

## HIST 2112

### Imperialism

- The advocacy, practice, of extending your country's power over other places outside your borders
  - o Direct control
    - At the point of a gun
  - o A colony is the most firm example
    - An army eliminates a government and replaces it with your own
  - o Relationship goal
    - Make the colonizers wealthy
    - Colony is created for resources to be sent back to the home country
    - Colonies are economically motivated
  - o US is first major British colony; also first to rebel
- Height of European imperialism – 1880-1920
- For much of this time, most of the world was under some sort of European control
- British imperially dominated at one time many countries
  - o The sun never set on the British empire
- Generally, America is anti-imperialists
  - o We were colonized
  - o We hated it
- Western history (Manifest Destiny) can be viewed as internal imperialism
  - o Argued that it was a part of Manifest Destiny so it was not the same thing
- We want to become more like the British
  - o Need colonies
  - o Colonies are a place for industries to offload their leftover products
    - Philippines would lead to China as well
  - o Could also get resources from this as well
- Had the idea that we could assimilate the citizens of our colonies with American culture
- Close to the idea of spreading democracy
- Some felt consumerism and economic success made us soft and weak
  - o Felt we needed an imperial adventure to make us men again
  - o Crisis of masculinity created by economic success
- 1898
  - o Great Spanish imperialism experiment is dwindling down
  - o Only a few colonies left
  - o Most are rebelling

- Cuban rebellion
  - Spanish respond with ruthlessly suppressing them
  - Killed them
  - Kept order
- Letter stolen by a Cuban spy and given to America
  - Basically said Americans were weak and cowards
  - Shouldn't worry about them
  - We don't pay much attention to it
- One week later, February 15<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Maine explodes in Cuban harbor
  - It was there to send a political message
  - Exploded from a boiler fire
  - Many thought it was a terrorist attack though
  - Triggered a declaration of war
- We had our war
- Takes Americans 5 days to land on Cuba
  - Not under fire
  - Just not very good
  - Small army on purpose
    - Felt this would be the muscle if a tyrant took over
- Anti-imperialists
  - Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie
  - Got the Teller Amendment passed
    - Said that in the event we go to war to Spain, we will give their colonies their freedom immediately to the end of the war
  - Platt Amendment
    - Said Cuba was free
    - Foreign policies were decided by the United States
    - If Cuba shows insufficient progress, the US has the right to remove the government with one they have more confidence in
  - Learned we had no intention of letting them be free
  - They saw us as the new Spain
  - Started fighting Pilipino gorillas
    - About 4,000 Americans died