

The Spanish-American War (1898-1901): A Comprehensive Guide

The Spanish-American War was a pivotal conflict that transformed the United States from a regional power into a global superpower. Fought between the United States and Spain from 1898 to 1901, the war resulted in the United States acquiring control over Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. This article provides a comprehensive guide to the Spanish-American War, exploring its causes, key events, and lasting impact.



The Spanish American War (1898-1901) (SparkNotes History Guide) (SparkNotes History Notes) by SparkNotes

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 62 pages



Causes of the War

The Spanish-American War was sparked by a complex combination of factors, including:

- **Cuba's struggle for independence:** Since the 1860s, Cuba had been fighting for independence from Spanish colonial rule. The United

States supported Cuban independence, and the American public was increasingly sympathetic to the Cuban cause.

- **Yellow journalism:** Newspapers such as the *New York Journal* and the *New York World* sensationalized stories about the Cuban rebellion, using exaggerated and often inaccurate accounts to stir up public opinion against Spain.
- **Jingoism:** A wave of national pride and a desire for territorial expansion swept through the United States in the late 19th century. Many Americans believed that the United States had a manifest destiny to expand its empire.

Key Events of the War

The Spanish-American War began on April 25, 1898, when the United States declared war on Spain after the sinking of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor. The war was fought on multiple fronts, including:

- **Cuba:** American forces quickly defeated the Spanish army in Cuba, capturing the capital city of Havana within weeks.
- **Puerto Rico:** American forces also invaded Puerto Rico, taking control of the island by August 1898.
- **Philippines:** The most significant naval battle of the war took place in the Philippines, where the American fleet under Admiral George Dewey defeated the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.

The war ended on August 12, 1898, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, Spain ceded Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the United States.

Impact of the War

The Spanish-American War had a profound impact on both the United States and Spain:

- **United States:** The war transformed the United States into a global power, giving it control over colonies in the Caribbean and the Pacific. The war also led to the rise of the United States as a military force, and it played a significant role in the country's entry into World War I.
- **Spain:** The war marked the end of Spain's colonial empire, which had once been one of the largest in the world. The war also led to a period of political instability in Spain, and it contributed to the country's economic decline.

Legacy of the War

The Spanish-American War remains a controversial topic in American history. Some historians argue that the war was a necessary step in the United States' rise to global power, while others believe that it was an unnecessary and unjust conflict. The war also raised important questions about the role of the United States in the world, and it continues to be debated by historians and policymakers today.

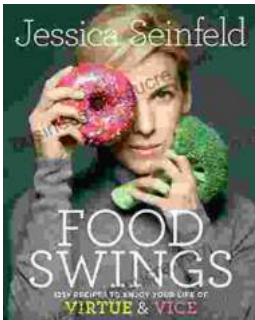
The Spanish-American War was a short but significant conflict that had a lasting impact on both the United States and Spain. The war transformed the United States into a global power, and it marked the end of Spain's colonial empire. The war also raised important questions about the role of the United States in the world, and it continues to be debated by historians and policymakers today.



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