

Spanish-American War

"A Splendid Little War"

John Hay,
Secretary of State, 1898

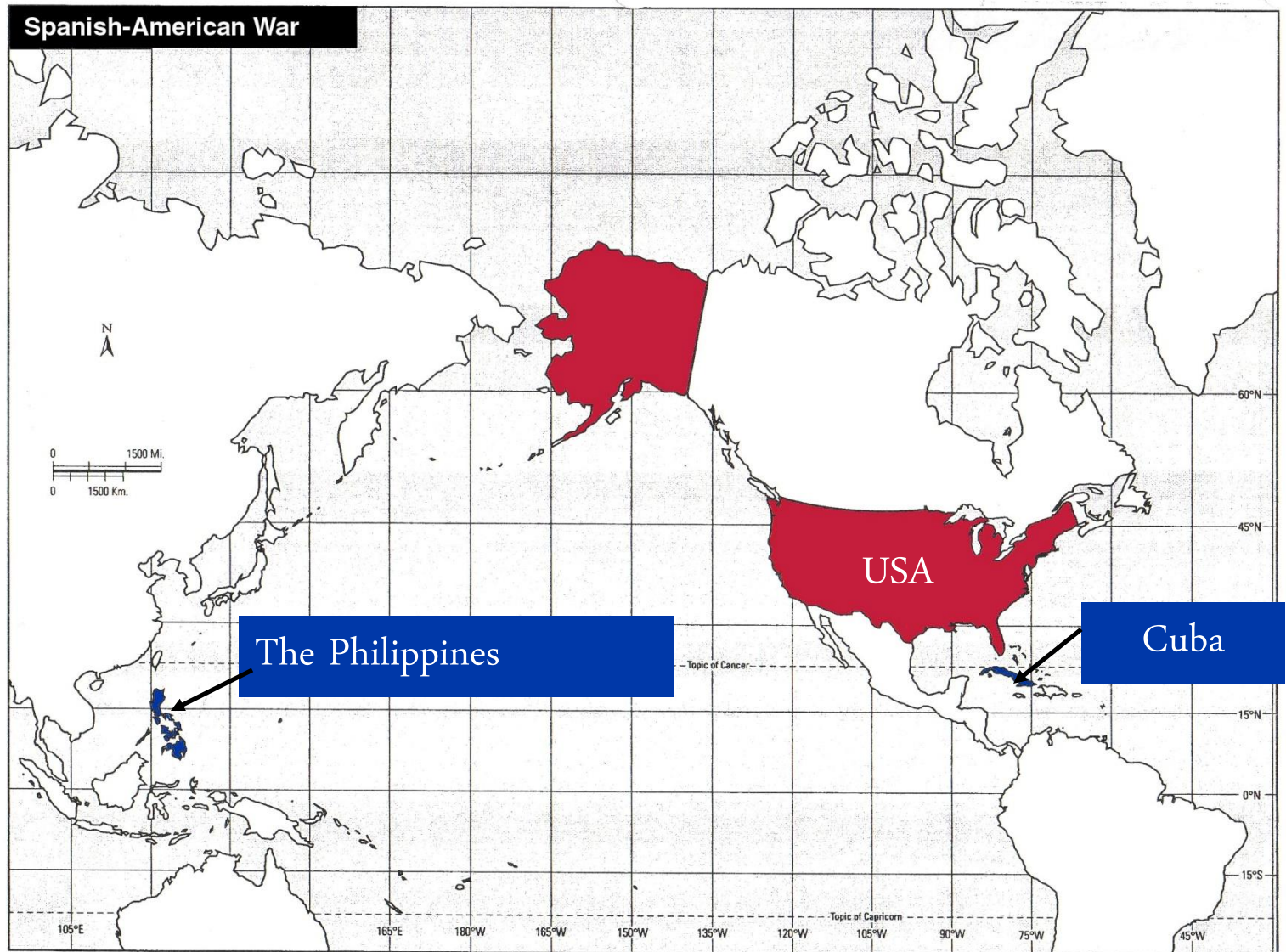


Who?

- **Spain vs. United States**

Where?

- **Philippines, Cuba (Spain's Colonies)**



THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, 1898



WAR IN THE CARIBBEAN



WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

The war against Spain was fought on two fronts.

Movement How did U.S. naval tactics used in Cuba differ from those used in the Philippines?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H19

Spanish-American War: Underlying Causes

- **Economic**: The U.S. invested \$50 million in Cuba. Almost all of Cuba's sugar was exported to the United States. When economic hard times hit Cuba, Cubans began to resent Spanish rule (it was a Spanish colony) which set off the Cuban Revolution against Spain in 1895. The revolution endangered American investments.
- **Humanitarian**: Americans sympathized with the Cuban Revolution and were appalled by the military tactics of Spanish military commander, Valeriano Weyler. He imprisoned thousands of Cuban civilians in camps. Roughly 30% died of starvation and disease.
- **Expansionists**: American expansionists, including Theodore Roosevelt, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, and Secretary of State John Hay – recognized that a war offered the opportunity to seize territory from Spain, a weaker nation.

Spanish-American War: Immediate Causes

- **Jingoism**: a “super” patriotism and demand for aggressive actions aroused American’s emotions and created a warlike mood.
- **Yellow Journalism**: Two of the most famous American publishers, William Randolph Hearst of the *New York Morning Journal* and Joseph Pulitzer of the *New York World* were battling for readers in a circulation war.
- Both newspapers printed the most sensational stories and pictures they could find about the horrors of the Cuban Revolution. The stories often exaggerated and distorted events for emotional effect. This is known as “yellow journalism”.

Spanish-American War: Immediate Causes

- **The De Lôme Letter**: A personal letter written by the Spanish minister to the United States, Enrique Dupuy de Lôme, was printed in the New York Journal in February 1898. De Lôme called President McKinley “weak and catering to the rabble”. When his unfavorable comments were published, it made it hard for the president and other political leaders to withstand demands for war.
- **Sinking of the USS Maine**: Less than a week after the publication of the de Lome letter, the U.S. battleship *Maine* exploded and sank in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, killing 266 Americans. The public blamed Spain, although a later investigation was never able to determine the cause of the explosion or assign responsibility.

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

NEW YORK JOURNAL
AND ADVERTISER.

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!

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
25th American Sailors to Their Death
Naval Officers Unanimous That
the Ship Was Destroyed
on Purpose.

\$50,000!

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



NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.

Hidden Mine or a Spanish Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Warship—Officers
and Men Yet Doubting Causes of Being Blown into the Air Amid a Rain of Shattered Steel and Exploding
Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Sent by Way of Accident—Spanish Officers Pro-
test Too Much—Our Cabinet Orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends
Drum to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck.

Was the Issue Anchored Over a Mine?

BY HARVEY S. L. FORTUNE, U. S. A.

It was Monday night when the news of the explosion of the Maine was first reported in the United States. The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for the conviction of the criminals who sent 25th American sailors to their death. The magazine for the Maine was delivered to the public through every issue. The magazine for the Maine was delivered to the public through every issue. The magazine for the Maine was delivered to the public through every issue.

“Yellow Journalism”

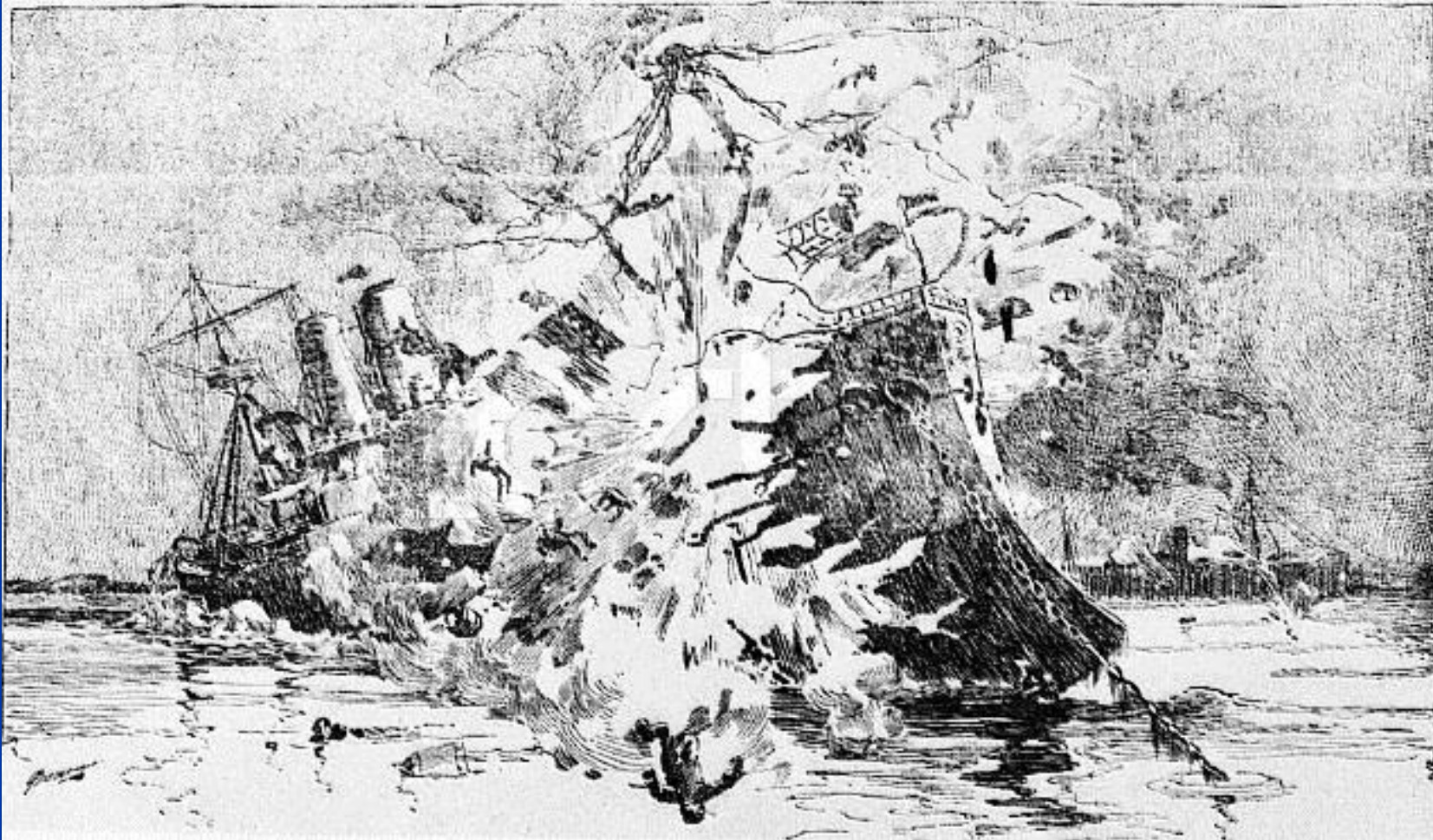
“You furnish the pictures, I’ll furnish the war” *William Randolph Hearst*

Headline reads:

“Destruction of the War Ship Was the Work of an Enemy”

offered \$50,000 reward to anyone who could find the guilty party

Headline of the USS Maine Explosion



Maine Explosion Caused by Bomb or Torpedo?
2/17/1898 *New York World*



Photo # NH 46774 Diving on MAINE's wreck

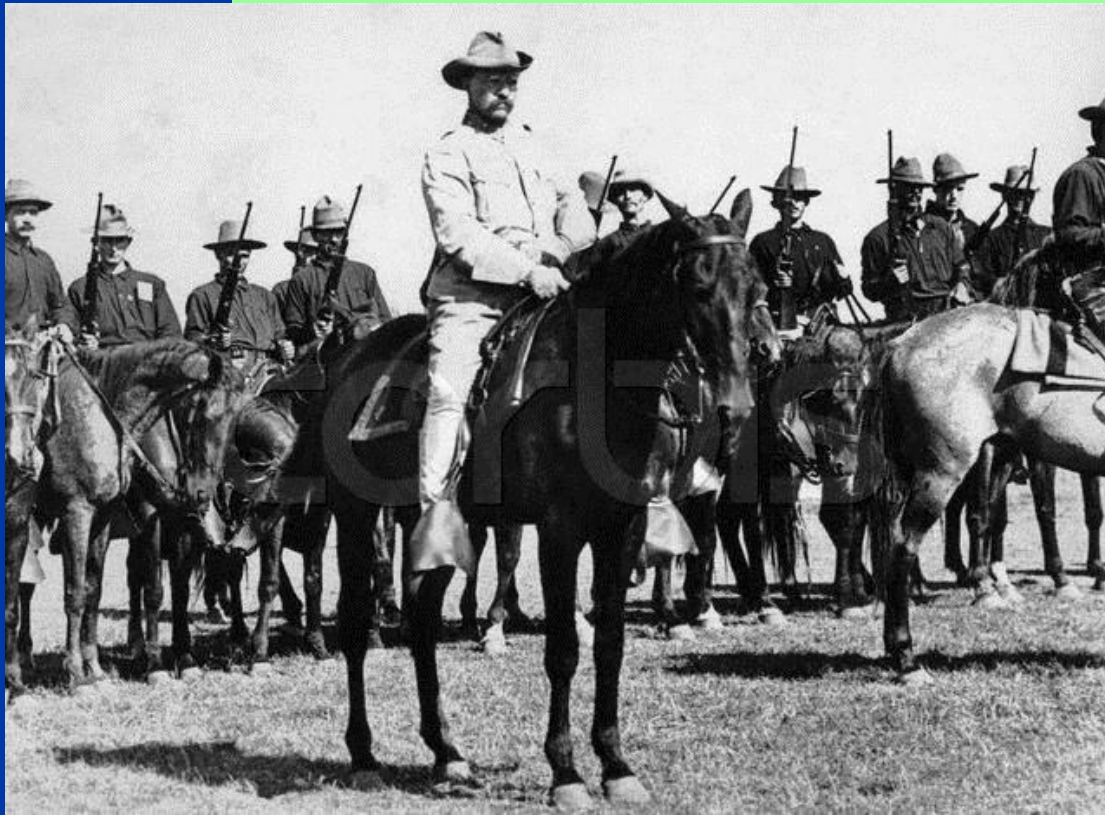
The battleship USS *Maine* blew up in Havana harbor, killing 266 Americans and although there was no proof, the explosion was blamed on the Spanish, gaining U.S. support for war with them.

Fighting in the Spanish American War

- In April 1898, despite Spain's agreement to an armistice with Cuba, President McKinley asked Congress to declare war. Congress complied. It also approved the Teller Amendment which promised that the U.S. would not annex Cuba.
- The war lasted four months, with fighting both in the Caribbean Sea (Cuba) and the Pacific Ocean (Philippines). Of the 2,446 Americans who lost their lives, fewer than 400 were actually killed in combat, the rest died from infection and disease.

The Rough Riders of the Spanish American War

Who were the Rough Riders? Who was their leader?



- Theodore Roosevelt led a “Cowboy Cavalry” and brought his own photographer to document the experience.
- Roosevelt’s popularity from this led to his becoming Vice-President and then later President.

The Rough Riders of the Spanish American War

What famous battle did they participate in?



Some of our brave colored Boys who helped to free Cuba.
Copyright 1899 by J. F. Jarvis.

- The **Battle of San Juan Hill**- the bloodiest and most famous battle of the war.
- African Americans also helped -- but get no credit.

Results of the Spanish American War

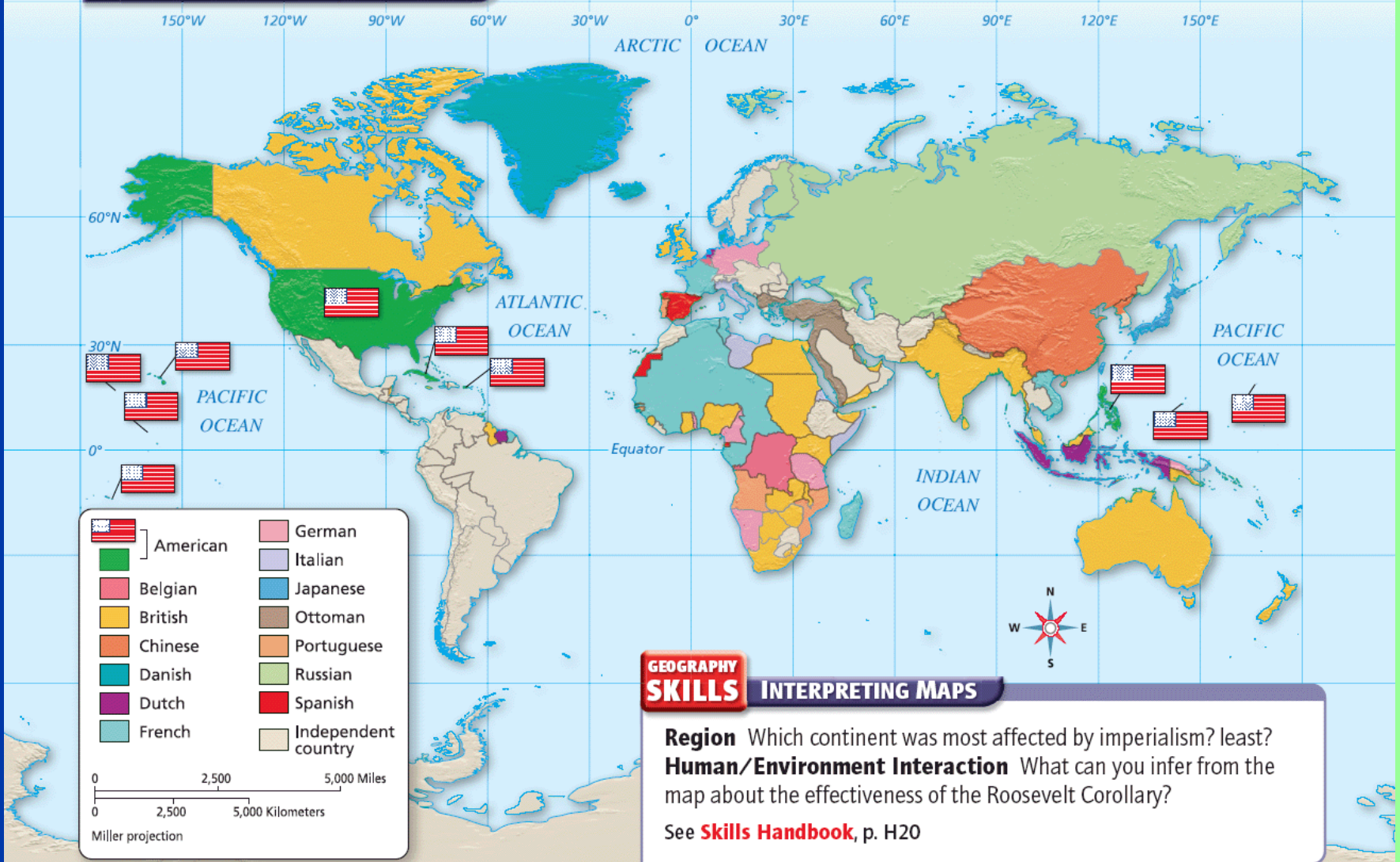
In December 1898, the terms of the Treaty of Paris negotiated with Spain:

- Granted Cuba its independence
- Gave the Philippines to the U.S. for \$20 million
- Ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States

For the U.S., the Treaty of Paris of 1898:

- Led to the acquisition of many former Spanish territories that formed the basis of an American empire and led the U.S. to establish itself as a new world power
- Set off a national debate among imperialists and anti-imperialists
- Increased American involvement in Latin America and Asia as the nation sought to protect its new lands

IMPERIALISM, c. 1900



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

Region Which continent was most affected by imperialism? least?
Human/Environment Interaction What can you infer from the map about the effectiveness of the Roosevelt Corollary?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20

The American Empire, 1898-1917

| Date | Territory | How Acquired |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1898 | Hawaii | Annexation (1893 revolution) |
| 1898 | Puerto Rico | From Spain (after the war) |
| 1898 | Guam | From Spain (after the war) |
| 1898 | Philippines | From Spain (after the war) |
| 1899 | Samoa | Treaty with Great Britain |
| 1899 | Wake Island | Annexation |
| 1903 | Panama Canal Zone | Treaty with Panama |
| 1917 | Virgin Islands | Purchased from Denmark |