

UNITED STATES HISTORY

CHAPTER 7

AMERICA CLAIMS AN EMPIRE

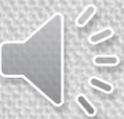


IMPERIALISM AND AMERICA

- After the “end” of **manifest destiny**- **belief that the U.S. should and would inevitably expand westward to the Pacific and Mexican territory**, many American leaders thought we needed to expand outward and establish colonies overseas.
- This idea was called imperialism and was a growing trend around the world. (**Imperialism**- **policy in which stronger nations conquer and completely control weaker territories**)
- European nations had long been establishing overseas colonies in both the continents of Asia and Africa.



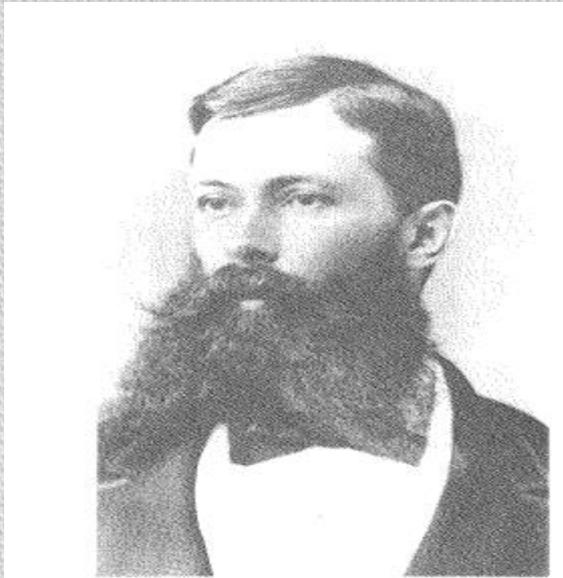
- Three factors fueled the United States' imperialistic ambitions:
 - **Desire for military strength**
 - **Admiral Alfred T. Mahan** was a huge supporter of this
 - Strongly encouraged the building up of our navy to compete with other powerful nations during this time
 - Claimed we had to compete militarily and in trade
 - By 1890, we were the world's 3rd largest naval power
 - **Thirst for new markets**
 - U.S. now needed raw materials for its factories and new markets for its agricultural and manufactured goods
 - **Belief in cultural superiority**
 - Anglo-Saxons (white descent) were superior to all
 - Need to spread Christianity and civilization to the world's “inferior” people and cultures

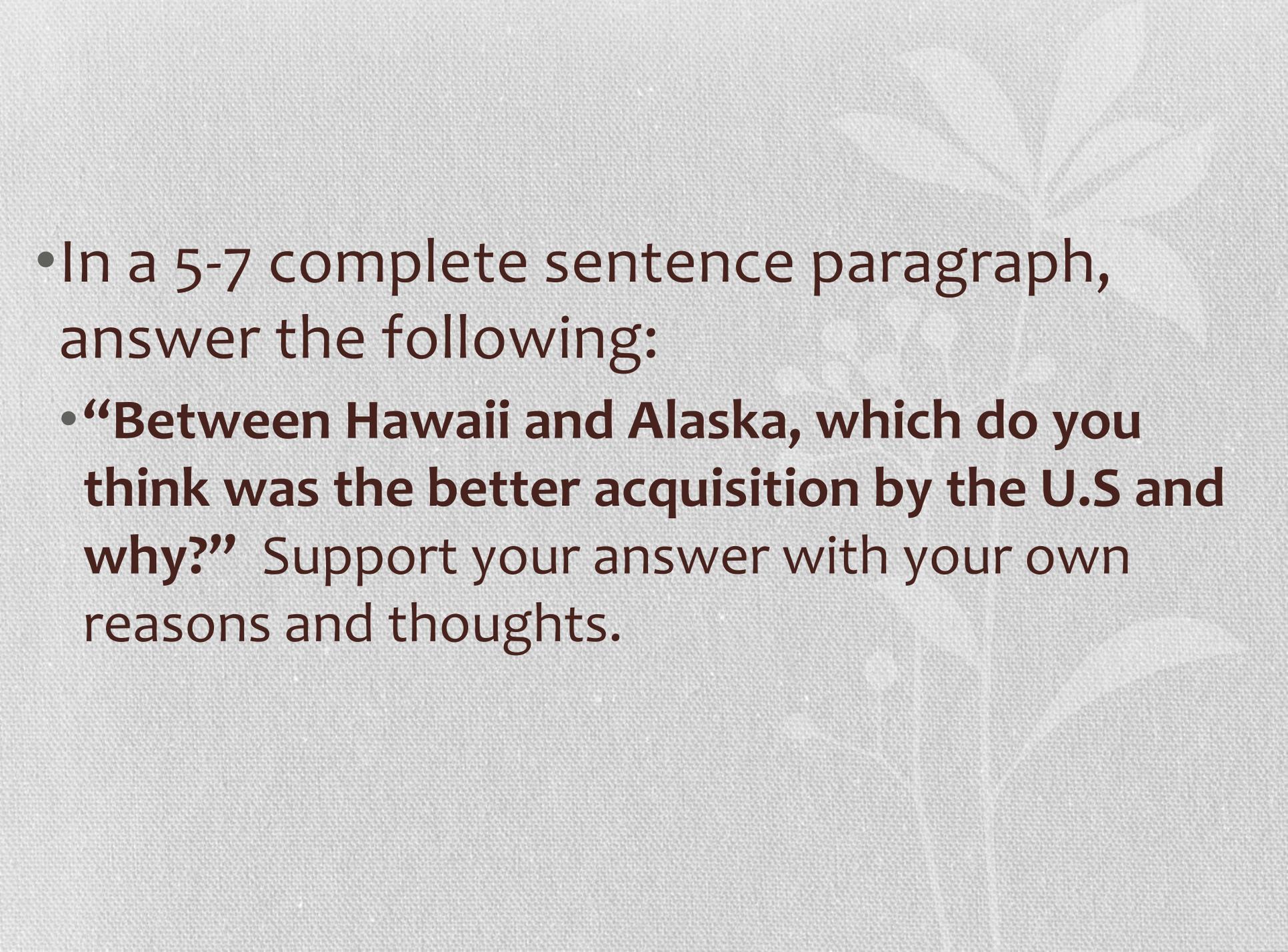


- **White Man's Burden**- the supposed or presumed responsibility of white people to govern and impart their culture to nonwhite people (Rudyard Kipling poem)
- Two early examples of U.S. expansionism:
 - **Alaska**
 - In 1867 Secretary of State **William Seward** arranged to purchase the Alaska territory from Russia for \$7.2 million (about 2 cents an acre)
 - Was called “Seward’s Folly” and “Seward’s Icebox” by those who did not support the purchase
 - Became a state in 1959 and is very rich in timber, minerals, and OIL
 - **Hawaii**
 - Strategically located between U.S. and Asian ports (good stopping point for refueling and resupplying)
 - American sugar planters accounted for most of the island’s wealth
 - U.S. built Pearl Harbor (naval base) there in 1887



- Hawaiian sugar lost duty (tax) free status and American sugar plantation owners began calling for annexation by U.S.
- In 1891, **Queen Liliuokalani** came to power vowing to return control of Hawaii to its native people
- American farmers/business owners revolted, with the help of marines, and set up a government headed by **Sanford B. Dole**
- In 1898, under President **William McKinley**, the U.S proclaimed Hawaii an American territory without consent of the Hawaiian people. In 1959, it became our 50th state.



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- In a 5-7 complete sentence paragraph, answer the following:
 - **“Between Hawaii and Alaska, which do you think was the better acquisition by the U.S and why?”** Support your answer with your own reasons and thoughts.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

- Spain, a once powerful colonial nation, only controlled the Philippines, the island of Guam, and the Caribbean islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico by 1890s.
- The U.S. held great interest in the island of Cuba. One of the main reasons was that it was only 90 miles south of Florida.
- The Cubans revolted twice for independence, but failed both times. The Spanish sent **General Valeriano Weyler** to restore order. He herded 300,000 Cubans into concentration camps , where thousands died of hunger and disease.

- Public opinion over the Cuban situation was mixed in the U.S., but war was on the horizon with Spain.
- Causes of the Spanish-American War
 - **Yellow journalism**
 - **yellow journalism**- a sensational style of writing that exaggerates the news to lure and enrage readers
 - Fueled by newspaper tycoons **William Randolph Hearst** (*New York Journal*) and **Joseph Pulitzer** (*New York World*)
 - Example is Weyler being called “Butcher Weyler” and stories of children being thrown to sharks
 - Hearst sent a gifted artist named Frederic Remington to Cuba to draw sketches of reporter’s stories and reportedly told him “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war.”

EXAMPLE OF YELLOW JOURNALISM

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Judge

Published by the New York Tribune at No. 100 N. 3rd St., New York, N.Y. A Week. Established 1865. Total Circulation 1,000,000.



THE SPANISH BRUTE
ADDS MUTILATION TO MURDER.

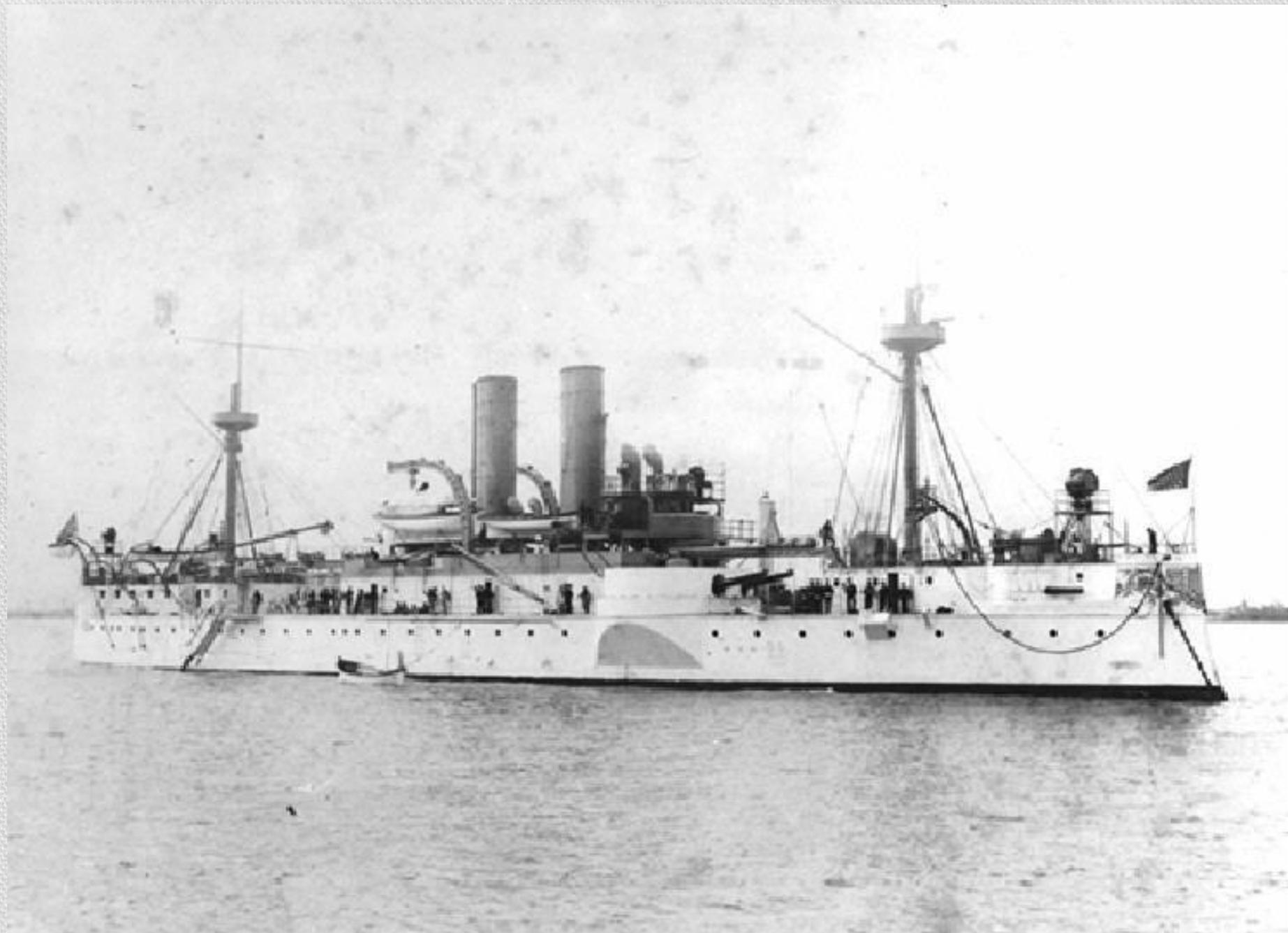
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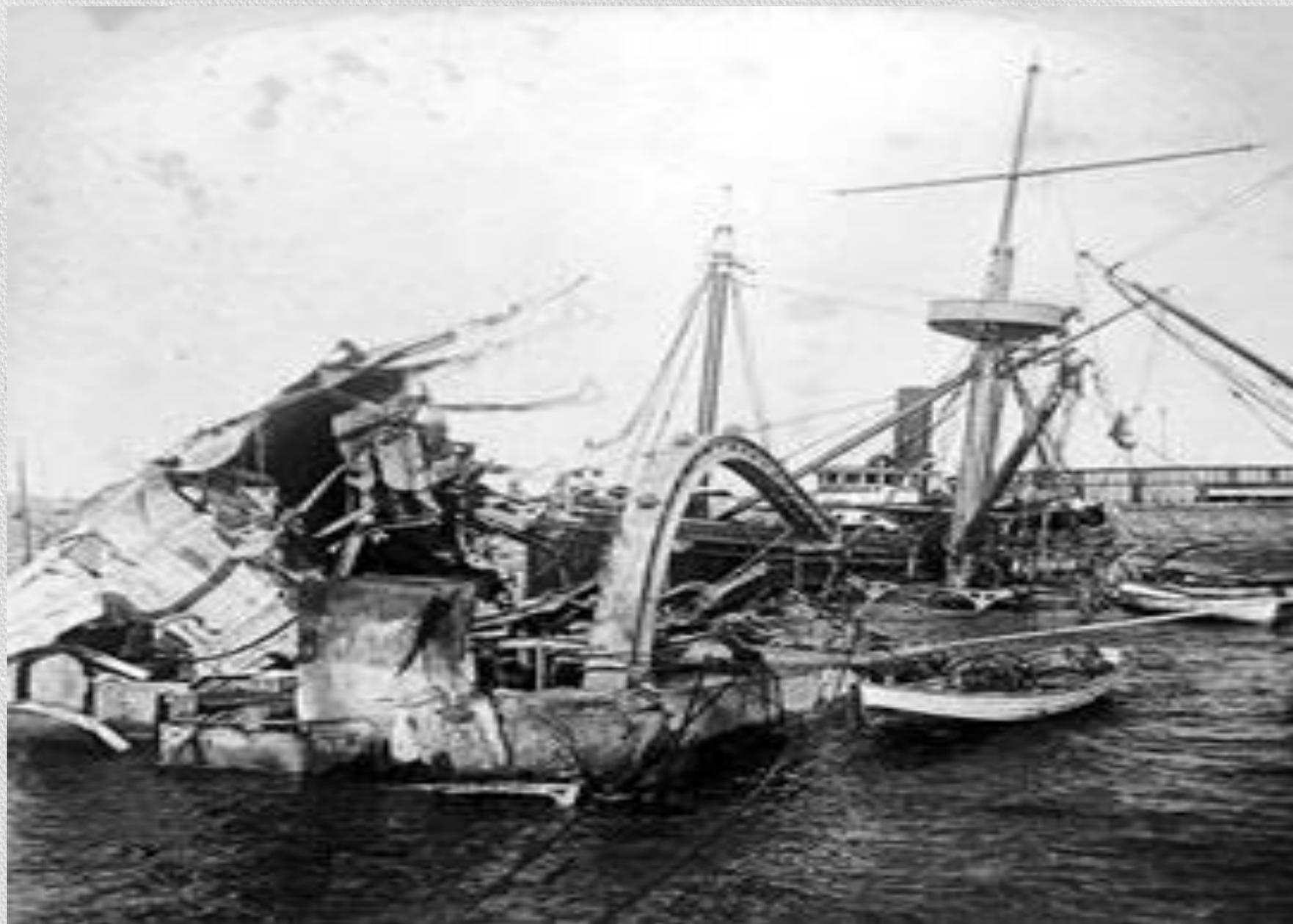
- **The de Lome Letter**

- A letter written by Spanish minister to the U.S., **Enrique de Lome**, criticized President McKinley as “weak” and “a bidder of the crowd.” This was in response to McKinley attempting diplomatic means to solve the unrest in Cuba.

- **Explosion of the *USS Maine***

- President McKinley had sent the *Maine* to Cuba to bring home American citizens in danger and to protect American property.
- On February 15, 1898, the *Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor killing 266 American sailors.
- The cause of the explosion, to this day, is UNKNOWN. American newspapers claimed the Spanish were responsible for the explosion (**yellow journalism**).
- This event was the immediate cause of the Spanish-American War.





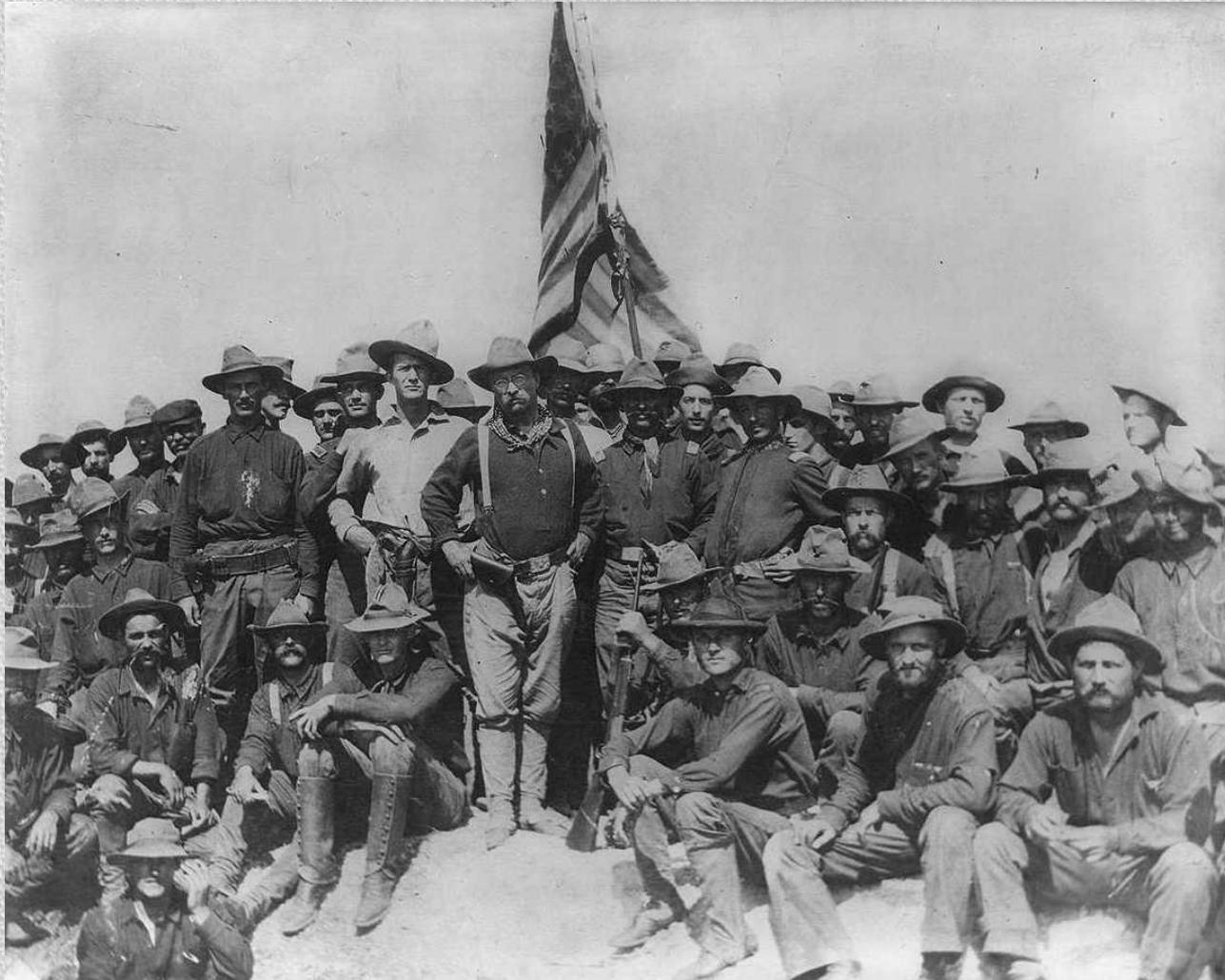
- On April 20, 1898, the U.S. declared war on Spain.
- The Spanish-American War
 - **The Philippine Islands**
 - On May 1, 1898, U.S. **Commodore George Dewey** attacked and destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila (Philippine capital).
 - U.S. ground forces then landed in the Philippines. With the help of Filipino rebels led by **Emilio Aguinaldo**, Spain surrendered the Philippines in August.
 - **The Caribbean**
 - The U.S. first attack in the area was in Cuba.

- In June, 1898, American forces invaded Cuba. The most famous group of soldiers was the Rough Riders led by future president, Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt.
 - In July, the U.S. crushed the remnants of the Spanish fleet. This opened the door for the invasion of Puerto Rico on July 25th.
 - An **armistice, cease-fire agreement**, was signed between the U.S. and Spain on August 12th, 1898. The Treaty of Paris of 1898 officially ending all hostilities.
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- Effects of the Sp-Am War/The Treaty of Paris of 1898
 - Cuba given its freedom
 - U.S. received the islands of Guam (Pacific) and Puerto Rico (Caribbean).
 - Bought the Philippines from Spain for \$20 million.
 - U.S. begins to be recognized as a world power!!!!

KEY US EXPANSION, 1898



ROUGH RIDERS IN CUBA



... from the perspective of United States history, if ever there were a *good war*, it was the Spanish American War. Shortly after hostilities ended in Cuba and the United States entered a period of negotiations for the peace treaty to end the Spanish American War, John Milton Hay was appointed Secretary of State by President William McKinley. Years later when Theodore Roosevelt occupied the White House, Hay wrote the President about that war. In that letter he summarized the conflict with a quote that came to be linked with the first war of American expansion beyond her borders. He (Hay) called it: "A Splendid Little War"

ACQUIRING NEW LANDS

- Cuba received their independence following the war, but the U.S. military occupied the island while doing many positive things for the Cuban people.
- In 1900, the new Cuban government wrote a constitution. The U.S. insisted on several provisions being added to the constitution. These provisions were called the **Platt Amendment** and included the following:
 - The U.S. reserved the right to intervene in Cuba if needed
 - The U.S. could buy or lease land for naval/refueling stations (Guantanamo Bay)
- Cuba essentially became a U.S. **protectorate- country whose affairs are partially controlled by a stronger power.**

- In the Philippines, **Emilio Aguinaldo** led a rebellion against American rule (**Philippine-American War** or **Philippine Insurrection**). This led to thousands of Filipino and American deaths, as well as costing \$400 million. In the end, the U.S. won and controlled the Philippines until 1946.
- U.S. imperialists saw the Philippines as a gateway to Asia, China in particular. The problem was that other countries had begun settling along China's coast. In doing so, these countries had started establishing **spheres of influence**- **areas where nations claimed special rights and economic privileges**.
- Fearing that the U.S. would be shut out of trade with China, U.S. Secretary of State **John Hay** wrote a series of Open Door notes to leaders of other imperialist nations. This led to the...
 - **Open Door Policy**- **an agreement that proposed free trade for ALL nations within China**.
 - Other nations RELUCTANTLY agreed to this

- Eventually, foreigners came to dominate China's largest cities. This caused great resentment among the Chinese people. This led to the **Boxer Rebellion – an uprising of Chinese nationals who despised the foreign influence in their country.**
- U.S. foreign policy in the Caribbean has always centered around the ideas of economic and military power.
- Puerto Rico's location helped the U.S. maintain a presence in the Caribbean, as well as protect a future canal they wanted built in Panama.

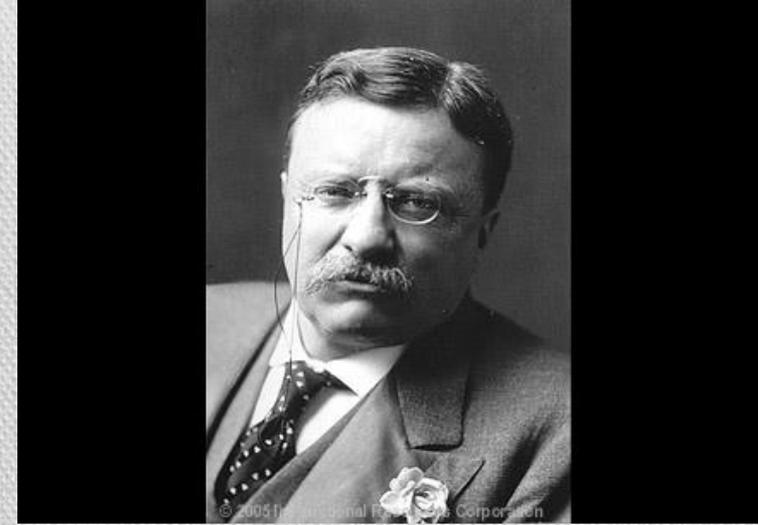
AMERICA as a WORLD POWER

- In 1901, President William McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist (someone that doesn't believe in the need for government). Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt assumed the role of the presidency.



- Achievements/Actions of **President Theodore Roosevelt:**

- He won the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize for helping to successfully negotiate an end to war between Russia/Japan
- Building of the Panama Canal
 - U.S. supported an uprising for Panamanian independence against Colombia
 - Once free, Panama allowed for the building of the canal
 - Slow, treacherous work in regard to the land and diseases such as yellow fever and malaria caused sickness and death
 - Completed and opened for use in August, 1914
 - Main purpose was to allow faster travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (needed during the Spanish-American War) for military and economic purposes

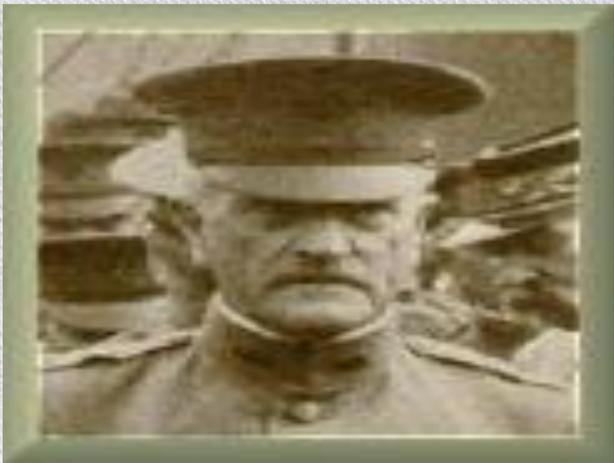


- The U.S. also continued their interest and involvement in Latin America (Caribbean, Central America, and South America).
- **Roosevelt Corollary**- addition to the Monroe Doctrine that said the U.S. would serve as “an international police force” to protect Latin America (aka “Big Stick Policy” and “Gunboat Diplomacy”)
 - Roosevelt said the U.S. would “speak softly and carry a big stick” meaning we would try to stay out of Latin American affairs, but **will** intervene, even militarily, if we felt like it was necessary to protect our interests.
- **Dollar Diplomacy**- policy instituted under **President William Howard Taft** that intended to encourage American investment in Latin America by guaranteeing loans to American businesses who invested
 - Purpose?
 - To help (and CONTROL) Latin American economically
 - It did cause tension as L.A. countries felt the U.S. was becoming too controlling

- There was also political unrest in Mexico that resulted in revolution and governmental overthrows. In 1915, the U.S. recognized the new Mexican government under the leadership of Venustiano Carranza.
- This upset Mexican rebels under the leadership of **Pancho Villa** and **Emiliano Zapata**. They retaliated by killing American engineers headed to operate mines in northern Mexico (pulled them off trains and shot them). They also raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico, killing 17 Americans.



- The U.S. responded by sending **General John J. Pershing** into Mexico to capture Villa dead or alive. This led to further tension between the U.S. and Mexico, bringing both countries to the brink of war. Villa was never captured and Pershing was recalled to the U.S. as we were preparing for WWI.
- U.S. intervention throughout Latin America will continue well into the mid 1900's. The U.S. had adopted a foreign policy of protecting it's political and economic interests, particularly in the Latin America region. Greater problems and conflicts, however, loomed on the horizon.



#24 Pro/Anti Imperialism

Pro Imperialism

- New places to sale products
- Refueling stations/navy base
- White Man's Burden/spread Christianity/civilize other nations

Anti Imperialism

- Violated US Constitution
- Other races are equal & to be respected
- Other cultures are not bad, just different