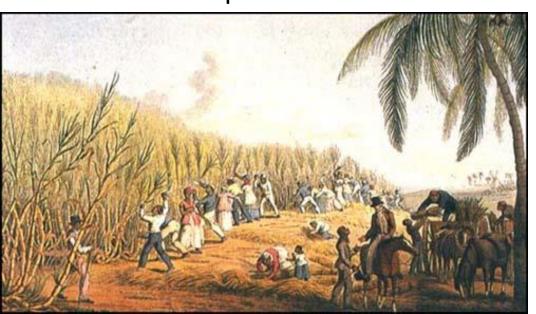


1: Background

In 1890s, Spain still controlled Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Philippines. Lying only 90 miles off the coast of Florida, Cuba had long been of interest to the United States. American business invested in sugar plantations and mining in Cuba. At this point, nearly 90% of Cuban exports went to the U.S., which in turn provided Cuba with 35% of its imports. Spain had ceased to be at the center of Cuba's economy.

In 1895, the Cuban began a rebellion against Spain. Americans were sympathetic to Cuba's struggle for independence, but were divided

about how to help.





2: Yellow Journalism

Yellow Journalism means sensational, exaggerated reports. The Spanish American war is often referred to as the first "media war" as newspapers began using yellow journalism to report about the situation in Cuba.

Before the Spanish-American War began, political cartoons and drawings depicting Spain as evil, Cuba as innocent, and President McKinley as a coward (for not intervening), helped rally sympathy for the Cuban people and fuel a pro-war feeling in America. Illustrations simplified the message that yellow journalists like William Randolph Hearst wanted his readers to buy—Cuba was helpless and the U.S. must intervene. It was a battle to sell the most newspapers between Heart's *New York Journal* and Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*.

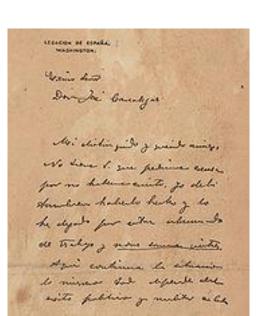
Hearst understood that a war with Cuba would not only sell his papers, but also move him into a position of national prominence. From Cuba, Hearst's star reporters wrote stories designed to tug at the heartstrings of Americans. Horrific tales described the situation in Cuba—female prisoners, executions, valiant rebels fighting, and starving women and children figured in many of the stories that filled the newspapers.

But it was the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor that gave Hearst his big story—war. After the sinking of the Maine, the Hearst newspapers, with no evidence, unequivocally blamed the Spanish, and soon U.S. public opinion demanded intervention.

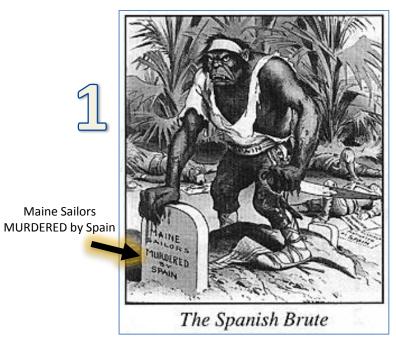
3: Causes of U.S. Involvement

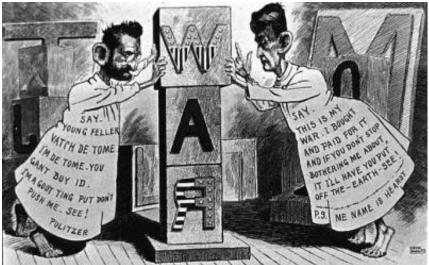
- 1. Yellow Journalism
- DeLome Letter: Hearst's New York Journal published a leaked letter in which the chief Spanish diplomat in Washington, Enrique Duby de Lome, described President McKinley as "weak" and a "petty politician." Hearst publicized the DeLome letter under the screaming headline: "WORST INSULT TO THE UNITED STATES IN ITS HISTORY."
- 3. Feb. 1898—USS Maine (U.S. battleship) exploded in the Havana, Cuba harbor.
 - Reasons unknown, yet Spain was blamed via yellow journalism
- April 1898—U.S. declared on Spain

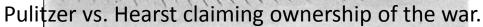


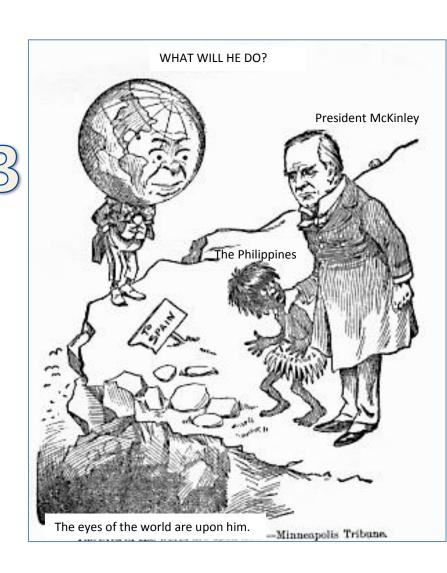


4: Yellow Journalism Cartoons





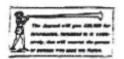




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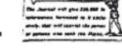
5: Yellow Journalism Headlines

\$50,000 REWARD—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?—\$50,000 REWARD



EDITION FOR GREATER NEW YORK

NEW YORK JOURNAL



AND ADVERTISER

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898

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!

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COMPLICES

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. 063,956 worlds circulated yesterda





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OGO, J56
WORLDS CITY PLATED YESTERDAY

VOL. XXXVIII. NO. (2.330).

MAINE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY BOMB OR TORPEDO?

Capt. Sigsbee and Consul-General Lee Are in Doubt---The World Has Sent a Special Tug, With Submarine Divers, to Havana to Find Out---Lee Asks for an Immediate Court of Inquiry---Capt. Sigsbee's Suspicions.

CAPT. SIGSBEE, IN A SUPPRESSED DESPATCH TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SAYS THE ACCIDENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN ENEMY.

Dr. E. C. Pendleton, Just Arrived from Havana, Says He Overheard Talk There of a Plot to Blow Up the Ship---Capt Zalinski, the Dynamite Expert, and Other Experts Report to The World that the Wreck Was Not Accidental----Washington Officials Ready for Vigorous Action if Spanish Responsibility

Can Be Shown---Divers to Be Sent Down to Make Careful Examinations.



6: Spanish-American War Events

- Much of it was fought in the Philippine Islands:
 - U.S. Commodore George Dewey won a quick victory in the Philippines.
 - Filipinos wanted freedom from Spain and assumed that the U.S. would grant it to them.

In Cuba:

- Theodore Roosevelt led his Rough Riders, a group of volunteer cavalry, into battle in Cuba.
- The U.S. won the decisive Battle of San Juan Hill.



7: Results of War

- The war ended August 1898, lasting only 15 weeks. Americans called it "the splendid little war."
- At the end of this war, the U.S. is now a major player in world events.
- Treaty of Paris
 - U.S. obtained Guam and Puerto Rico
 - Cuba becomes independent but with ties to the U.S.
 - 3. U.S. paid Spain \$20 million for Philippines
 - Philippines wanted to be independent
 - 1899—Filipino rebels attacked U.S. troops
 - · War lasted almost 3 years



Oue viva el 4 de julio! : Abora comos tombo