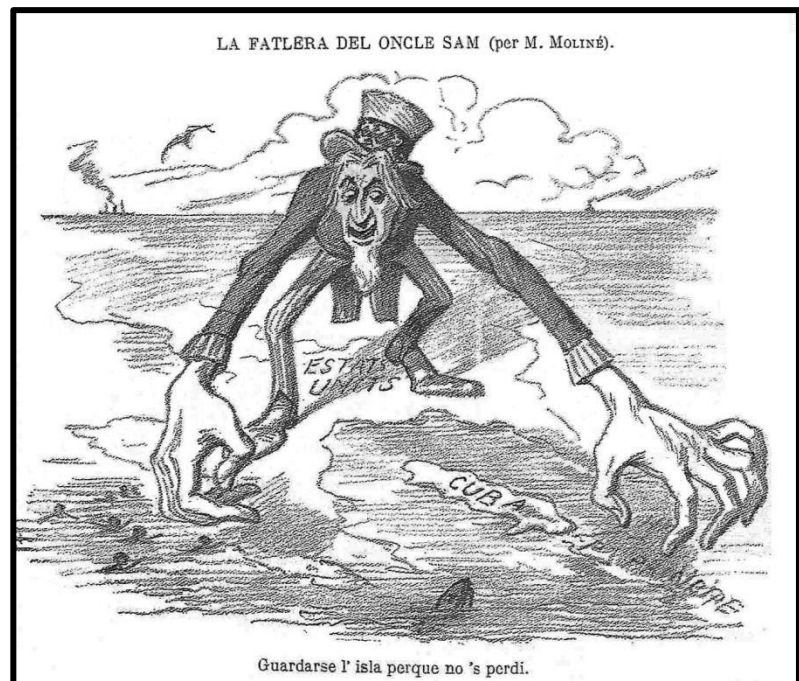




Spanish-American War

Enduring Understanding: The global spread of democratic ideas and nationalist movements occurred during the nineteenth century. To understand the effects of nationalism, industrialism, and imperialism, you will explain the causes and effects of the Spanish-American War as a reflection of American imperialist interests, including acquisitions, military occupations, and status as an emerging world power.



The Monroe Doctrine



In 1823, **President James Monroe** issued the **Monroe Doctrine**, which stated that the Americas were off limits to further European colonization. One of the strongest tests of the Monroe Doctrine came when Cuba fought for independence from Spain. Cuba declared its independence from Spain in 1868, and fought unsuccessfully for ten years to gain freedom. During the 1890s, the United States gained economic interests in Cuba. In 1895, **Jose Marti** launched the second attempt for independence.



Section Review

1. What did the Monroe Doctrine state?
2. What European nation did Cuba want independence from?
3. Why was the United States interested in Cuba?

The Spanish-American War

The **Spanish-American War** (also called the War of 1898) was caused when the US assisted Cuba in their fight for independence, claiming the Monroe Doctrine as justification for involvement. The United States sent the battleship **USS Maine** into Havana Harbor to protect its national interests.

On February 15, 1898, the USS Maine exploded killing approximately 260 Americans. Believing a Spanish mine was responsible for the explosion, the United States declared war against Spain. This declaration of war delighted the American Newspapers, which were scrambling for the most sensational and competitive headlines, a style known as "**yellow journalism.**"



The Spanish-American War lasted four months. The United States first attacked the Philippine Islands, another Spanish possession, resulting in a **two-front** war. A two-front war is a war fought in two separate areas (Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean). The United States won the war and gained the **Philippines**, **Guam**, and **Puerto Rico** as territories. Rather than recognizing Cuban independence, the United States placed a military government in Cuba and exerted control over the country's affairs, leading to resentment on part of the Cubans.

Guantanamo Bay in Cuba was leased by the United States in order to establish a major naval base on the island. Filipinos did not receive independence either.

Section Review

4. How did the United States decide to protect American interests in Cuba?
5. What triggered the start of the Spanish-American War?
6. By what other name is the Spanish-American War known?
7. What is “yellow journalism” and what part did it play in the war?
8. What was the outcome of the Spanish-American War?
9. What US Naval base is still in operation in Cuba today?

The Aftermath



The effect of the Spanish-American War was an increase in United States imperialistic desires. In 1904, **President Roosevelt** issued the **Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine**, declaring the United States as an international police power in the Western Hemisphere with justification to intervene in Latin America.

In an expression of the growing political and economic power of the United States, President Roosevelt sent the United States Navy, known as the **Great White Fleet**, on a world tour.

Soon thereafter, the United States intervened in the affairs of other nations, encouraging a Panamanian revolution against Colombia in exchange for the right to build the **Panama Canal**. A canal through Panama would connect the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean and decrease travel time between the two. The United States intervened increasingly in the affairs of Latin American countries, leading to an economic imperialism that established United States supremacy in the Western Hemisphere.



Section Review

10. What was the Roosevelt Corollary?
11. How did President Roosevelt showcase American power in the early 1900s?
12. How did President Roosevelt gain rights to build the Panama Canal?
13. Why was the building of the Panama Canal so important to the United States?

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