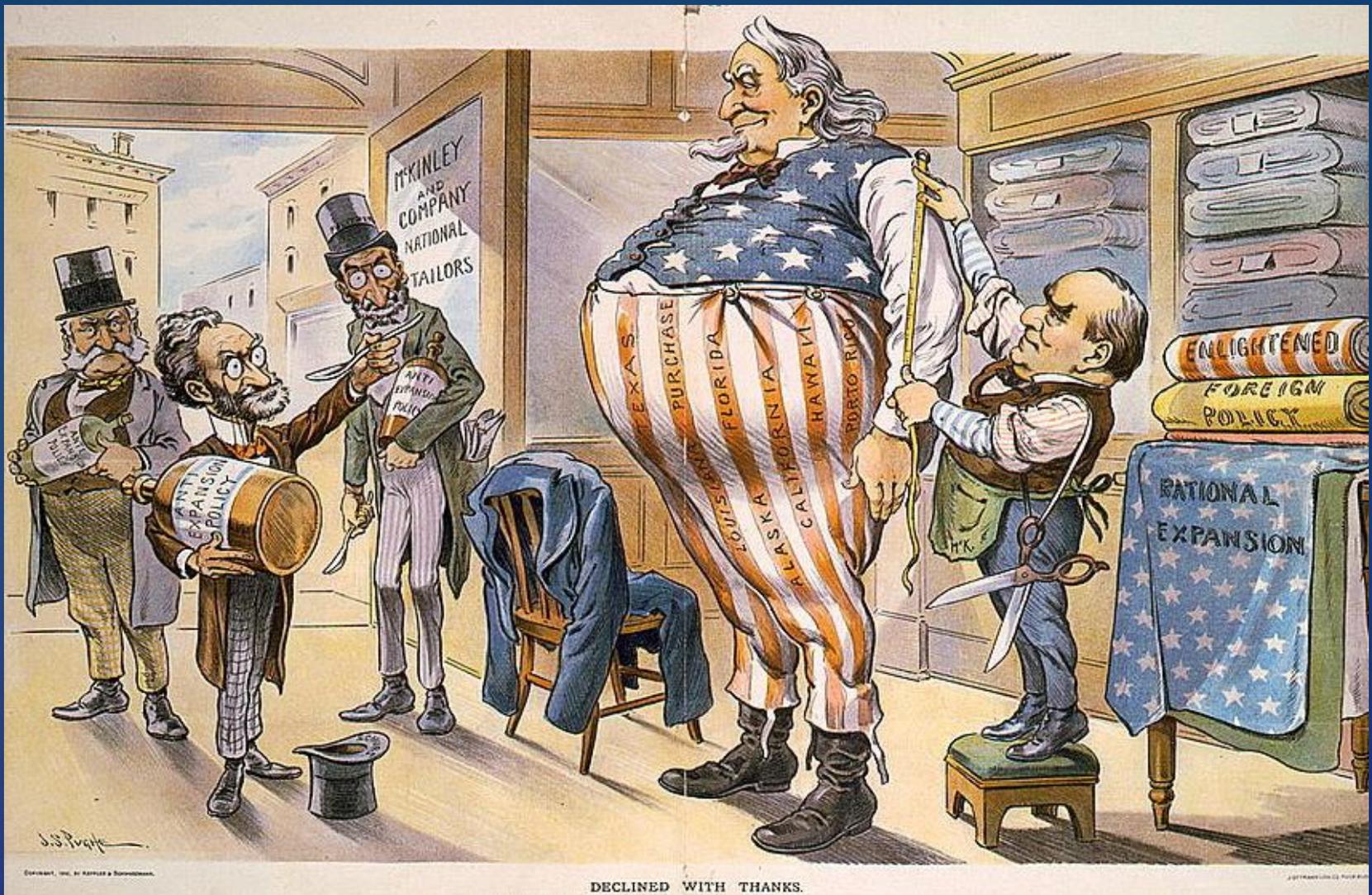


Write a report from the battlefield as if you were a war correspondent.

Your report must include:

- Details of the various battles taking place in Cuba.
- Reports of casualties.
- The terms “Rough Riders” and “San Juan Hill”.

Station 4



DECLINED WITH THANKS.

What do you see? Why might Uncle Sam need the larger suit he is being fitted for? Based on what they are carrying, what do you think the men entering the room want? What is McKinley's response to these anti-imperialists? Does the cartoonist seem to be in favor of U.S. expansion? How can you tell?

America as a World Power

- ✧ With its victory in the Spanish-American War, the United States emerged as a new world power. It had defeated a European nation and won control of overseas territories. In the peace treaty, the United States solidified its new position in world affairs.
- ✧ **The Treaty of Paris**
- ✧ The war ended on August 12, 1898, with the signing of a peace **protocol**, a first draft of a treaty to be submitted for ratification. In October, Spanish and American officials met in Paris to finalize the terms.
- ✧ On December 10, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris. Spain agreed to three main points. First, it granted independence to Cuba. Second, it ceded Puerto Rico and the Pacific island of Guam to the United States. And third, it ceded the Philippines to the United States in exchange for a payment of \$20 million. Under the treaty, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines became American possessions. The United States was now a colonial empire.

2/3's Vote

- ⌘ For the treaty to take effect, the Senate would have to ratify it by a two-thirds vote. This vote prompted a fierce debate over imperialism.
- ⌘ **Anti-Imperialist League**, an organization formed during the war to oppose the establishment of U.S. colonies. Its membership was diverse, ranging from union leader Samuel Gompers to millionaire industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Social worker Jane Addams joined, as did author Mark Twain. Although the motives and political views of league members varied widely, they all believed that imperialism violated the country's founding principles of freedom and democracy. As the league's platform stated, "We hold that the policy known as imperialism is hostile to liberty . . . We insist that the subjugation of any people is 'criminal aggression' and open disloyalty to the distinctive principles of our Government."
- ⌘ Supporters of the treaty included many prominent political leaders, such as President William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge. During the Senate debate, Lodge argued that forming an empire was critical to the nation's future. He declared that the United States needed to compete equally with other great nations.
- ⌘ In the end, the supporters of empire won out. By a vote of 57 to 27
- ⌘ Senate ratified the Treaty of Paris on February 6, 1899

American – Cuban Relations

- ⌘ Although the Treaty of Paris granted Cuba independence, the island was in ruins. President McKinley decided that the United States should remain in Cuba to restore order and assist in the island's recovery.
- ⌘ For four years, the United States ruled Cuba under a military government. This government improved sanitation and built schools and roads. But many Cubans resented American control. They believed that the occupation violated the spirit of the Treaty of Paris and the Teller Amendment, which had pledged that the United States would leave the island after the war was over.
- ⌘ The United States finally withdrew its troops in 1902, but only after Cuba added provisions to its constitution to protect American interests. These provisions, called the **Platt Amendment**, allowed the United States to intervene in Cuban affairs and to buy or lease land for naval bases. In the years to come, U.S. troops reoccupied Cuba on several occasions. The United States finally agreed in 1934 to repeal the Platt Amendment. However, a U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, on Cuba's southeastern coast, still operates under a permanent lease.
- ⌘ American companies also gained significant control over the Cuban economy. By 1913, American investment on the island had quadrupled from prewar levels to \$220 million. U.S. business interests owned 60 percent of Cuba's rural lands and controlled many of the island's industries.

News Article



Write a caption for the cartoon in which you describe the events that prompted the cartoonist to draw it. Your caption must include:

- An explanation of each character in the cartoon and who each represents.
- The terms “Platt Amendment” and “Anti-Imperialist League”

Station 5

Create a Skit

- ⌘ Imagine you have joined the Rough Riders and are fighting in Cuba. Write a skit in which fellow soldiers talk about the difficult living conditions they face during war and at home.
- ⌘ Assign each student a part to the skit.
- ⌘ Your skits should be realistic and will be presented to the class.
- ⌘ Use the website below for information about the Rough Riders. Additional research may also be made using the chromebooks.
- ⌘ <http://www.spanamwar.com/rrhist.html>

3-2-1: In notebooks, write three things you learned about the Spanish-American War, two questions you may have, and 1 comment about whether you agree or disagree with the U.S. decision to enter the war.

Reflection

