“A Splendid Little War”: Spanish-American War

China’s Open Door

Imperialist Scramble

Less than 10 percent colonized

More than 90 percent colonized
Imperialist Scramble

- Purposes:
  - Cultural Domination
  - Economic & Nationalistic
  - "Muscle-Flexing"
- Justification
  - Racial Superiority (Social Darwinism, Manifest Destiny)

America’s Development

To Conquer or Not to Conquer?

- The year is 1898, and the United States has become an industrial powerhouse. Every other industrial power in Europe has begun to conquer territories around the globe and have turned their nations into Empires — at great cost to both natives and their own people.
- Many within Congress and industry hope to expand the power of the United States around the globe, and there is ample opportunity for territorial ambitions.
- As a member of Congress, what do you propose we do? Shall we use war and aggression to extend our authority and boost our global status, or shall we use our power for good? Are we justified in building an Empire?
War of the Dailies

- William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer's Circulation Wars
- Sensational headlines, outrageous articles, mass marketing
- Biased opinion masquerading as objective fact
- Sensational press favoring an aggressive nat'l policy which might cause war

“Cuba Libre”

- Spanish Empire crumbling
- Cuban Revolution
- Spanish army led by Gen. Valeriano Weyler
- Cuban revolution
- Filipino Revolution
- American Interest?
- US investments in Cuba threatened
- Age of imperialism
- Philippine ports
- Letter of Depuy de Lome (Spanish Ambassador)
- Sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor, Feb 15, 1898

Campaigns for Empire

- Philippines
- Battle of Manila Bay
- Cuba
- Volunteers led by Leonard Wood & Teddy Roosevelt
- Philippine-American War
- American Guerilla Campaign
US Gets... Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines ($20 million) Cuba = commercial dominance Results: USA emerges as a world power USA acquires colonial empire Builds national confidence

The Rough Rider Rises
Questions to consider:
- What were some factors that allowed American and European imperialism in the 19th-20th century to occur around the globe?
- Was Roosevelt correct in his claim that America had a new responsibility around the globe to police and promote “good behavior”?
- How does American foreign policy today compare to Roosevelt’s “Big Stick” Diplomacy?
- Does America still have a responsibility to police and promote “good behavior” around the world?