

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

1820-1920



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AP US History

IMPERIALISM

The policy in which stronger nations take over weaker ones.

Belief in racial/ cultural superiority of people of European descent (Anglo/Saxon)

Military: compete in arms race, power

Economic: new markets, natural resources

Political: gain colonies, power, status

Causes of American Imperialism

1. Anglo-saxonism

The belief in the superiority of American Culture.

Americans combined the philosophy of **Social Darwinism** (survival of fittest) and **free-market competition** (private ownership of business) with **racial superiority** to justify imperialism

2. Military Naval Superiority

The belief that the nation needed a large navy for security, with bases overseas.

Alfred Thayer Mahan: “*The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*”

Build up a strong American navy

Defend peacetime shipping lanes

Establish naval bases in Pacific and

Caribbean

U.S. became 3rd largest naval power of the world.

3. Overseas Markets

The belief that the economy needed overseas markets.

American farmers produced a surplus of goods.

New markets were needed to sell products.

Raw materials were needed for factories.

The Solution: foreign trade.

United States Expansion in the Pacific, 1867-1899



ANTI- IMPERIALISM

Cost too much in military protection

Dominated peoples didn't have same rights as American citizens

Some Americans saw imperialism as a threat to Anglo-Saxon culture



ALASKA

and Midway Islands

William H. Seward
Lincoln's Secretary of State

“Seward’s Folly”: 1867



- Bought from Russia for \$7.2 millions
- Seward’s Icebox
- Garden of Polar Bears
- Gold found in 1890
- Becomes US territory in 1912.

Midway, 1867 Claimed the two islands in the Pacific, based on the Guano Acts of 1856, to use as bridges for the commerce with China.



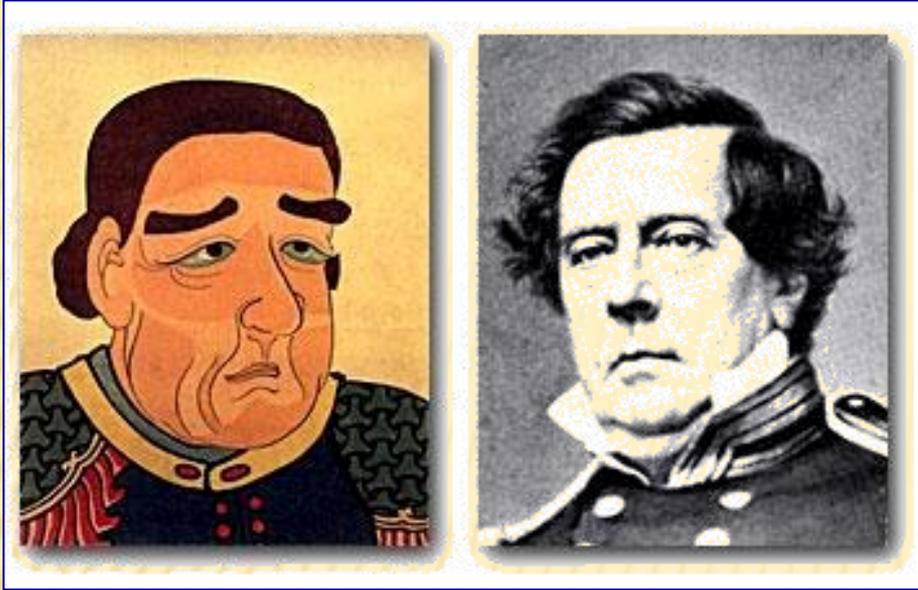
JAPAN

✕ American Expansion in the Pacific

Commodore Matthew Perry Opens Up Japan: 1853



Perry was instructed to negotiate a treaty with Japan, then closed to foreigners, which would open at least one Japanese port to trade and would secure the protection of American seamen and property in that country.



The Japanese View of Commodore Perry

Unable to resist Perry's modern weaponry, the Japanese permitted him to land to present his letter, after which he promised the Japanese that he would return for a response.

Perry reached Edo (Tokyo), Japan on July 8 and ordered to sail for Nagasaki where the Dutch had a small trading post. He refused and demanded permission to present a letter from **President Millard Fillmore**, threatening to use force if denied.

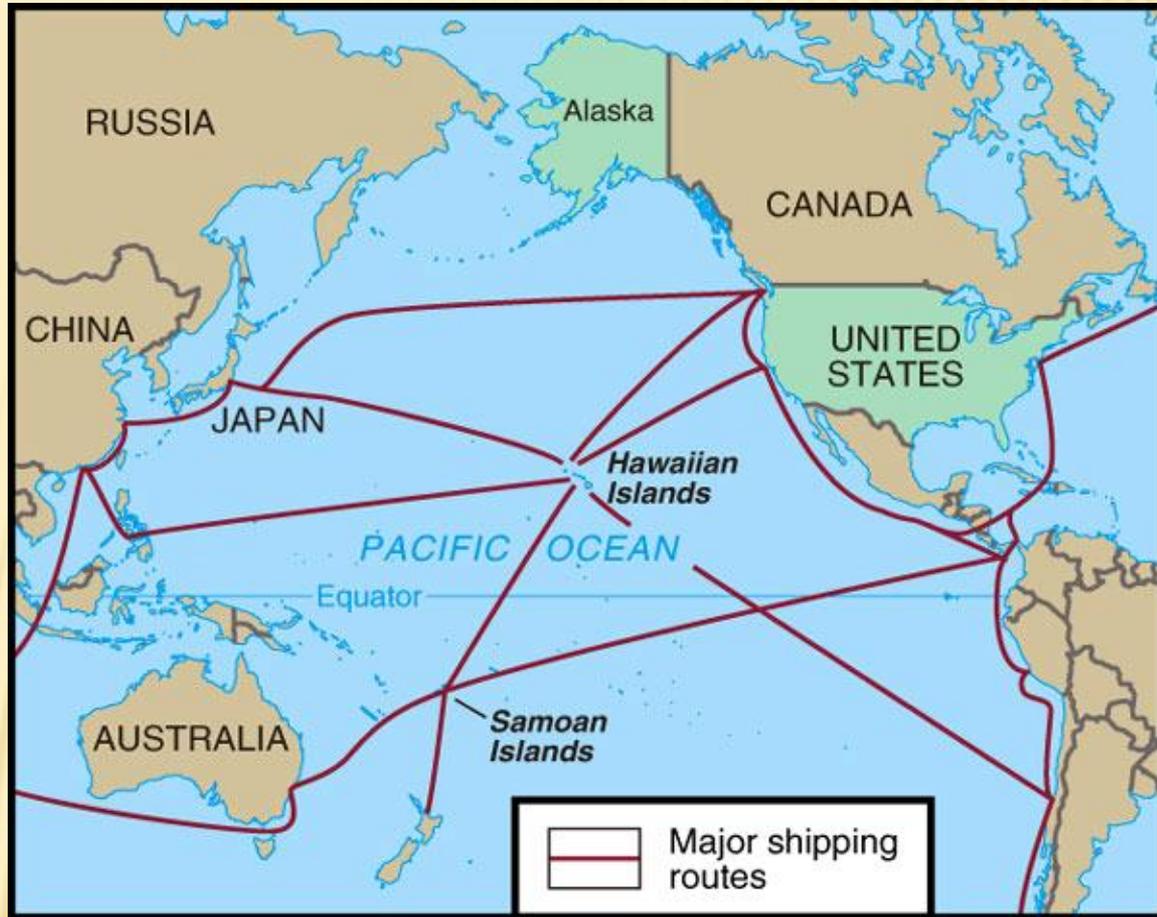
Treaty of Kanagawa: 1854

Returning in February, Perry was warmly received by Japanese officials who had acquiesced and prepared a treaty that was signed on March 31, 1854.



The treaty ensured the protection of American property and opened the ports of Hakodate and Shimoda to trade.

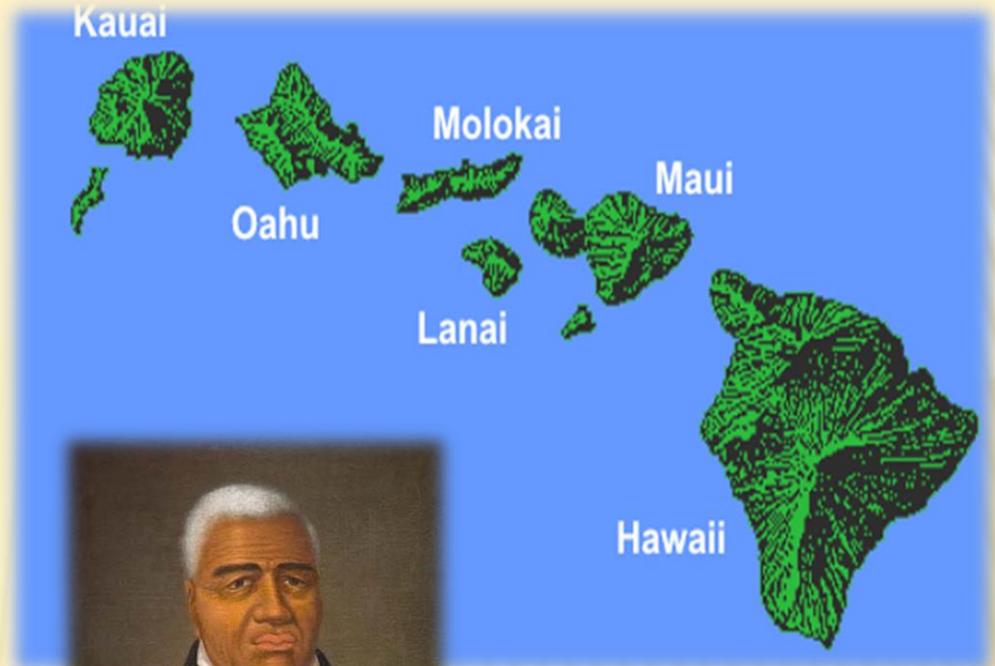
HAWAII



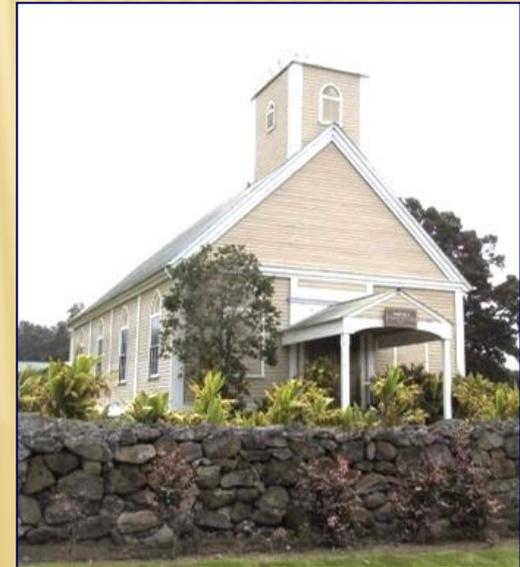
Crossroads of the Pacific

Hawaii

- King **Kamehameha** unites all islands into one kingdom.
- U. S. Missionaries arrived in Hawaii in 1820.
- 75% of wealth came from sugar plantations owned by Americans.
- 1849 Hawaii becomes a U. S. Protectorate by virtue of economic treaties.



Rey Kamehameha



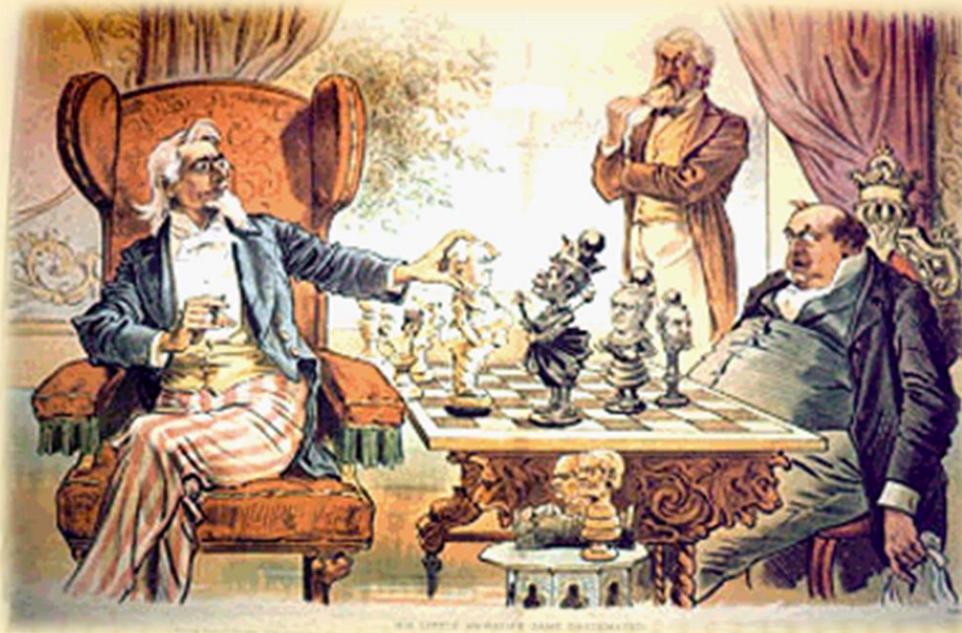
Imiola Church, 1820



□ 1875 **Reciprocity Treaty** : no duty on Hawaiian sugar.

□ 1887 **King Kalakaua** gives U.S. rights to **Pearl Harbor**

□ 1887 king forced to grant voting rights to only wealthy landowners.



1890 **McKinley Tariff** eliminated the duty-free status of Hawaiian sugar (**Reciprocity Treaty**). Hawaiian sugar had to compete with other sugar growers, especially Cuba.

Annexation of Hawaii would mean Hawaiian sugar would become duty-free.

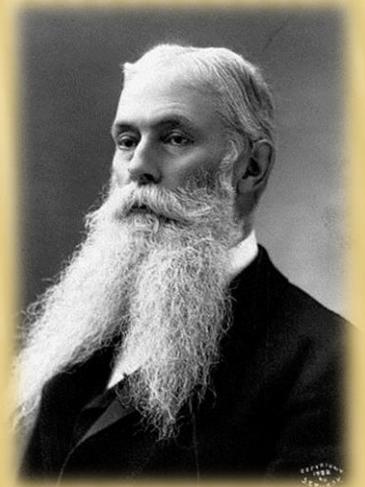
DEPOSING QUEEN LILIUOKALANI



Wanted to end property qualifications for voting.

Wanted to restore power to native Hawaiians.

American businessmen backed an uprising against the Queen.



Sanford Ballard Dole proclaims the Republic of Hawaii in 1894.



Queen Liliuokalani

“The cause of Hawaiian independence is larger and dearer than the life of any man connected with it. Love of country is deep seated in the breast of every Hawaiian, whatever his station.”

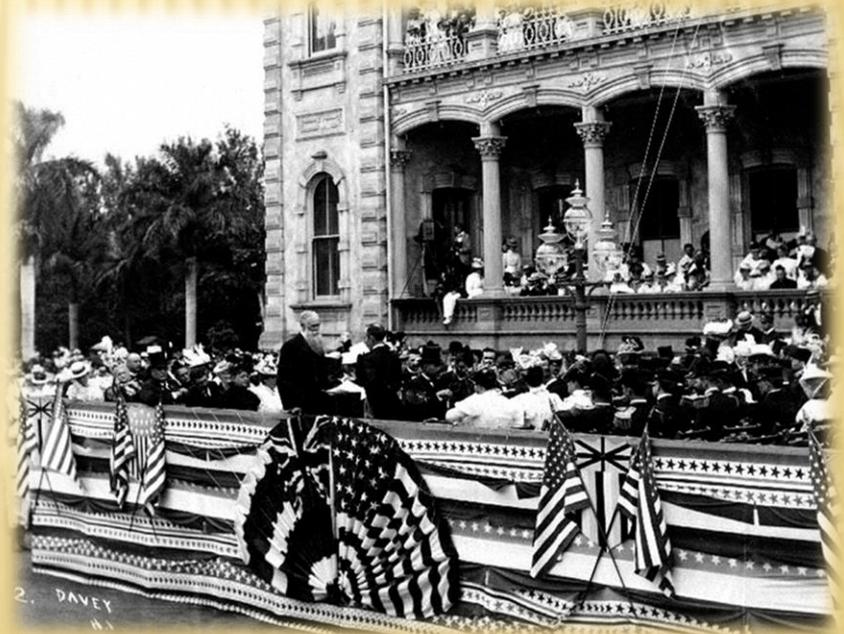
REPUBLIC OF HAWAII

President Cleveland wanted the queen restored to power, but Dole refused to give up power.

Cleveland recognized the Republic of Hawaii, but refused to annex Hawaii.

1897 **President McKinley** made Hawaii an American territory.

1898 Hawaiian
Annexation Ceremony





“The New Temptation on the Mount” : “ *Behold all this I will give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*” A World-Wide Empire, including Hawaii and the Philippines, is offered on the horizon.

In **1898** the United States annexed the Hawaiian islands, won the Spanish-Cuban-American war and took control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This 1899 cartoon “***The New Temptation on the Mount***” reflects the belief held by many anti-imperialists that this expansion of U.S. power did not fit the nation’s democratic ideals.

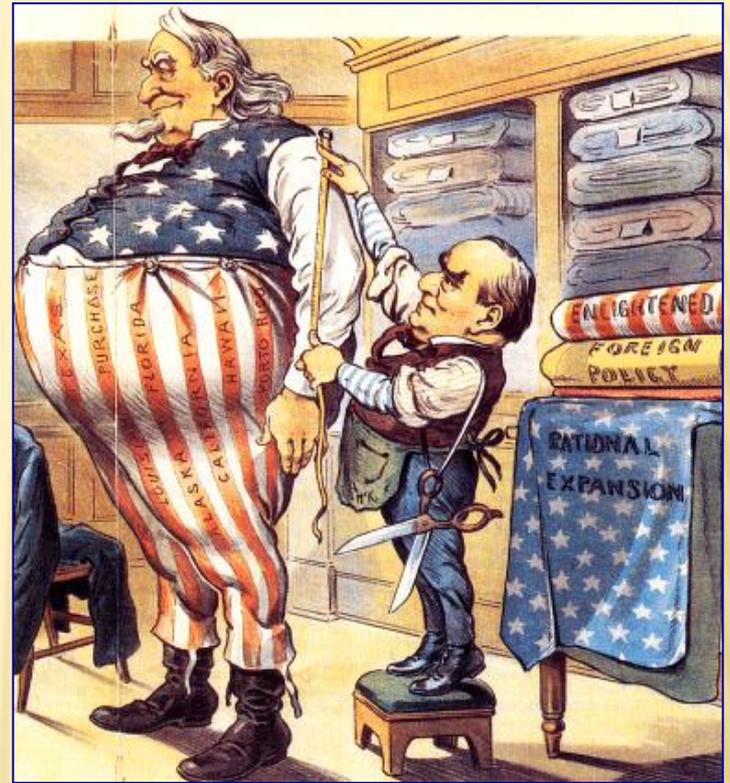
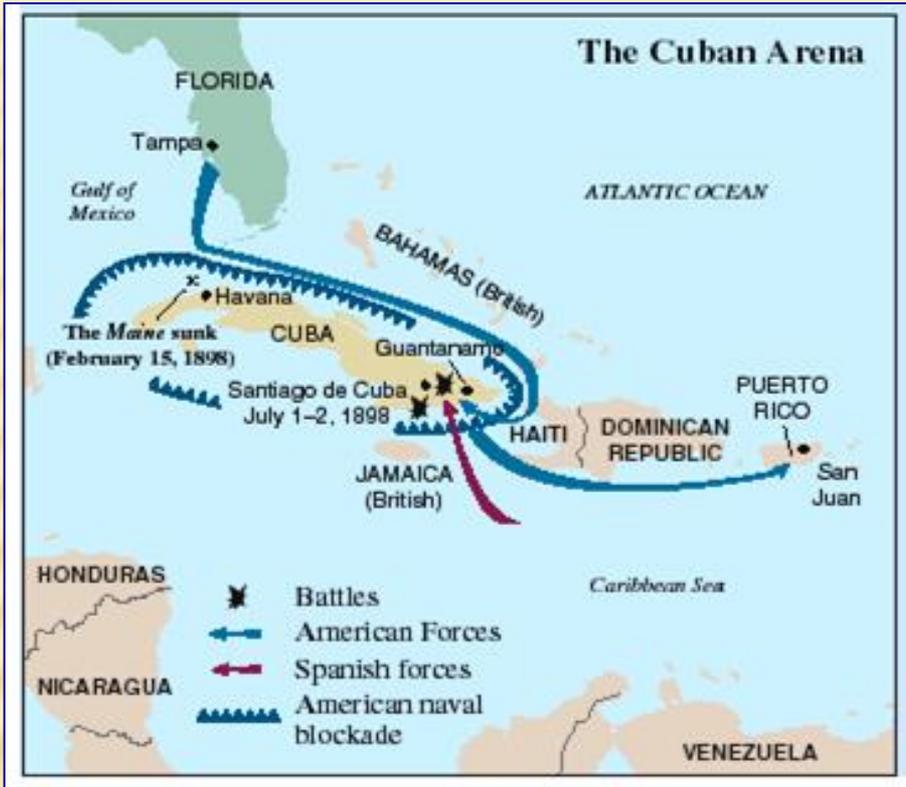


AMERICAN SAMOA 1899

The U.S. Territory of American Samoa is on the **United Nations** list of Non- Self Governing.

American Samoa

- ❑ It is the result of an agreement between Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom in the **Tripartite Convention of 1899**.
- ❑ After the U.S. took its possession, the navy built a coaling station on **Pago Pago Bay** for its Pacific Squadron and appointed a local Secretary.
- ❑ Several chiefs of the island of Tutuila swore allegiance, and ceded the island to the United States in the **Treaty of Cession of Tutuila** in **1900**.
- ❑ The last sovereign of Manu'a, the **Tui Masnu'a Elisara**, was forced to sign the **Treaty of Cession of Manu'a** in 1904.
- ❑ The treaties were ratified by the United States in the **Ratification Act of 1929**.



CUBA AND PUERTO RICO

The Spanish American War

Diplomacy in Latin America

First modern **Pan-American Conference**
in Washington D.C. **October 2, 1889**

James G. Blaine (Secretary of state under Grant and Harrison and later Senator and Speaker of the House.)

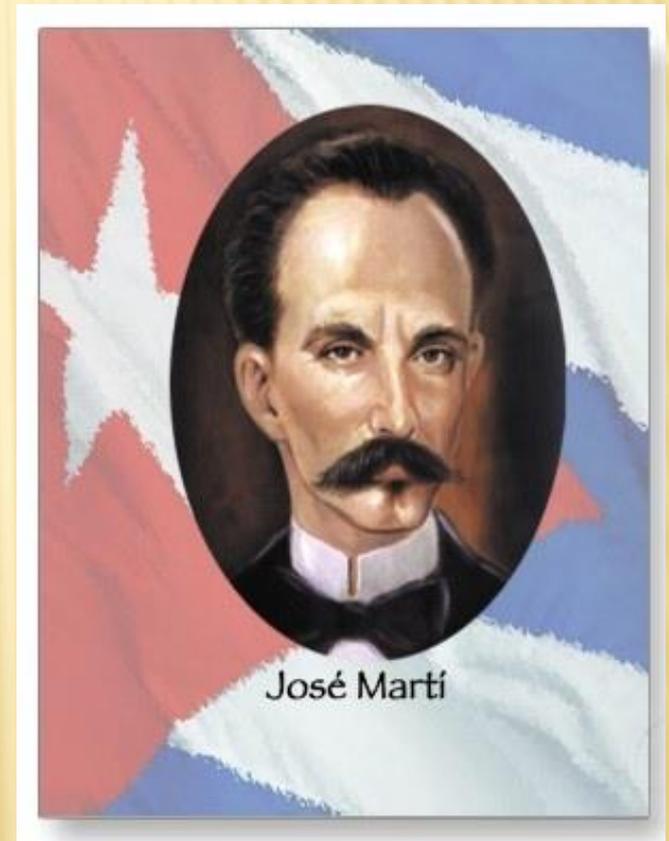


- ❑ Customs union that would turn the Latin Americans away from European products, and toward American products.
- ❑ Common system for settling disputes to avoid intervention from Europe.

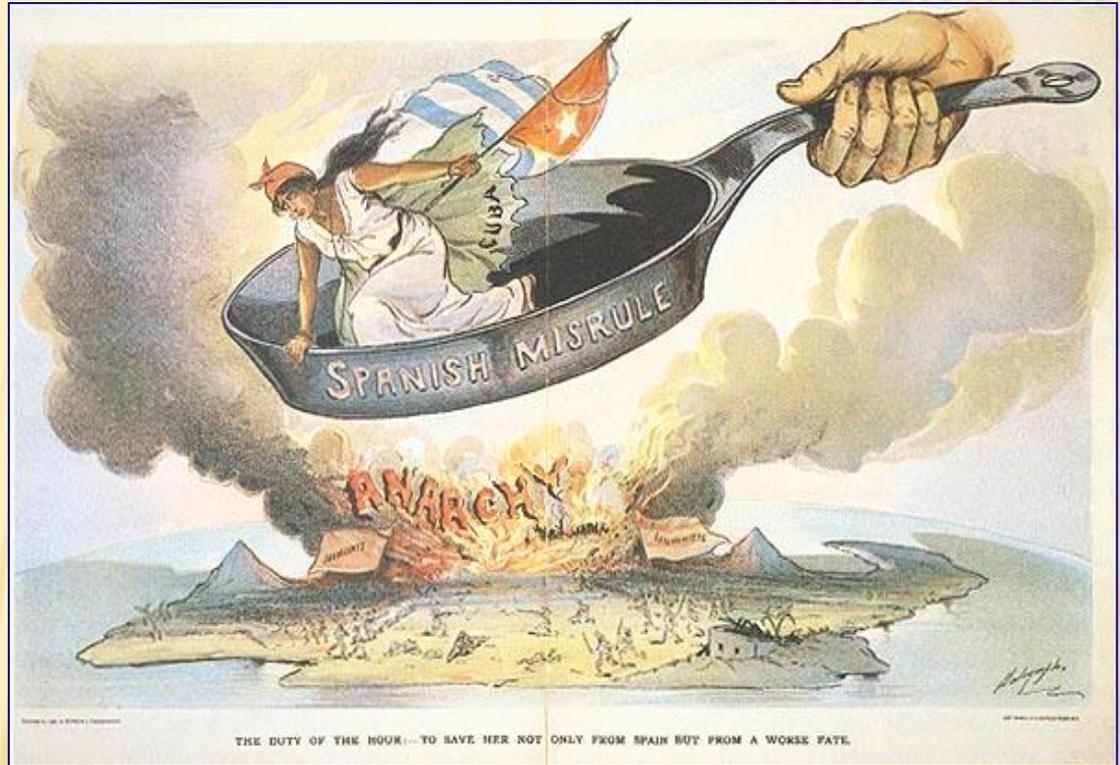
Agreed to create the **Common Bureau of the American Republics** called today the **Organization of American States**.

The Cuban Revolution

- **1895** - The Cuban revolution began with the struggle of **José Martí**, hero of the Cuban independence.
- Their struggle in Cuba caused terrible losses of life and property.
- Americans were horrified by the Spanish atrocities towards the Cuban people and worried about the loss of their commercial investments in Cuba.



Spanish Misrule in Cuba



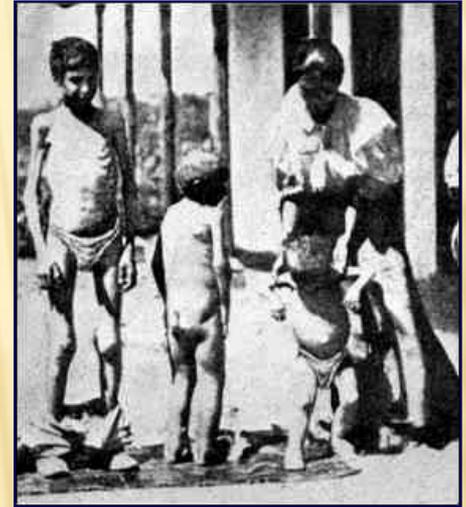
General Valeriano Weyler was named governor of Cuba with full powers to suppress the insurgency and return the island to political order and the sugar industry to greater profitability.

Governor Valeriano Weyler's “Reconcentration” Policy

To win Cuba back for Spain, he separated the rebels from the civilians by putting the latter in safe havens, protected by loyal Spanish troops.

By 1897, he had relocated more than 300,000 into such "reconcentration camps". Although he was successful in moving vast numbers of people, he failed to provide for them.

These areas became cesspools of hunger, disease, and starvation where thousands died.



“Yellow Journalism” & Jingoism

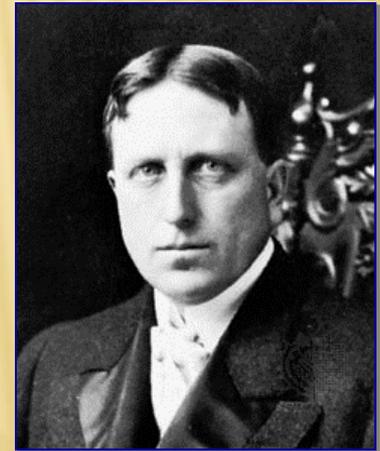
Jingoism: extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike foreign policy.

The **American Yellow Press** reported on the tragedy of Cuba, intensifying the debate on the crisis.

This sensational, full of prejudice and sometimes false, journalism played an important role in the entry of the United States in the war against Spain.



Joseph Pulitzer



William Randolph Hearst

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*”.

- ❑ On 15 February the Maine explodes and the Yellow Press blamed the Spaniards with the cry of "Remember the Maine" which became a call for revenge.
- ❑ President Mc Kinley demanded Spain the end of brutality against the Cubans.
- ❑ On April 19 the Congress recognized Cuban independence, demanded the withdrawal of the Spanish and threatened to use the military to enforce their demands.
- ❑ On 25 April the Congress of the nation declares war on Spain.

Remember the Maine and to Hell with Spain!



USS Maine entering Havana on January 25, 1898, where it would explode three weeks later.

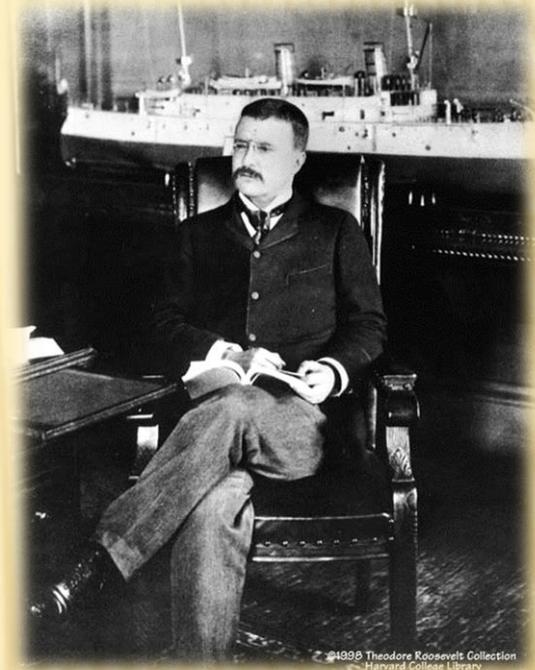


Funeral for Maine victims in Havana



Theodore Roosevelt

- ★ Assistant Secretary of the Navy in the McKinley administration.
- ★ Imperialist and American nationalist.
- ★ Criticized President McKinley as *having the backbone of a chocolate éclair!*



- ★ Resigns his position to fight in Cuba.
- ★ Enters Cuba with his **“Rough Riders”**, university students and cowboys of the 1st volunteer infantry division to Cuba.

The Treaty of Paris: 1898

- ★ Cuba was freed from Spanish rule.
- ★ Spain gave up Puerto Rico and the island of Guam.
- ★ The U. S. paid Spain \$20 mil. for the Philippines.
- ★ William H. Taft, becomes the 1st Governor of the Philippines
- ★ The U. S. becomes an imperial power!



Puerto Rico 1898

★ 1900 - **Foraker Act.**

- PR became an “unincorporated territory.”
- Import duties on PR goods
- Citizens of PR, not of the US.
- Import duties on PR goods

★ 1901-1903 - **The Insular Cases.**

- Constitutional rights were not automatically extended to territorial possessions.
- Congress had the power to decide these rights.
- Import duties laid down by the Foraker Act were legal.

★ 1917 – Jones Act.

- Gave full territorial status to Puerto Rico.
- Removed tariff duties on exported goods coming into the United States.
- The people elected their own legislators & governor to enforce local laws.
- Puertoricans could NOT vote in US presidential elections.
- A resident commissioner was sent to Washington to vote for Puerto Rico in the House of Representatives.

