

# Ch. 19: From Crisis to Empire

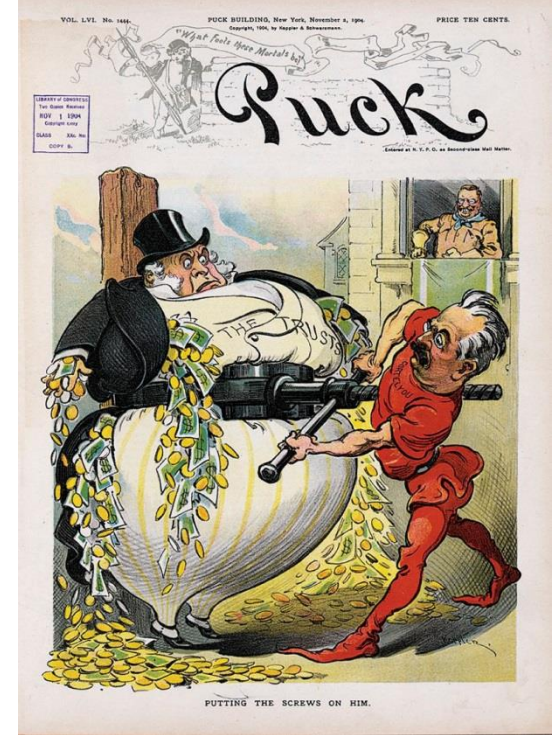
## Focus Questions:

- ☞ Explain Gilded Age politics as a whole.
- ☞ Describe some of the important figures of the period.
- ☞ Analyze the relationship between politics and business, tariffs, as well as some of the new types of legislation passed.
- ☞ Identify the platforms of the Granger movement and the Populist movement that came afterwards.
- ☞ Explain the Panic of 1893 and its impact.
- ☞ Identify William Jennings Bryan and the election of 1896.

# The Politics of Equilibrium

## Electoral stability

- \*throughout most of Gilded Age electorate was evenly divided
- \*high voter turnout (80%)
- \*Congressional control switched between parties often
- \*Republicans – northern Protestants, middle class, high tariffs
- \*Democrats – Catholics, immigrants, poor workers, low tariffs
- \*Presidency dominated by big business Republicans
  - presidency severely weakened and powerless
  - only two Democratic presidents during this time and it was the same person: Grover Cleveland



## The National Government and the economy

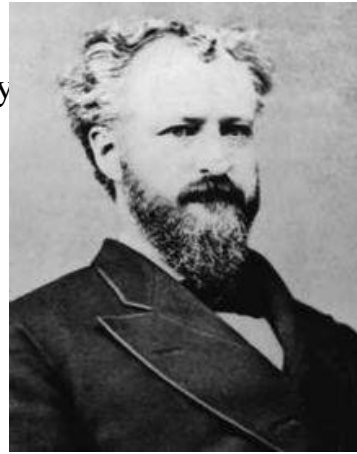
- \*extremely pro-business
- \*laissez-faire policies
- \*subsidies, land grants to railroads
- \*used military to end work stoppages
- \*pensions for Civil War Veterans



# Presidents, the “Spoils System” and Patronage

## Patronage – giving out government jobs

- \*president made almost 100,000 appointments annually
- \*Stalwarts – Republicans who favored patronage
  - Roscoe Conkling
- \*Half-Breeds – Republicans who favored gov. reform
  - James G. Blaine



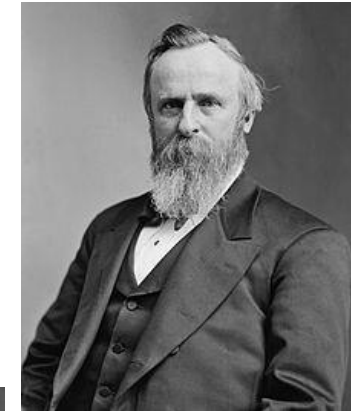
Roscoe Conkling



James G. Blaine

## Rutherford B. Hayes (R) – 1877-1881

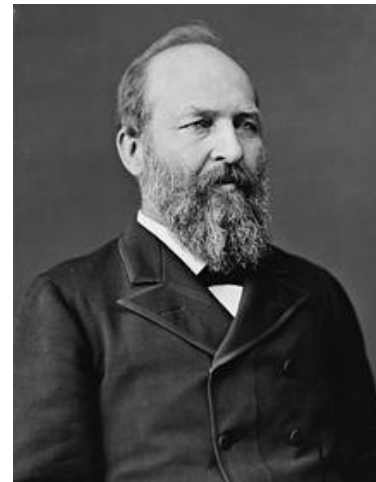
- \*not very popular, seemed weak, wife (“Lemonade Lucy”) banned alcohol from the White House
- \*did not seek re-election



Rutherford B. Hayes

## James Garfield (R) – April 1881-July 1881

- \*Half-Breed who favored civil service reform and angered the Stalwarts
- \*shot by deranged, unsuccessful office seeker, Stalwart
- \*died mostly due to bad medical treatment



James Garfield

## Chester A. Arthur (R) – 1881- 1885

- \*dandy, partier, bachelor, Stalwart
- \*broke ranks from party to help pass Pendleton Act



Chester A. Arthur

## Pendleton Act - 1883

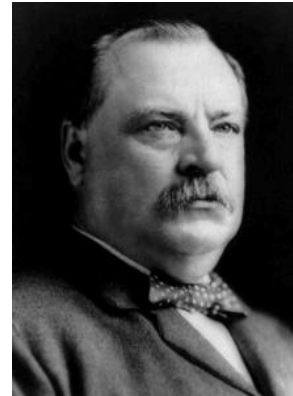
- \*required comprehensive exams for office seekers
- \*an attempt to clean up political corruption



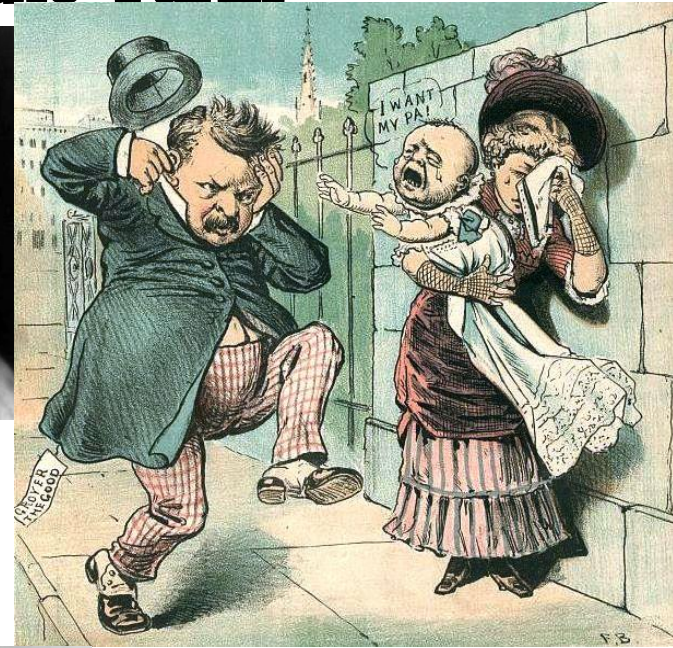
# Cleveland, Harrison and the Tariff

## Election of 1884 – Grover Cleveland (D) 1885-1889

- \*Dirty Campaign – “Ma, Ma, where’s my pa?”
- \*reform minded governor of N.Y.
- \*fought corruption in government
- \*biggest issue was the tariff – R’s supported/D’s against
- \*often vetoed “reckless” and “extravagant” bills



Grover Cleveland

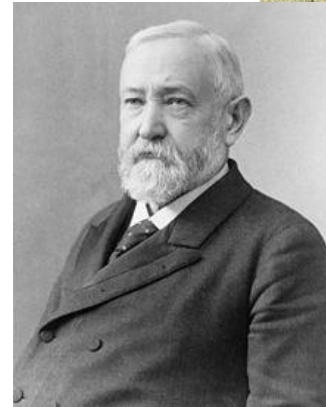


## Interstate Commerce Act - 1887

- \*banned railroad discrimination against small farmers
- \*prevented RR’s from generating exorbitant shipping rates
- \*created ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission)

## Election of 1888 – Benjamin Harrison (R) 1889-1893

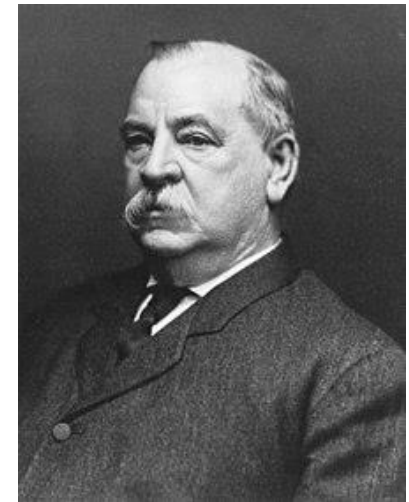
- \*grandson of William Henry Harrison
- \*big business Republican who supported tariff increase
- \*growing public criticism of monopolies resulted in...



Benjamin Harrison

## Sherman Anti-trust Act – 1890

- \*allowed government to regulate and break-up monopolies
- \*not too effective and used to break up unions instead



Grover Cleveland

## McKinley Tariff – 1890

- \*increased the tariff in order to protect American business

## Election of 1892 – Grover Cleveland (D) 1893-1897



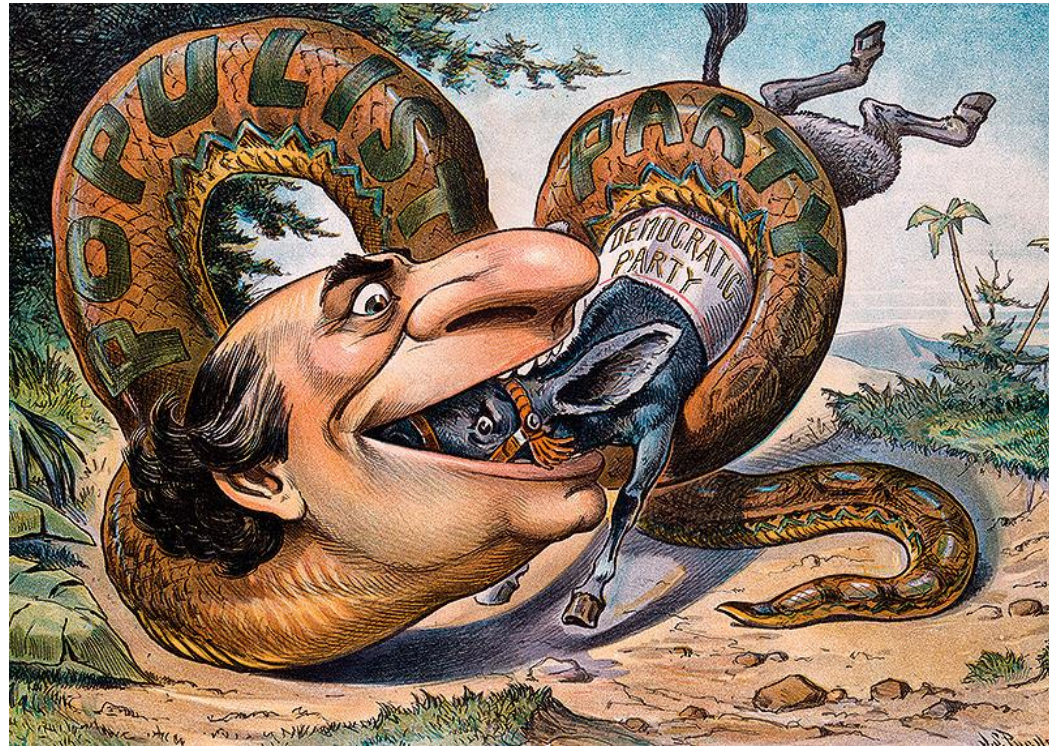
# The Agrarian Revolt

## The Grangers – 1860's

- \*organized political movement by farmers
- \*looking for more economic opportunities
  - formed co-ops to stabilize farm prices
- \*sought to end RR monopolies

## Populist Party

- \*absorbed some of the ideas of farmers
- \*Omaha Platform
  - free and unlimited coinage of silver (this would increase the value of farmers' money)
  - govt. ownership of RR, telephone and telegraph
  - graduated income tax (16<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
  - initiative, referendum and recall (explain each one)
  - land grants to settlers only
  - direct election of Senators (17<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
  - platform eventually turned into the progressive movement





# The Crisis of the 1890's

## The Panic of 1893

- \*worst depression in US history up to that point
- \*caused by the failure of 2 major corporations
- \*banks began to fail
- \*crop prices plummeted
- \*depression in Europe
- \*RR companies expanded too rapidly
- \*showed how dependent the nation was on railroads



## The Currency Question

- \*politicians debated the stabilization of currency
- \*silver vs. gold
  - west wanted free silver
  - east wanted to be on gold standard



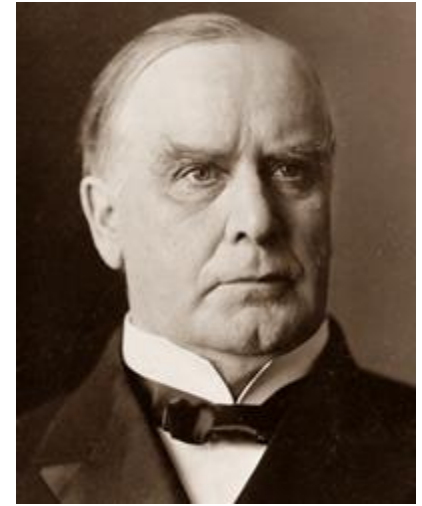
# The Emergence of Bryan

## Election of 1896

- \*first modern campaign in terms of using press
- \*William McKinley (R) – Gov. of Ohio
  - big business republican who wrote McKinley Tariff
  - campaigned from his front porch
- \*William Jennings Bryan (D) – Nebraska Congressman
  - pro-silver, anti-tariff, populist
  - campaigned across the entire nation
  - ran for president 3 times and lost 3 times



William Jennings Bryan



William McKinley

## “Cross of Gold” Speech – William Jennings Bryan

- \*one of the most famous speeches in US history
- \*Bryan argued that gold standard was a burden on America

## Conservative Victory

- \*big business poured millions into McKinley’s campaign
- \*resulted in the death of Populist platform

## William McKinley – 1897-1901

- \*dedicated to raising the tariff
- \*Currency Act – US adopted the gold standard



# Crash Course US History Ep. 26: Gilded Age Politics



# Ch. 19: From Crisis to Empire

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- ☞ **Identify Alfred Thayer Mahan and his impact on the era.**
- ☞ **Explain American interests in the Pacific and acquisitions.**
- ☞ **Describe causes of the Spanish-American War.**
- ☞ **Analyze elements of the Spanish-American War.**
- ☞ **Explain the many outcomes of the Spanish-American War.**
- ☞ **Discuss issues with annexing the Philippines and the Filipino War.**
- ☞ **Identify reasons why the United States wanted to expand into Asia.**
- ☞ **Explain the Open Door Policy.**



# Stirrings of Imperialism

## The New Manifest Destiny

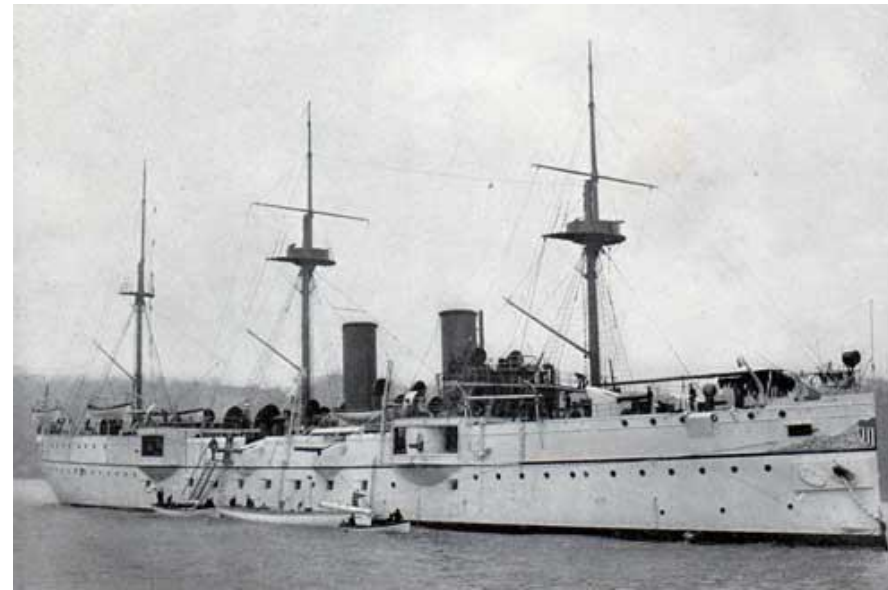
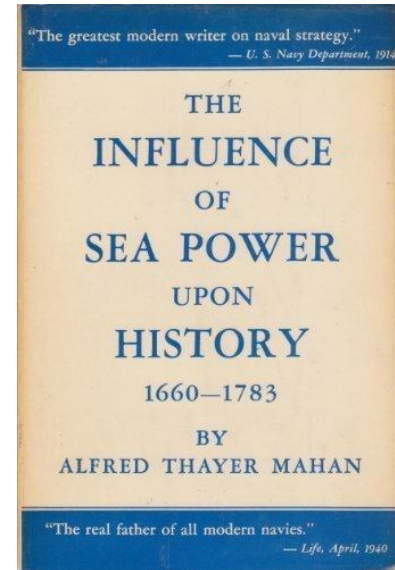
- \*US looking to expand due to closed frontier
- \*sought overseas possessions to keep up with Europe
- \*increased importance of trade
  - businesses needed new markets to expand
- \*colonies would allow for this
- \*American society could improve colonial societies
  - superior government, institutions, education systems

## Alfred Thayer Mahan – *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*

- \*great nations had great navies
- \*overseas possessions were keys to trade and naval dominance
- \*argued for development of canal through Central America
- \*Asst. Sec. of Navy, Teddy Roosevelt, a huge fan
  - helped build up US navy to world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest by 1900



**Alfred T. Mahan**



# Hawaii and Samoa

## Interest in Hawaii

- \*sugar plantations established in late 1700's
- \*important for trade with Asia since early 1800's
- \*missionaries sent to island in mid 1800's
- \*naval base established at Pearl Harbor in 1887

## Hawaiian Annexation – 1898

- \*overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani in 1893 by planters
- \*Sanford Dole (Dole Corporation) first governor

## American Samoa - 1898

- \*important for trade routes to Australia
- \*disputed by three nations – US, Britain, Germany
- \*US and Germany agree to split
- \*Pago Pago important Harbor

Queen Liliuokalani



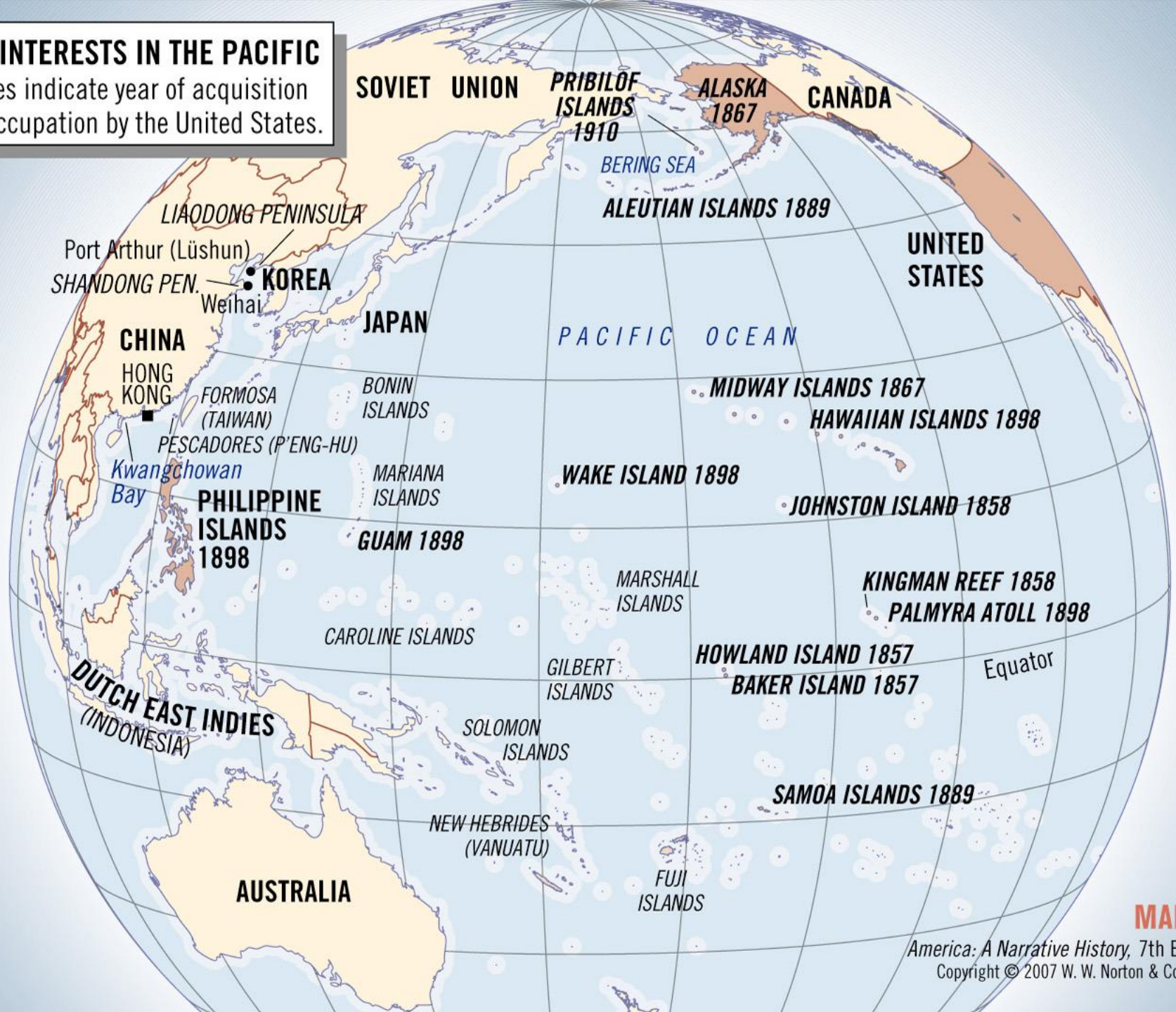
Sanford B. Dole





# U.S. INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC

Dates indicate year of acquisition or occupation by the United States.





# War with Spain

## Cuba

- \*began to revolt against Spain in 1860's
- \*open rebellion in 1895
- \*US concerns
  - Cuba home to several American sugar corporations
  - \$50m in investments, \$100m annual sugar trade



Weyler



## General Valeriano Weyler – “Butcher” Weyler

- \*tasked with putting down insurrection
- \*used brutal methods
  - barbed wire re-concentration camps
  - starvation, disease kills thousands of Cubans

## Yellow Journalism

- \*American journalists looking for a war
- \*sensationalized accounts of Spanish atrocities





# Role of the press in the war

\*William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer

\**Yellow journalism*



**\$50,000 REWARD.—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?—\$50,000 REWARD.**  
 EDITION FOR GREATER NEW YORK.  
**NEW YORK JOURNAL**  
 AND ADVERTISER.

NO. 5572. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898.—16 PAGES. PRICE ONE CENT.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY

**\$50,000!**  
**\$50,000 REWARD!**  
 For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!

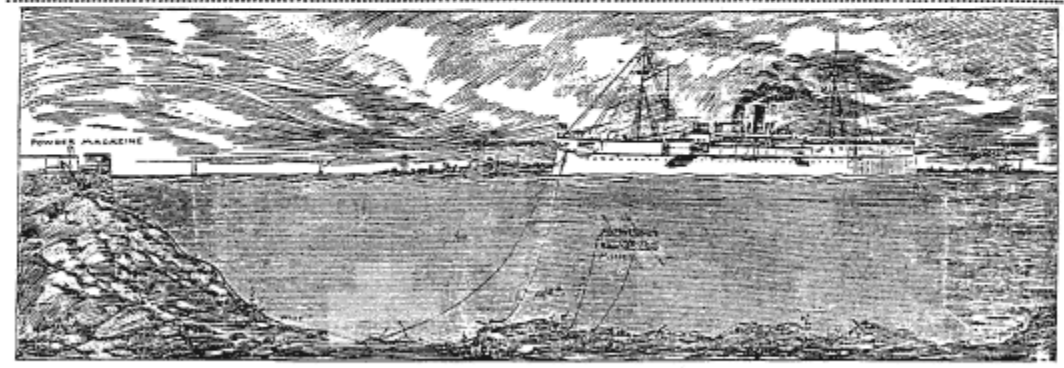
The New York Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 cash for information furnished to it exclusively, that will convict the person or persons who sank the Maine.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death. Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.

**\$50,000!**  
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**NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.**  
 George Easton Brown, the Journal's special correspondent at Havana, cables that it is the secret opinion of many Spaniards in the Cuban capital that the Maine was destroyed and left of her masts killed by means of a submarine mine, or blast torpedo. This is the opinion of several American naval authorities. The Spaniards, it is believed, arranged to have the Maine anchored over one of the harbor mines. Mines connected the Maine with a regular magazine, and it is thought the explosion was caused by sending an electric current through the mine. If this can be proved, the latest horror of the Spaniards will be shown to the fact that they succeed in getting the Maine and all the men laid to rest for the night. The Spaniards crown in the picture shows where the mine may have been fixed.

Hidden Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-of-War—Officers and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown Into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Scout the Idea of Accident—Spanish Officials Protest Too Much—Our Cabinet Orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck.



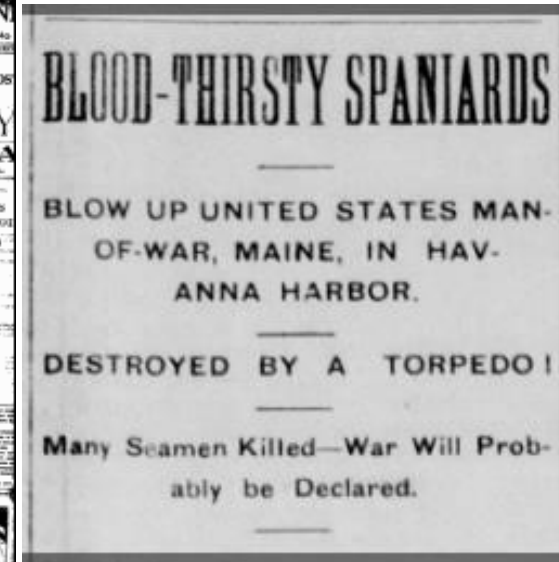
# “Remember the Maine”

## President McKinley’s response

- \*formally protested Spain’s treatment of Cubans
- \*the De Lomé letter
  - openly criticized McKinley, called him weak

## Sinking of the *U.S.S. Maine* – Feb. 15, 1898

- \*battleship sent to Havana Harbor as show of force
- \*after two weeks in harbor it blew up
  - 260 shipmen killed
- \*causes of the explosion mysterious
- \*war hysteria back home due to yellow journalism
- \* “Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!”
  - American battle cry
- \*war declared shortly afterward





# “A Splendid Little War”

## Supply and Mobilization Issues

- \*war only lasted 4 months
- \*460 Americans dead from battle, 5,200 from disease
- \*shortage of rifles and ammunition
- \*uniforms too heavy for tropical climate
- \*bad weather, food, medical services
- \*lots of volunteers



## Seizing the Philippines

- \*Commodore George Dewey takes Manila Harbor
- \*US now taking all Spanish possessions

## The Battle for Cuba

- \*not much Spanish resistance
- \*Americans easily defeated Spain
- \*US gains territory
- \*Cuba becomes an independent nation

## The “Rough Riders”

- \*volunteer cavalry unit led by Teddy Roosevelt
- \*famously charged up Kettle Hill





# The American Empire

## Results of the War

- \*American acquisitions – Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines
- \*US becomes a world power
- \*maintains a large navy
- \*opening of trade throughout the world
- \*catapulted Theodore Roosevelt into national spotlight

## Anti-Imperialist League

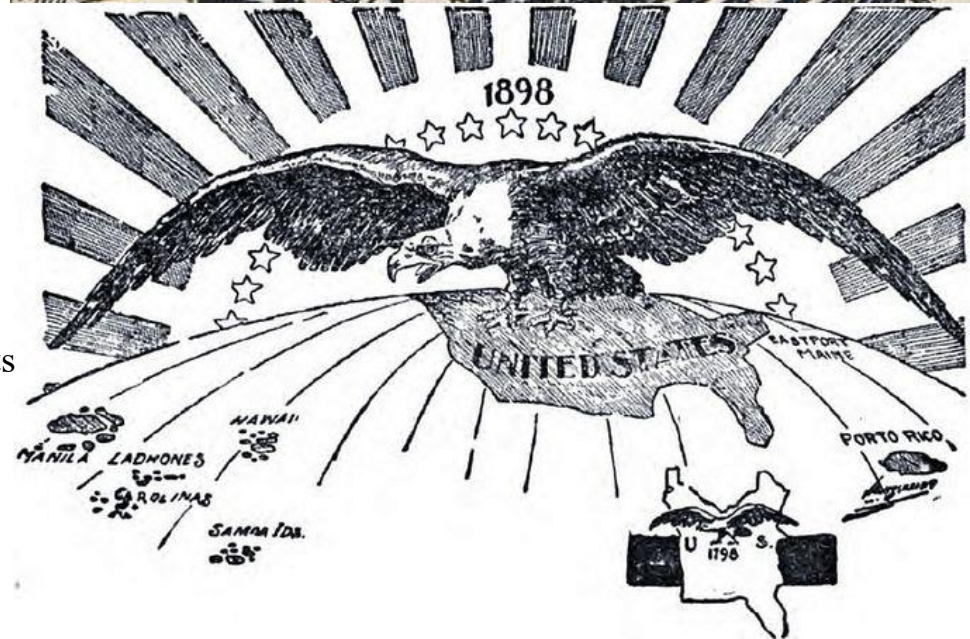
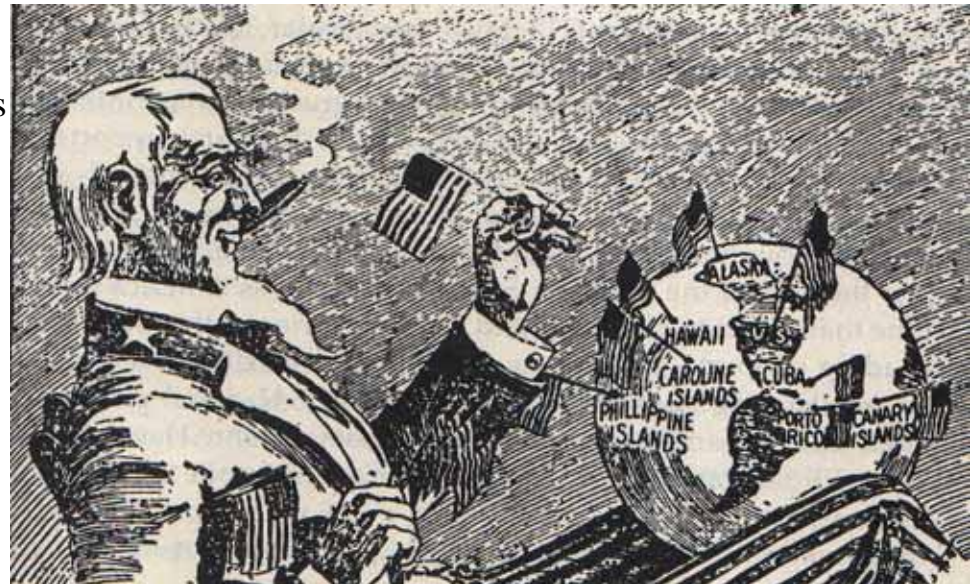
- \*Carnegie, Gompers, Twain
- \*felt imperialism was immoral or would dirty the population with more immigrants

## Foraker Act – 1900

- \*gave Puerto Ricans limited participation in government
- \*Jones Act – granted citizenship in 1917

## Platt Amendment

- \*Cuba can't have treaties with nations that compromise its independence
- \*US can intervene to restore order
- \*Guantanamo Bay given to US



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

# The Philippines

## The Philippines Question

- \*Should we annex the Philippines?
- \*was thousands of miles away
- \*Asian culture completely different than western
- \*Filipinos were seen as sub-humans and unfit for self-rule

## The Philippine War: 1898-1902

- \*Filipinos rebelled against Spain and America
- \*brutal war using guerilla tactics
- \*American atrocities
  - concentration camps, murders, rapes, executions, crops and villages burned
- \*50k+ Filipino deaths
- \*Emilio Aguinaldo – Filipino leader
  - was captured and told followers to surrender

## Philippines Rebuilt – Gov. William Howard Taft

- \*Americans helped build roads, bridges, schools, sewers
- \*economy flourished
- \*given political autonomy to run themselves
- \*gained independence on July 4, 1946



**Taft on a  
water  
buffalo**





# The Open Door



## Trade with China

- \*Philippines opened up access to trade in Asia
- \*Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Japan had already carved up China in spheres of influence
- \*US wanted in

## The Open Door Policy – John Hay Sec. of State

- \*Hay looking for a way to include America
1. Each nation would respect the sphere of influence of other nations in its sphere
  2. China could still collect tariffs in any of those spheres
  3. Nations were not to discriminate against other nations by enacting port duties or railroad rates

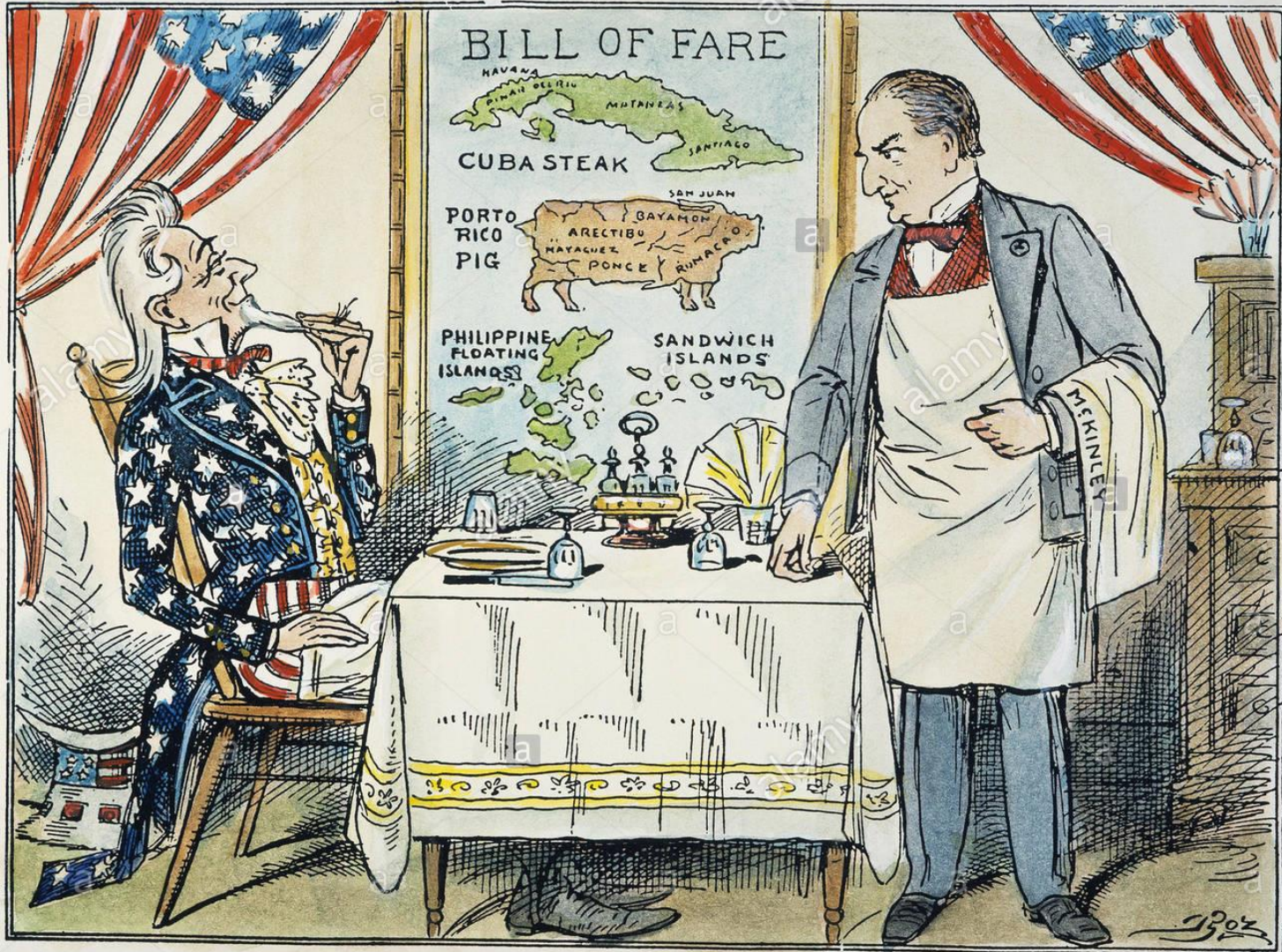
## The Boxer Rebellion – 1900

- \* “Boxers” –Chinese nationalist who resisted foreign influence
- \*rebellion spread throughout eastern China
- \*US sent in troops to put down rebellion





# Crash Course US History Ep. 28: American Imperialism



WELL, I HARDLY KNOW WHICH TO TAKE FIRST!

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- ☞ **Explain the Foraker Act, Platt Amendment and Open Door Policy.**

# Ch. 19 SAQ

- A. Briefly explain why the Spanish-American War is considered a turning point at which America was considered a world power.
- B. Provide ONE piece of historical evidence to support this assumption.
- C. Provide ONE piece of historical evidence as to why some people in the United States were against imperialism.

NOTE: One sentence responses will not get you the points. Give me examples, explanations, etc... Stop giving me broad, bland and unspecific answers. Elaborate as much as time permits.