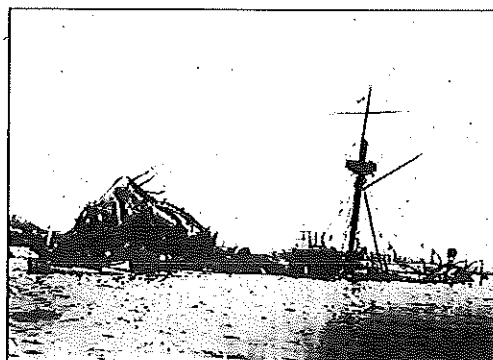


THE UNITED STATES AS A LANDLORD

In the 1890s, the people of Cuba revolted against Spain, the country that owned their island. The fight between the Spanish soldiers and the Cuban people went on for some time. Since many Americans lived in Cuba, the United States was very interested in what was going on. In 1898, the battleship *Maine* sailed to Cuba to protect Americans living there. About a month after the *Maine* reached Havana harbor, it blew up one night. The terrible explosion caused the ship to sink at once. Nearly 300 American sailors died that night. All over America, the cry of “Remember the *Maine*!” was heard. On April 25, the United States declared war on Spain.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Wreck of the U.S.S. *Maine*

revolt—to rebel, or rise up, against a ruler, government, or state

YELLOW PRESS

Sometimes called **yellow journalism**, the yellow press got its name from a newspaper circulation war. In the late 1800s, several New York newspapers each tried to outsell the others. The *Journal* and the *World* tried to give readers more news and sent reporters all over the world. The use of big headlines helped attract readers.

Joseph Pulitzer published the *World*. He used lots of drawings, as well as huge headlines, to attract readers. His paper began to print comics and carried many stories about crime and the problems of famous people. The *World* added color to its pages in 1893.

William Randolph Hearst published the *Journal*. He wanted his paper to be even more widely read than the *World*. He also used color in his newspaper and began printing colored comic strips. Of course he, too, printed many stories about crime and what people did wrong.

Both papers had a comic strip with a young boy who wore a shapeless yellow sack. The comic-strip character was called the “yellow kid.” This all led to the term “yellow journalism” or the “yellow press.”

The yellow press became famous when the United States was having troubles with Cuba in 1898. When the battleship *Maine* blew up and sank in Havana harbor, the newspapers went wild.

Stories began to appear about the terrible treatment of rebels in Cuba, which was governed by Spain. Some papers called for war. Though the stories these papers printed were not always totally true, people believed what they read.

Historians have suggested the Spanish-American War was as much the fault of newspapers as of any other cause.

yellow journalism—publishing exaggerated or made-up news stories to attract readers or to make readers think a certain way

The United States planned to blockade Cuba and destroy the Spanish fleet. On May 1, Commodore George Dewey and a fleet of American ships attacked the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in the Philippine Islands. At the end of the battle, eight Americans were wounded and no ships damaged. The entire Spanish fleet was either sunk or captured, and 381 Spaniards were killed. In one battle, much of Spain's sea power was gone.

On land, things went a little more slowly. U.S. forces invaded the Philippine Islands and, after hard fighting, took control of them. In Cuba, the army had a terrible time. American soldiers died from diseases and improper food. Even though it was summer, they were dressed in winter uniforms. A group of volunteers called the Rough Riders, commanded by Colonel Leonard Wood and Lieutenant Theodore Roosevelt, won a great victory at San Juan Hill.

Soon after this, the few Spanish ships in Cuban harbors tried to escape to Spain. They were all destroyed by the waiting American fleet.

Shortly afterward, Americans captured the island of Puerto Rico. On August 12, the three-and-a-half-month war ended. The United States now owned Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam. Cuba was given its freedom, but American soldiers stayed on the island for the time being.



U.S. soldiers in the Philippines

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CRITICAL THINKING

Secretary of State John Hay called the war with Spain a "splendid little war." What could he have meant by that?

America's next land additions were small islands. The United States had taken over Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean in 1867. In 1899, Wake Island in the Pacific was taken over by the navy. Wake is about 2,000 miles west of Hawaii and about three square miles in size. Nobody lived there. Why did the United States want it, then? Its location is the answer. The navy wanted it as a stopping place for ships. Later, it became an air base for planes flying across the Pacific.

Guam also became a naval base and later a stopping place for flights.

In 1899, America also took control of the Samoan Islands as a stopping place between the United States and Australia.

The map on page 131 shows the great area over which United States power is felt in the Pacific. In addition to the possessions shown on the map, the United States "looks after" many small islands in the Pacific.