

# The Spanish American War

## Individual Project

Fall semester 2014

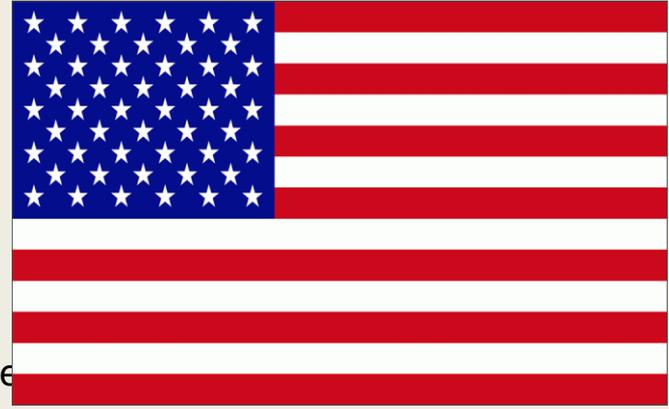
R.G.



What started this war?

Many say that the Spanish American War was started by the unexplained sinking in Havana harbour of the battleship USS Maine, But there were many reasons why the government wanted to go to war with Spain.

Spain had control of many small islands to the Southeast of Florida that had just recently become a state of the union in 1845. But not sixty years later, Conflict had arisen.

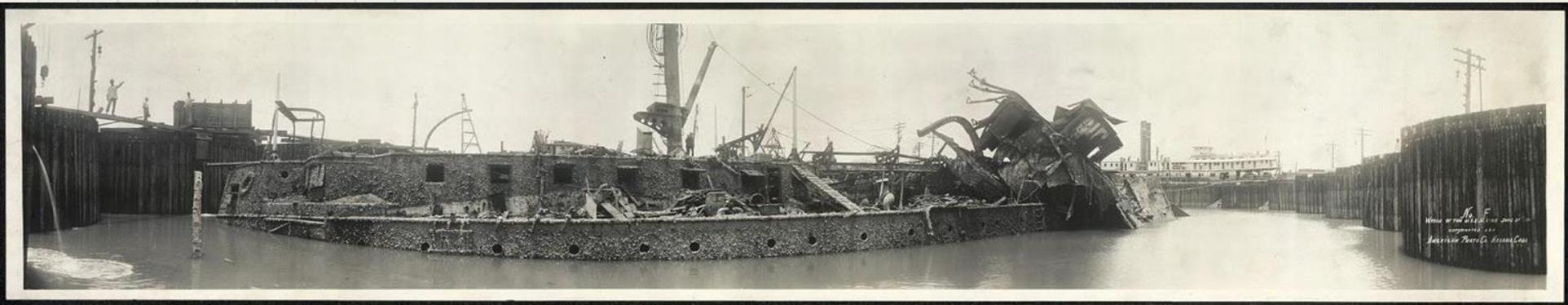


Some believe that the reason the war started was because of current Lieutenant colonel Theodore Roosevelt was pushing President Mckinley to conquer Cuba to use its and the surrounding islands for the American companies to source.

# War is approaching

Mckinley did not want to go into war with another country while there were other areas of the U.S. that He wanted to focus on. Had his hand forced after the news of the USS Maine mysteriously exploding, killing 250 service men and women. The populations exploded with rage. To this Mckinley declared war on April 21st.





Wreckage from the USS Maine

The war originated in the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain, which began in February 1895. Spain's brutally repressive measures to halt the rebellion were graphically portrayed for the U.S. public by several sensational newspapers, and American sympathy for the rebels rose. The growing popular demand for U.S. intervention became an insistent chorus after the unexplained sinking in Havana harbour of the battleship USS [Maine](#) (Feb. 15, 1898; see [Maine, destruction of the](#)), which had been sent to protect U.S. citizens and property after anti-Spanish rioting in Havana.

Spain announced an armistice on April 9 and sped up its new program to grant Cuba limited powers of self-government. But the U.S. Congress soon afterward issued resolutions that declared Cuba's right to independence, demanded the withdrawal of Spain's armed forces from the island, and authorized the President's use of force to secure that withdrawal while renouncing any U.S. design for annexing Cuba.



# Spain Declares war!

Spain declared war on the United States on April 24, followed by a U.S. declaration of war on the 25th, which was made retroactive to April 21. The ensuing war was pathetically one-sided, since Spain had readied neither its army nor its navy for a distant war with the formidable power of the United States. Commodore George Dewey led a U.S. naval squadron into Manila Bay in the Philippines on May 1, 1898, and destroyed the anchored Spanish fleet in a leisurely morning engagement that cost only seven American seamen wounded. Manila itself was occupied by U.S. troops by August.



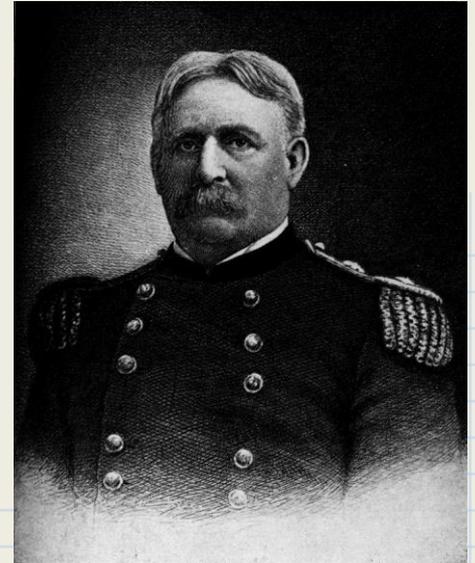
Commo. George Dewey



A Spanish Caribbean fleet under Adm. Pascual Cervera was located in Santiago harbour in Cuba by U.S. reconnaissance. An army of regular troops and volunteers under Gen. William Shafter landed on the coast east of Santiago and slowly advanced on the city in an effort to force Cervera's fleet out of the harbour. Cervera led his squadron out of Santiago on July 3 and tried to escape westward along the coast. In the ensuing battle all of his ships came under heavy fire from U.S. guns and were beached in a burning or sinking condition. Santiago surrendered to Shafter on July 17, thus effectively ending the war.



Adm. Pascual Cervera



Gen. William Shafter

# The Real Enemies

The Spanish-American War claimed the lives of 3,000 Americans, but only a small fraction of these soldiers died in combat. Yellow fever and typhoid decimated entire units, swiftly spreading through camps in the Caribbean and the southeastern United States. Illness had already ravaged the Spanish force even before the conflict began, leaving only 55,000 out of 230,000 troops healthy enough to fight. After the war, the U.S. Army set up a commission to investigate the yellow fever problem, which continued to plague thousands of men still stationed in Cuba. Overseen by Walter Reed, scientists conducted experiments outside Havana that proved for the first time that mosquitoes spread the potentially fatal sickness.



Walter Reed



**A Yellow Fever camp in  
Puerto Rico**

# One Big Surprise



News paper sketch of  
Frank Portusach



Henry Glass

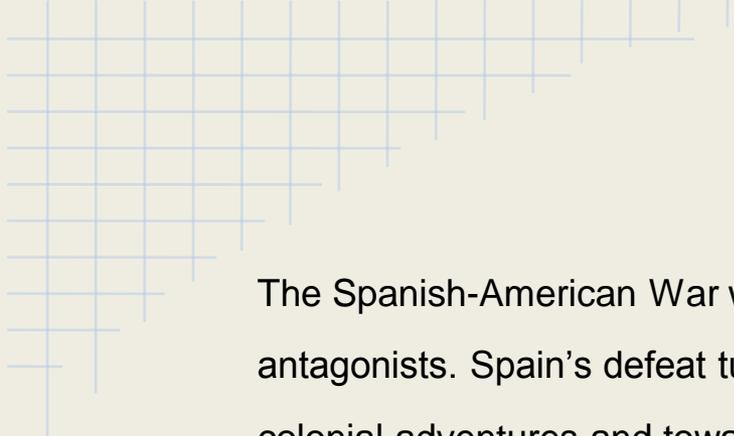
When American troops captured Guam, the island's Spanish defenders welcomed them. On June 20, 1898. The cruiser USS Charleston arrived off the shore of Guam on orders to capture the Spanish-controlled island. Steaming into the harbor, it fired 12 rounds to rout out any enemy combatants lurking in the long-abandoned fort of Santa Cruz. To the Americans' surprise, a Spanish officer rowed out to their ship to welcome them; to his (possibly greater) astonishment, he was quickly taken prisoner. As it turned out, neither the 60 Spanish marines stationed on Guam nor the island's civilians had any idea that war had broken out two months earlier.

The following day, Lt. Henry Glass sent to meet the Spanish Governor to arrange the surrender of the island and the Spanish garrison there. Some 54 Spanish infantry were captured and transported to the Philippines as prisoners of war. No U.S. forces were left on Guam, but the only U.S. citizen on the island, [Frank Portusach](#), told Captain Glass that he would look after things until U.S. forces returned

# Treaty of Paris

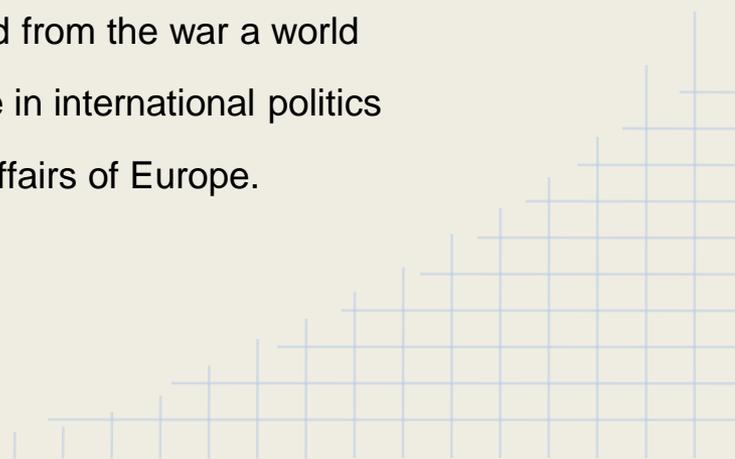


The Treaty of Paris was signed Dec. 10, 1898, This meant that Spain renounced all claim to Cuba, ceded Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States, and transferred sovereignty over the Philippines to the United States for \$20,000,000.



The Spanish-American War was an important turning point in the history of both antagonists. Spain's defeat turned the nation's attention away from its overseas colonial adventures and toward its domestic needs, a process that led to much needed economic development in Spain.

The victorious United States, on the other hand, emerged from the war a world power with many overseas possessions and a new stake in international politics that would soon lead it to play a determining role in the affairs of Europe.



# How did this even affect America?

This event affected America in many ways, it opened many opportunities to American companies to learn and harvest the new and exciting fruits and goods that were growing in the Mediterranean climate.

America received Guam and Puerto Rico, and Cuba became independent.

The war was in full agreement with U.S. visions at the time. U.S. was pursuing an 'Open Door' policy which aimed at obtaining a wide range of economic opportunities in Asia.

After the war, the U.S. moved to annex Hawaii which was ruled by a Queen. Hawaii was controlled by U.S. business interests, which pushed for Hawaii to be annexed by the U.S. But it was the Spanish-U.S. war that finally gave the President Taylor and his VP Roosevelt, the opportunity to annex Hawaii.

So this war overall had an optimistic outcome for the rest of America's history. Though it was a war we weren't really ready for or wanted the ending was in our favor.