

4. American Imperialism and World War I

4.1 The Age of Empire

**4.2 Americans in the
Great War**

4.1 The Age of Empire

4.1.1 The New Imperialism

4.1.2 The Lure of Empire

4.1.3 "A Splendid Little War"

4.1.4 U.S. Imperial Expansion, 1857-1917

4.1.5 The Philippines

4.1.6 Imperialists vs. Anti-Imperialists

4.1.7 Open Door and Big Stick

4.1.1 The New Imperialism

Imperial Dreams

**Political & business
leaders called for an
activist approach to
world affairs**

- **Exceptionalism**
 - **The U.S. was an
exceptional nation...
different and superior
to others**
- **Other influences**

CAPITALISM

NATIONALISM

SOCIAL
DARWINISM

PATERNAL TOWARD
FOREIGNERS

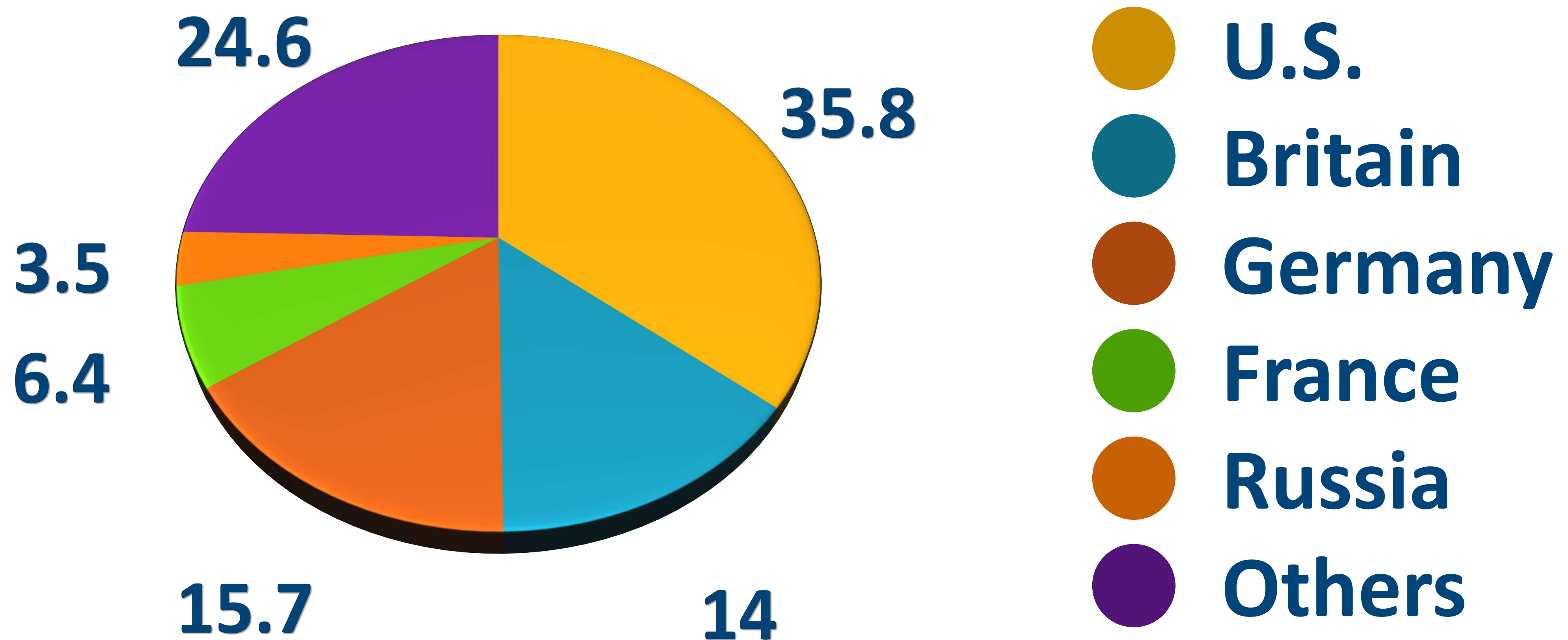


Foreign Policy Elite

- Leaders in politics, journalism, business, agriculture, religion, education, and the military
 - Henry Adams (Historian)
 - John Hay (Writer and Diplomat)
- Encouraged selling, buying, and investing in foreign marketplaces

Growing U.S. Economic Power (1900)

1913 World Manufacturing Production



4.1.2 The Lure of Empire

Race Thinking and the Male Ethos

- **American supremacy**
 - **Whites superior to blacks**
 - **Manliness stressed**
 - **“People of color were weaklings, unfit to govern themselves...”**
 - **T. Roosevelt**

- **Reverend Josiah Strong: *Our Country***
 - **“As America goes, so goes the world”**
- **Secretary of State Thomas F. Bayard**
 - **Applauded U.S. in Mexico: “Americanize them”**



“Civilizing” Impulse

Empire benefited us and those under our control

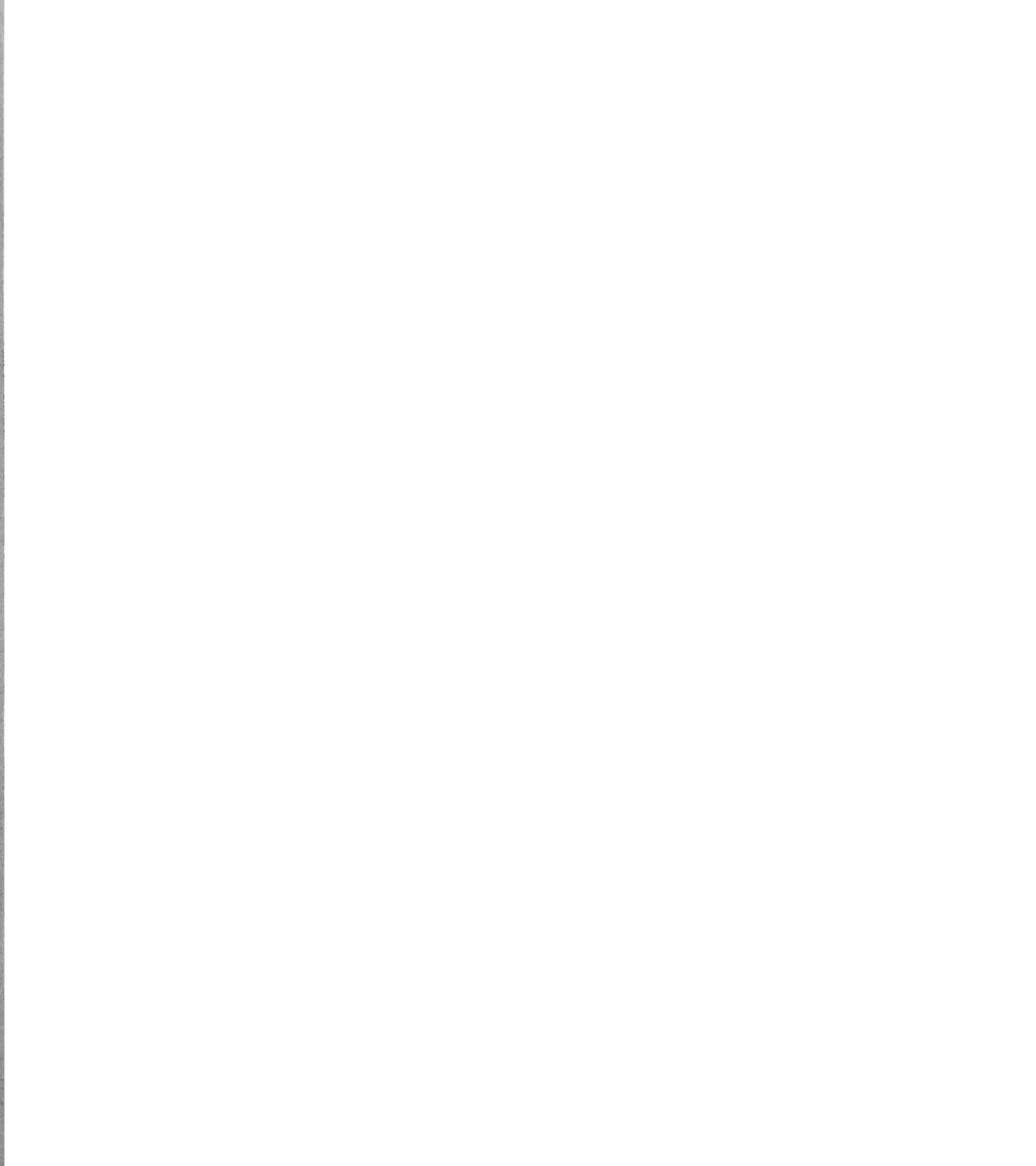
- extending liberty and prosperity**

William Howard Taft:

“Others will see us as blessed.”

Ambitions and Strategies

- **William Seward and his quest for Empire**
- **Senator & Secretary of State (1861-69)**
- **Bought Alaska, claimed Midway Islands**



- **International Communications**
- **Telegraph lines to Latin America, Japan & China**
- **Alfred T. Mahan and Navalism**
- **U.S. required an efficient navy**
- **Steel -hulled warships**

4.1.3 "A Splendid Little War"

Spanish-American War

- **Sinking of the Maine**
 - **Journalists blamed Spain**
- **McKinley's Ultimatum**
 - **Accept an armistice in Cuba, end reconcentration, and accept U.S.-appointed arbiter**

- **Why war?**
 - **Everyone: commerce and property**
 - **Imperialists: gain land**
 - **Conservatives: war as national unifier**



LAUNCHED 1890. BLOWN UP IN HAVANA HARBOR AT 5.40 P.M.
 DIMENSIONS—LENGTH OVERALL 324 FT 4 1/2 INCHES. BREADTH EXTREME 57 FT.
 MEAN DRAUGHT 21 FEET 6 INCHES. DISPLACEMENT 5662 TONS. SPEED 17 KNOTS.
 40 GUNS. 2500 HORSE POWER. TURRET ARMOUR 8 1/2 INCHES THICK. COST \$3,000,000.

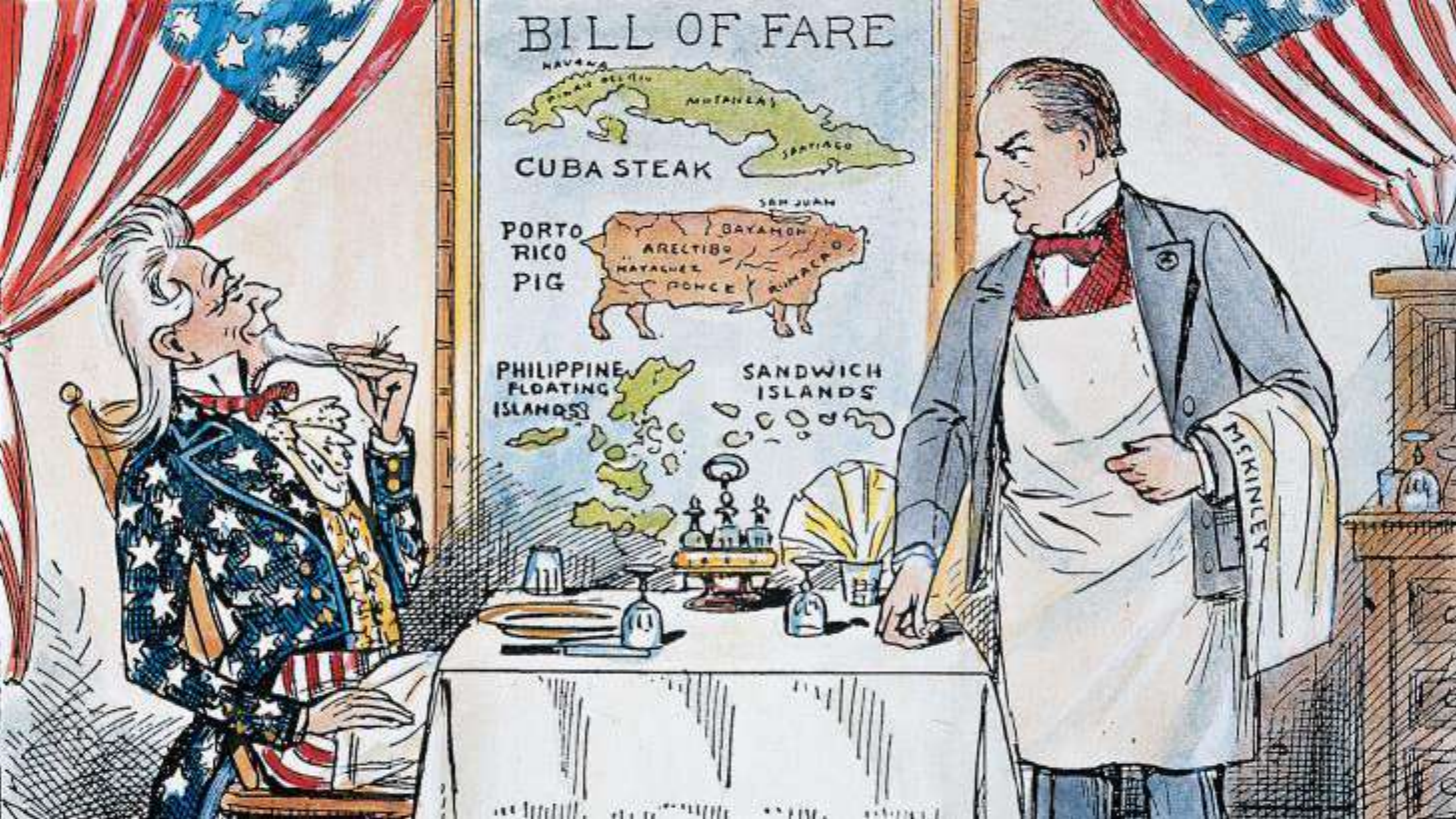
DESTRUCTION OF THE U.S. BATTLESHIP MAINE

IN HAVANA HARBOR FEBY 15TH 1898.

ARMAMENT—4-10 INCH BREECH-LOADING RIFLES. 14-6 INCH FIRE MOUNT.
 4 REVOLVING CANNONS. 4 BATTLE. 7 TORPEDO TUBES. THE SIDE BELT WAS
 12 INCHES THICK & 100 FEET LONG. OFFICERS & CREW 450, KILLED & DROWNED 266.

COPYRIGHTED 1898

ESTD BY & OWNED BY JAMES ST. THOMAS



BILL OF FARE

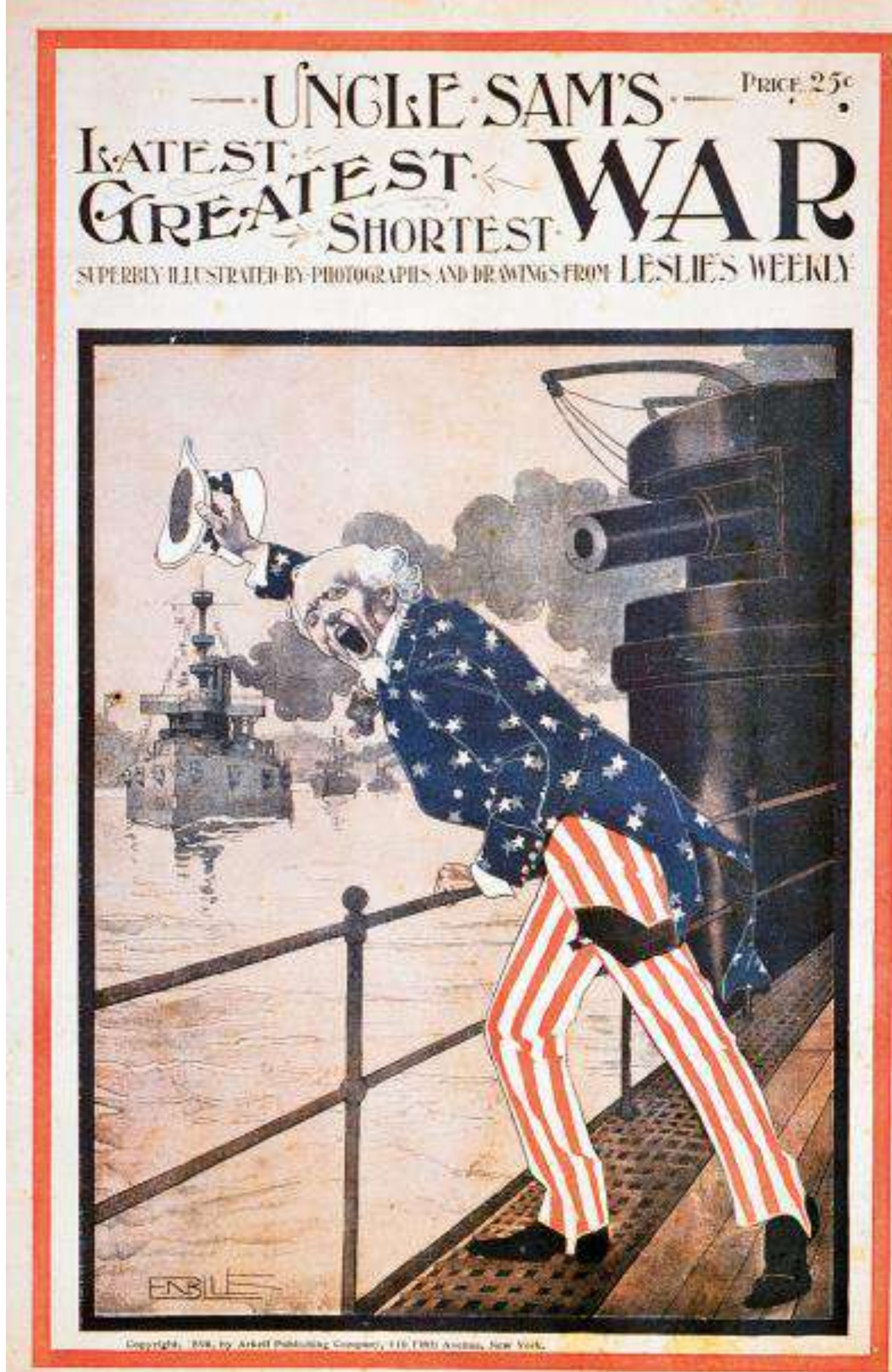


McKINLEY

The New Jingoism

Uncle Sam cheers the U.S. Navy in the “splendid little war” of 1898.

- Many Americans, were less than enthused about America’s new “imperial adventure”.

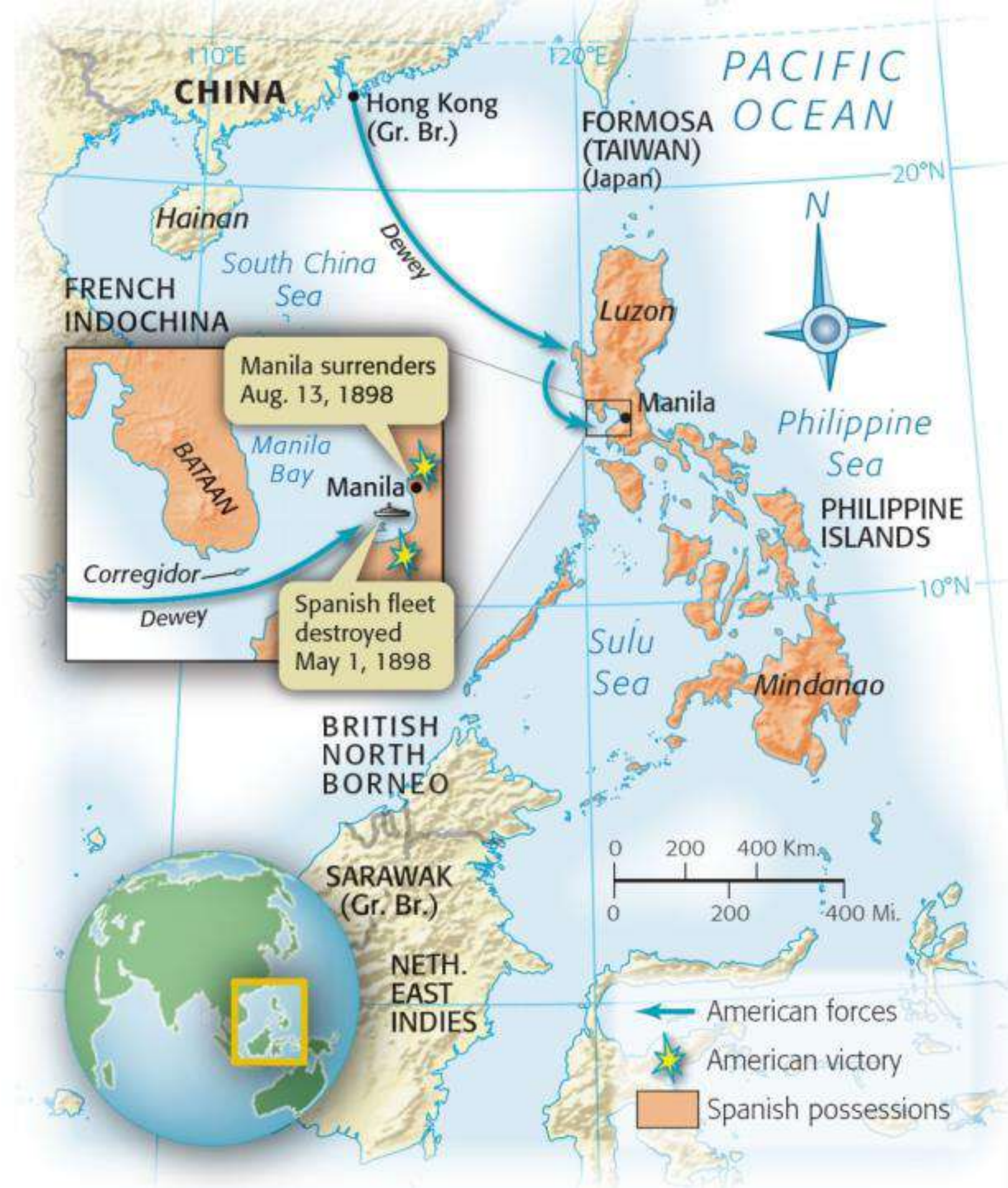


War (cont.)

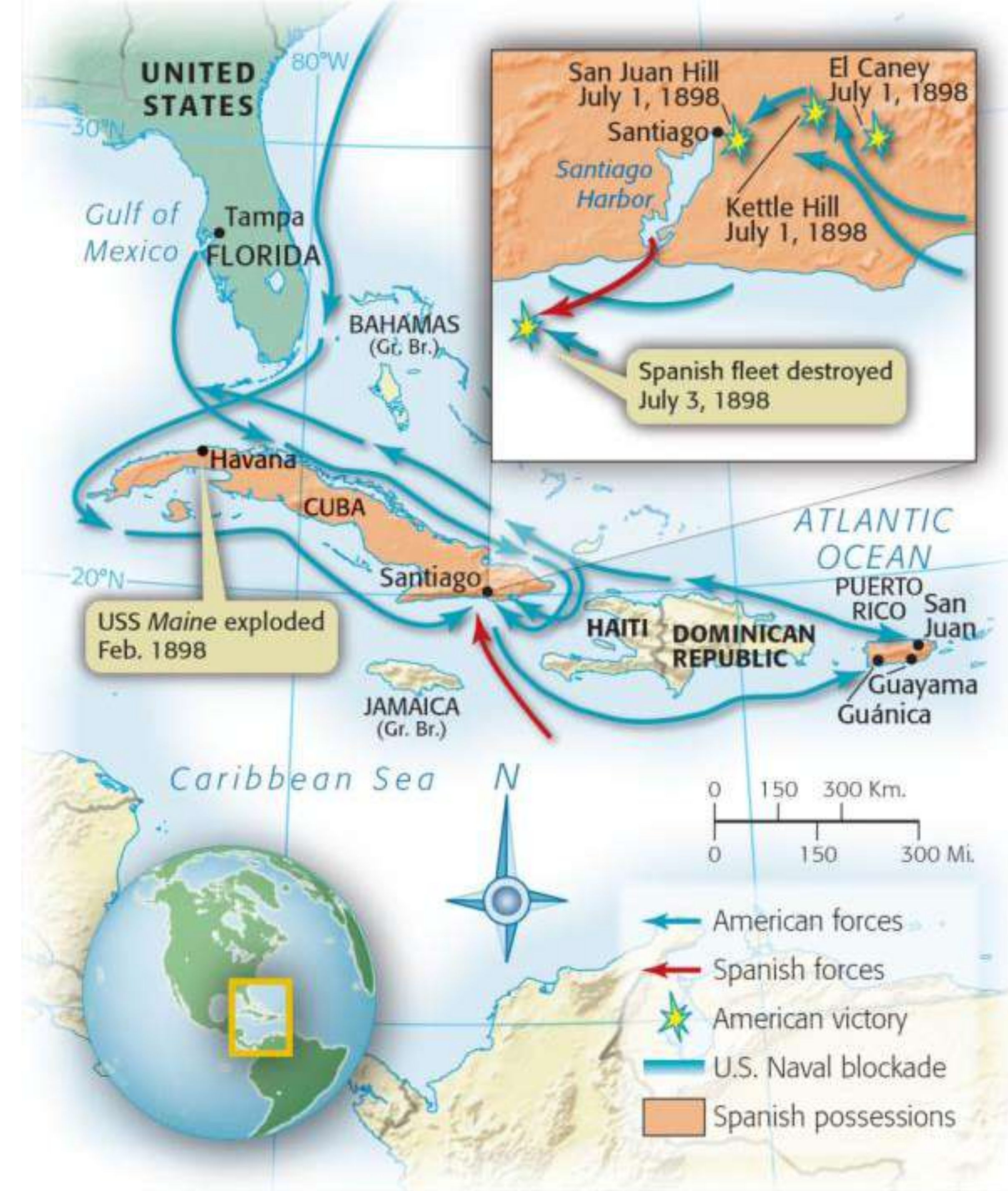
- **Dewey in the Philippines**
 - **Commodore Dewey led new ship *Olympia* into Manila Bay, easily defeating the Spanish fleet**
- **Puerto Rico**
 - **U.S. forces then conquered this Spanish colony**

- **Treaty of Paris
(August 12, 1898)**
- **Independence for
Cuba**
- **Cession (for \$20m)
of the Philippines,
Puerto Rico, and
Guam to U.S.**

Dewey's Route in the Philippines, 1898



“A Splendid Little War”



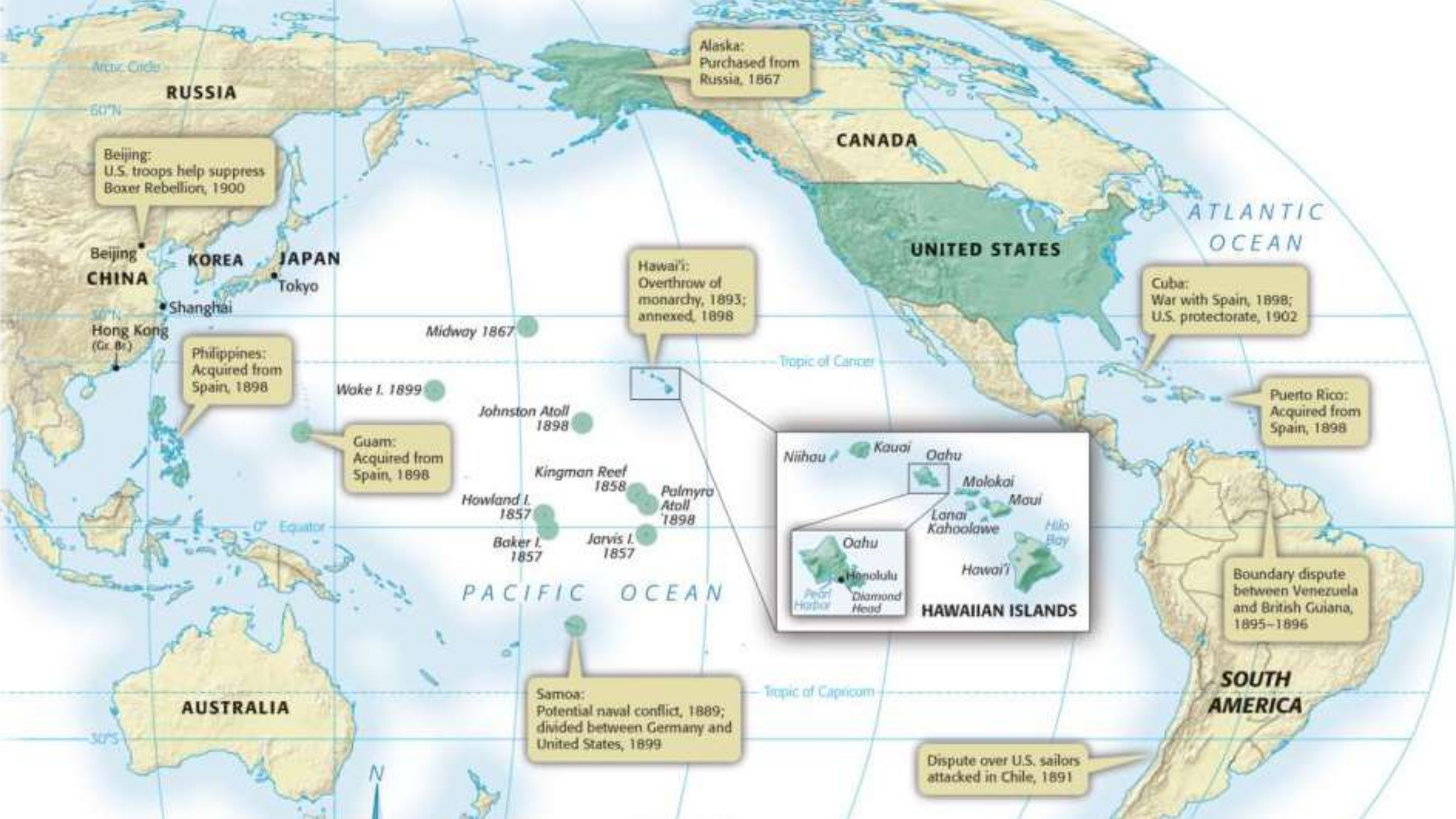


“Cuba Libre”

**Confederate and
Union officers
“reconcile three
decades after the Civil
War to liberate
innocent Cuba from
her chains of bondage
to Spain...”**



4.1.4 U.S. Imperial Expansion, 1857-1917



RUSSIA

CANADA

UNITED STATES

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH AMERICA

AUSTRALIA

Alaska:
Purchased from
Russia, 1867

Hawai'i:
Overthrow of
monarchy, 1893;
annexed, 1898

Cuba:
War with Spain, 1898;
U.S. protectorate, 1902

Puerto Rico:
Acquired from
Spain, 1898

Boundary dispute
between Venezuela
and British Guiana,
1895-1896

Dispute over U.S. sailors
attacked in Chile, 1891

Samoa:
Potential naval conflict, 1889;
divided between Germany and
United States, 1899

Beijing:
U.S. troops help suppress
Boxer Rebellion, 1900

Philippines:
Acquired from
Spain, 1898

Guam:
Acquired from
Spain, 1898

Midway 1867

Wake I. 1899

Johnston Atoll
1898

Kingman Reef
1858

Palmyra
Atoll
1898

Howland I.
1857

Baker I.
1857

Jarvis I.
1857

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Niihau Kauai Oahu Molokai Maui
Lanai Kahoolawe Hilo Bay
Oahu Honolulu Diamond Head
Pearl Harbor

Crisis in the 1890s

- **Annexation of Hawaii**
 - **McKinley Tariff eliminates duty-free Hawaiian sugar**
 - **Subversive Annexation Club**
 - **Troops occupied Honolulu -> Queen Liliuokalani surrenders -> U.S. annexes Hawaii**

- **Venezuelan Boundary Dispute**
 - **Using Monroe Doctrine, U.S. helps Venezuela by coaxing Britain to sign a border treaty**
- **Revolution in Cuba**
 - **Jose Marti launches revolution against Spain from U.S.**

Queen Liliuokalani



Liliuokalani was the last reigning queen of Hawaii.

- **Her defense of native Hawaiian self-rule led to a revolt by white settlers and to her dethronement.**

They Can't Fight

Britain and America argued fiercely during the Venezuelan boundary dispute, but cooler heads prevailed.

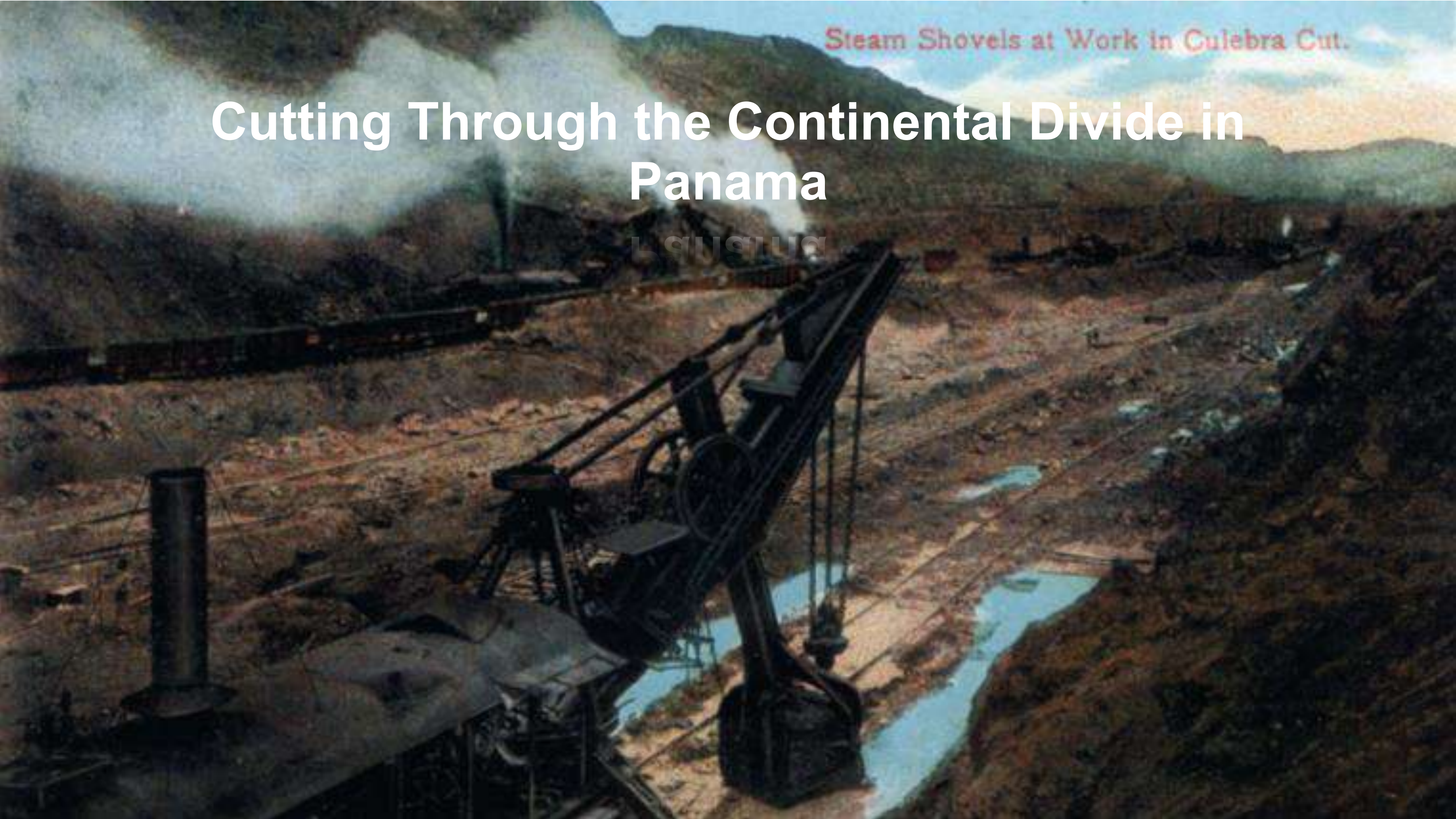
- **Rapprochement followed.**



- **Linked by language, culture, and mutual economic interest.**
- **Bismarck: “The supreme geopolitical fact of the modern era is that the Americans speak English.”**

Steam Shovels at Work in Culebra Cut.

Cutting Through the Continental Divide in Panama



4.1.5 The Philippines

The Philippines

- **Philippines asserted they did not need U.S. help**
- **Aguinaldo leads independent Philippine Republic in revolt vs. U.S. (1899)**

- **War**
 - **Americans: burned crops and villages**
 - **Filipinos: guerilla ambushes**
 - **Insurrection suppressed in 1902**
 - **4,000 Americans dead**
 - **20,000 Filipinos (military) dead**

- **U.S. tries
Americanization**
- **1916: Jones Act (weak
promise of
independence)**
- **1946: Independence at
last!**

Captured Filipino Insurrectionists (1899)

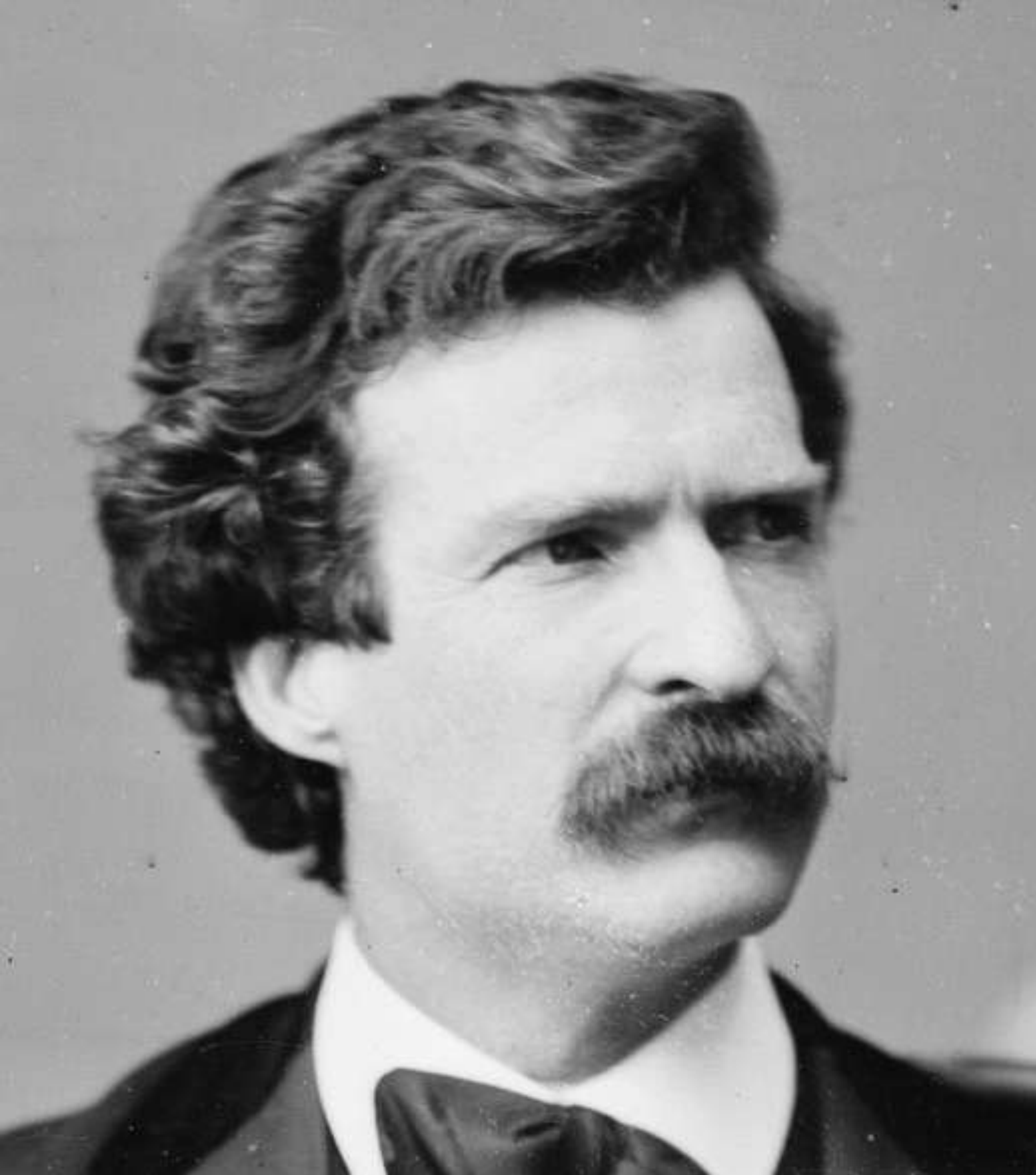
- **Altogether, 600,000
Filipinos perished.**
- **Irony: Americans
claimed to be
“liberating” the
Filipinos from their
oppressive Spanish
masters**



4.1.6 Imperialists vs. Anti-Imperialists

Anti-Imperialist Arguments

**Mark Twain, William
Jennings Bryan, Jane
Addams, Andrew
Carnegie, Samuel
Gompers**



- **Argued against annexation of the Philippines**
 - **Why should a war to free Cuba lead to an empire?**
- **Conquest of people against their will violated the right of self-determination**

- **U.S. Constitution violated**
- **U.S. character being corrupted**
- **Gompers feared job loss**
 - **Colonies would undercut American labor**

Imperialist Arguments

- **Appealed to Patriotism, Destiny, & Commerce**
- **Merchant ships sailing for Asian markets**
- **Missionaries uplifting inferior peoples**

- **“White man’s burden” (Rudyard Kipling)**
- **Treaty of Paris + McKinley re-election**
- **Imperialists win argument**
- **McKinley “Imperialism best serves U.S. interests.”**

4.1.7 Open Door and Big Stick

China & the Open Door Policy

- **Secretary of State John Hay**
- **Knew U.S. could not force imperial powers out of China**
- **Asked countries with spheres of influence to accept equal trade opportunity (Open Door)**

American Missionary Grace Roberts Teaching in China (1903)

**Boxer rebels attacked
missionaries in China
in 1900 as symbols of
foreign
encroachment.**



A black and white photograph showing four Japanese workers on a steep, rocky hillside. One worker on the left is using a long-handled tool to work on the rock face. Another worker is sitting on a rock in the center, holding a tool. A third worker stands in the middle ground, looking towards the camera. A fourth worker is standing in the lower right foreground. The background shows a steep slope covered with small, dark evergreen trees.

**Japanese Workers Building a Road
(California, c. 1910)**



4.2 Americans in the Great War

4.2.1 "Over There"

**4.2.2 "The Yanks Are
Coming"**

**4.2.3 Winning the War at
Home**

**4.2.4 Winning at What
Cost?**

**4.2.5 Blacks in the
Military**

4.2.6 Women & the War

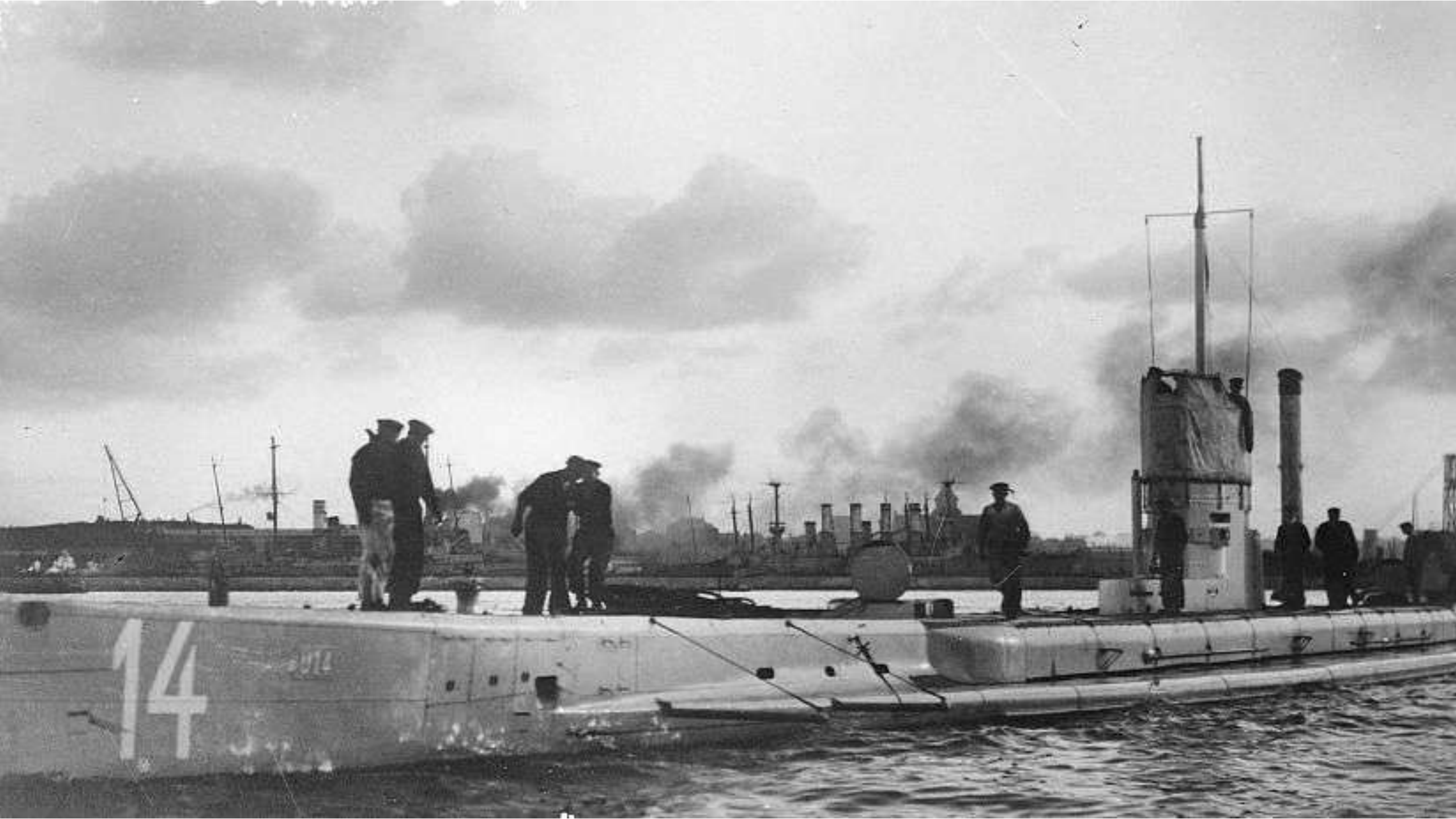
**4.2.7 Winning the Great
War**

4.2.8 Losing the Peace

4.2.1 "Over There"

Modern War

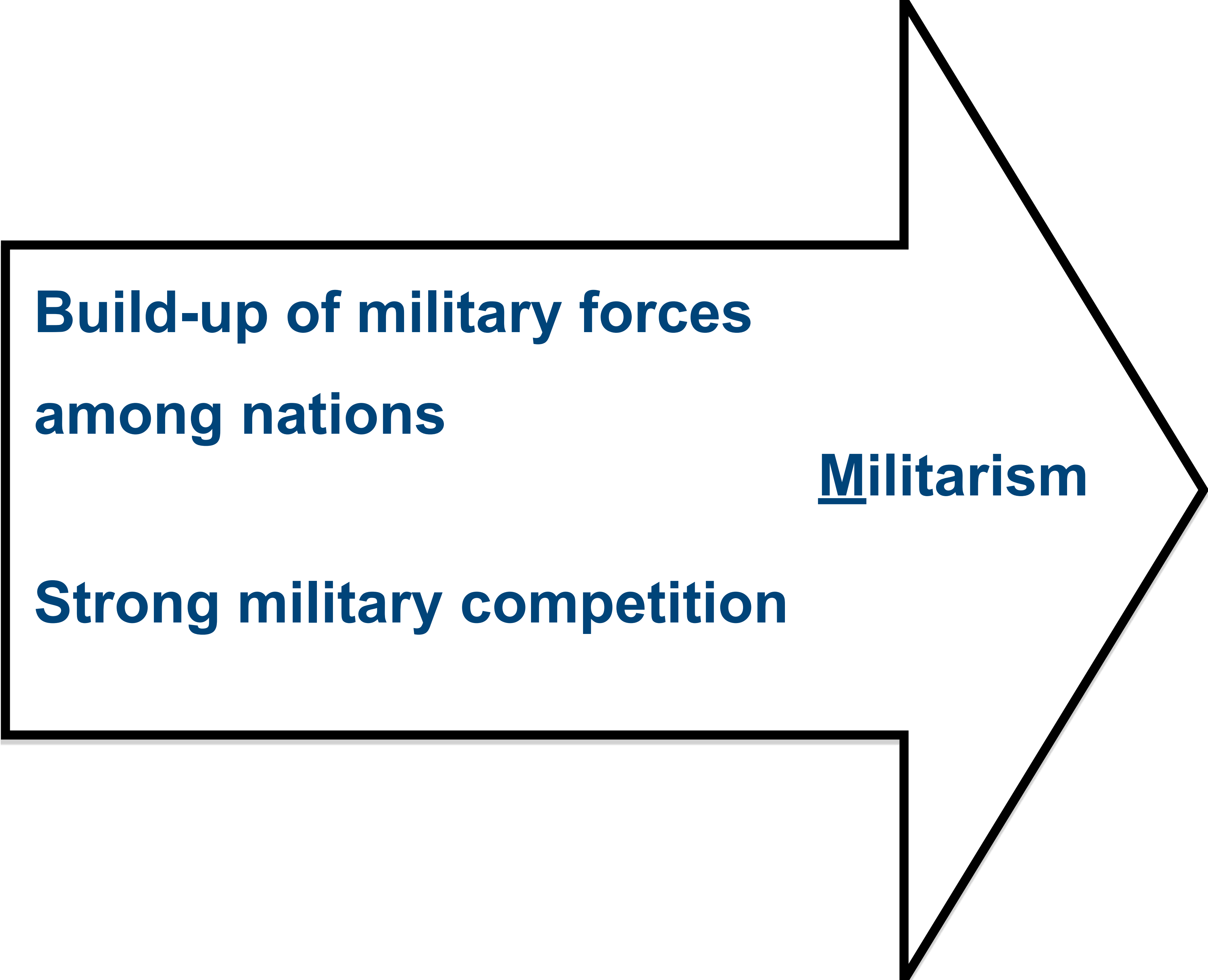
- **Submarine warfare**
- **Break blockades**
- **Overcome surface ship disadvantage**
- **Rapid fire machine guns**
- **Led to trench warfare**





- **Trench warfare**
 - **500 miles of ditches for protection**
- **Tanks**
 - **Broke through barbed wire**

- **Airplanes**
 - **Observe enemy activities**
 - **Limited bombing ability**
- **Poison gas**
 - **German invention to “move” trenches**



**Build-up of military forces
among nations**

Militarism

Strong military competition

Hardening of alliance systems

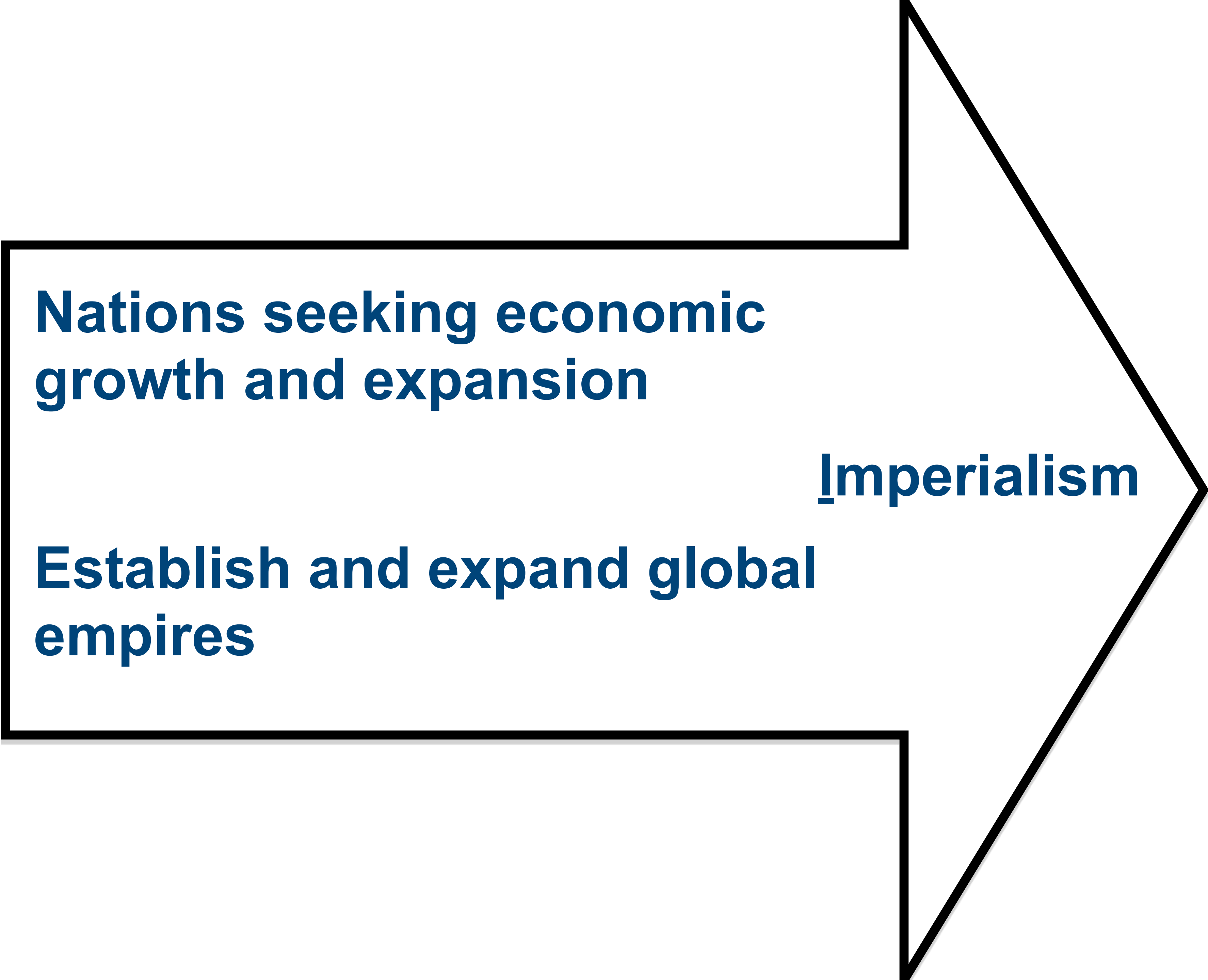
Triple Alliance—

Triple Entente—

Russia was traditionally

Serbia's protector

Alliances



**Nations seeking economic
growth and expansion**

Imperialism

**Establish and expand global
empires**

**Deep attachments to one's
own nation helped unify the
people and helped create
competition**

Nationalism

4.2.2 "The Yanks Are Coming"

Wilsonianism

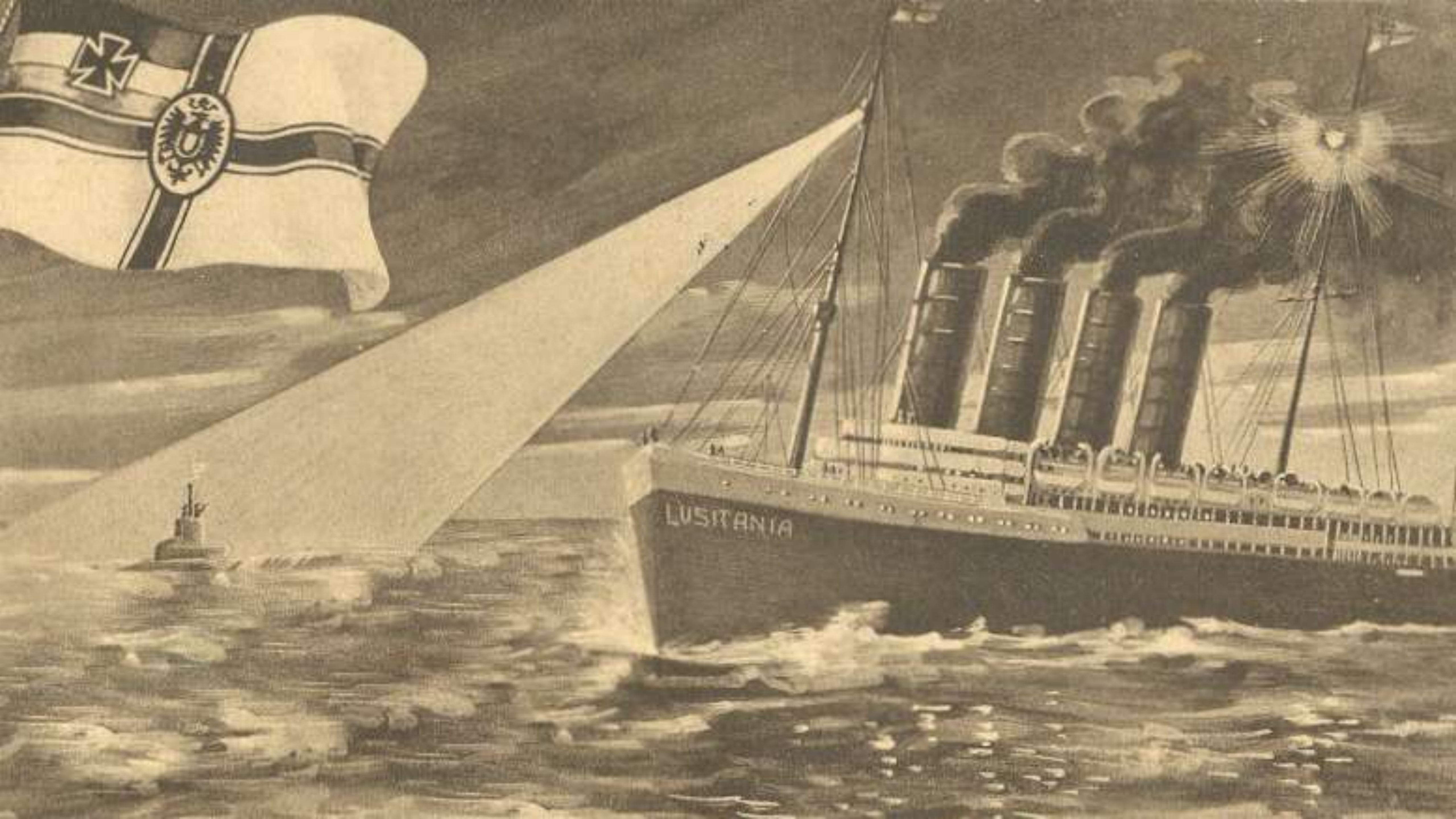
**Two main principles:
Democracy and Open
Door Policy**

**“America has the great
privilege of fulfilling her
destiny and saving the
world”**

U.S. Involvement

- **1914: U.S. declares neutrality**
- **Money loaned to warring nations**
- **Zimmerman Telegram**

- **German unrestricted submarine warfare**
- **Sinking of *Lusitania***
- **Sinking of *Arabic***
- **Germany sinks four U.S. merchant ships**



- **April 2, 1917 Wilson asks Congress for war declaration**
- **April 6, 1917 US declares war on Germany**

Why 1917?

- **Unrestricted submarine warfare didn't start in 1917.**
- **What role did Wilson's November, 1916 reelection play?**

- **Which two ethnic groups were traditional cornerstones of Democratic vote in urban Northeast?**
- **Irish- & German-Americans**
- **Why is this significant?**

"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

THE WEATHER

Fair, colder today; tomorrow warmer, probably rain; wind northwest.
For full weather report see Page 21.

VOL. LXVI...NO. 21,619.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1917.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

ONE CENT
In New York City.

TWO CENTS
New England and Middle States.

THREE CENTS
Elsewhere.

***PRESIDENT CALLS FOR WAR DECLARATION,
STRONGER NAVY, NEW ARMY OF 500,000 MEN,
FULL CO-OPERATION WITH GERMANY'S FOES***

1917: Selective Service Act

- **24 million men registered for the draft**
- **4.8 million men served in WWI**
- **2 million saw active combat**

- **400,000 African-Americans served in segregated units.**
- **15,000 Native-Americans served as scouts, messengers, and snipers in non-segregated units.**

4.2.3 Winning the War at Home

The Home Front

- **Selective Service: 2.8 million drafted**
- **War Industries Board: coordinated production of war materials**
- **Daylight savings time**
- **Bonds: Liberty and Victory**

- **Committee on Public Information (George Creel): sold the war to the public**
- **Sedition Act of 1918**
 - **Public expression of war opposition illegal**
 - **Schenck v. United States: “clear & present danger”**

The Committee of Public Information (George Creel)

- **America's “Propaganda Minister”**
- **Anti-Germanism**
- **Selling American Culture**

The Creel Committee

- **Government psychology and propaganda sustained the martial spirit.**
- **“I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier” became “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Slacker.”**
- **This inspired, “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Sausage.”**

ENLIST



LAURA BREY

On Which
Side of the
Window are
YOU?



I WANT YOU
FOR U.S. ARMY

NEAREST RECRUITING STATION

DO BOYS YOUR DUTY



**YOU CAN HELP BIG BROTHER
BY BUYING THRIFT STAMPS
FILL YOUR CARD**

TELL THAT TO THE MARINES!



JAMES MONTGOMERY FLAGG

Battling Venereal Disease

**The American
military waged a
half-hearted war on
rampant venereal
disease.**

You kept fit
and defeated the Hun



Council of National Defense

- **War Industries Board:
Bernard Baruch**
- **Food Administration:
Herbert Hoover**
- **Railroad
Administration: William
McAdoo**
- **National War Labor
Board: W. H. Taft**

U.S. Food Administration

The World Cry

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT
PRINTING OFFICE
1918



Save Sugar

Don't Let It Go



What are YOU doing?

THE KAISER
IS CANNED—CAN FOOD

CAN
Vegetables
Fruit AND
the Kaiser too



Write for Free Book to
NATIONAL WAR GARDEN COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Charles Loring Hubbs, Director

F. S. Dillman, Secretary

J. H. WOODS

FOLLOW THE PIED PIPER

Join the **United States**
School Garden Army.





On The Job For Victory



United States Shipping Board
Emergency Fleet Corporation



Help Uncle Sam to Win the War

by following these Directions:

1. Fire small amounts of coal often.
2. Keep fuel bed even by putting coal on thin spots. Avoid raking and slicing.
3. Keep fuel bed about six inches thick.
4. Look out for air leaks in brickwork.
5. Increase or decrease steam pressure by opening or closing draft damper in uptake.
6. Clean fires when the demand for steam is small, and while cleaning have the draft damper partly closed.

UNITED STATES FUEL ADMINISTRATION

Save Gasoline



*It's a **WAR** necessity*

Don't *spill any*
“ *permit leaks*
“ *use for washing*
“ *run engine while standing*
“ *leave tanks or cans open*
“ *waste lubricating oils*

Stop the leaks
and save the drops

UNITED STATES FUEL ADMINISTRATION





THE NAVY IS CALLING
ENLIST NOW

U.S. NAVY RECRUITING STATION

P. O. Building - 615 Superior Ave., R. W.
Cleveland

4.2.4 Winning at What Cost?

Threats to Civil Liberties

Espionage Act (1917)

- **Forbade actions that obstructed recruitment or efforts to promote insubordination in the military.**

- **Ordered the Postmaster General to remove Leftist materials from the mail.**
- **Fines of up to \$10,000 and/or up to 20 years in prison.**

- **Sedition Act (1918)**
A crime to speak against the purchase of war bonds or *willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language* about this form of government, the US Constitution, or the US armed forces or to *willfully urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment of production of things necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war...*

Post-war labor unrest:

- **Coal Miners Strike of 1919.**
- **Steel Strike of 1919.**
- **Boston Police Strike of 1919.**



Copyrighted, 1919, by John T. McCutcheon.

IF CAPITAL AND LABOR DON'T PULL TOGETHER.

—McCutcheon in the *Chicago Tribune*.





KEEPING WAHL.

---Gale in the Los Angeles Times.



COMING OUT OF THE SMOKE.

—Kirby in the New York World.



WHAT A YEAR HAS BROUGHT FORTH.

---Kirby in the New York World.



Copyrighted, 1919, by John T. McCutcheon.

HE GIVES AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMIES OF SOCIETY.

—McCutcheon in the *Chicago Tribune*.



Copyrighted by the Press Publishing Company, New York.

STRIKING BACK!

—Cassel in the New York Evening World.

Threats to Civil Liberties IV

“The Red Scare”

- **1919: 3rd International**
goal: promote
worldwide communism.
- **Attorney General, A.**
Mitchell Palmer (*The*
***Case against the Reds*)**
- **Palmer Raids - 1920**



International

POLICE SEARCHING A GROUP OF ARRESTED "SUSPECTS" IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHICAGO

4.2.5 Blacks in the Military

African Americans

- **Served in segregated units in military**
- **“Great Migration”**
 - **Movement from South to North to fill factory jobs**



*"Liberty And Freedom
Shall Not Perish"*
A. Lincoln

COLORED MEN
*The First Americans
Who Planted
Our Flag
on the
Firing Line*



Home from the War: 1919

- Most black troops were denied combat duty and served as laborers and stevedores**
- This wounded veteran fought in a segregated unit, the 369th Colored Infantry Regiment, the “Hell fighters of Harlem.”**



84-167

4.2.6 Women and the War

Women's Roles

- **Filled jobs in factories**
- **Military service**
 - **Allowed to enlist in Navy**
 - **Filled temporary jobs in Army**
 - **Army nurses were only military women allowed overseas**

A black and white photograph showing a line of U.S. Army nurses walking through a trench. They are wearing white uniforms and caps, and carrying medical supplies. The trench is deep and the ground is muddy.

In the Trenches

**1918: U.S. Army nurses on the
frontlines in France**

Suffragists Picket the White House, 1917

**Militant feminists
handcuffed themselves
to the White House fence
to dramatize their
demand for the vote.**



MR. PRESIDENT
HOW LONG
MUST
WOMEN WAIT
FOR LIBERTY

U of MO.

WASHINGTON
COLLEGE

LELAND
STANFORD

RYN MAW

SWARTHMORE

VASSAR

MR. PRESIDENT
WHAT
WILL YOU DO
FOR
WOMAN SUFFRAGE



Red Cross
Appeal

January 12th to 19th

The
GREATEST MOTHER
in the WORLD

4.2.7 Winning the Great War

Liberty Destroyer, #139
Keel Laid May 15th.
Will Be Launched
JUNE 1st.
14 DAYS
OLD
TO-DAY
SHE'S SOME BABY

"THIS DESTROYER"
IS NEEDED TO SINK
HUN SUBMARINES
LET ALL HANDS HELP SINK THEM





Gassed

- John Singer Sargent

- This painting captures the horror of trench warfare in World War I. The enemy was often distant and unseen, and death came impersonally from gas or artillery fire.**

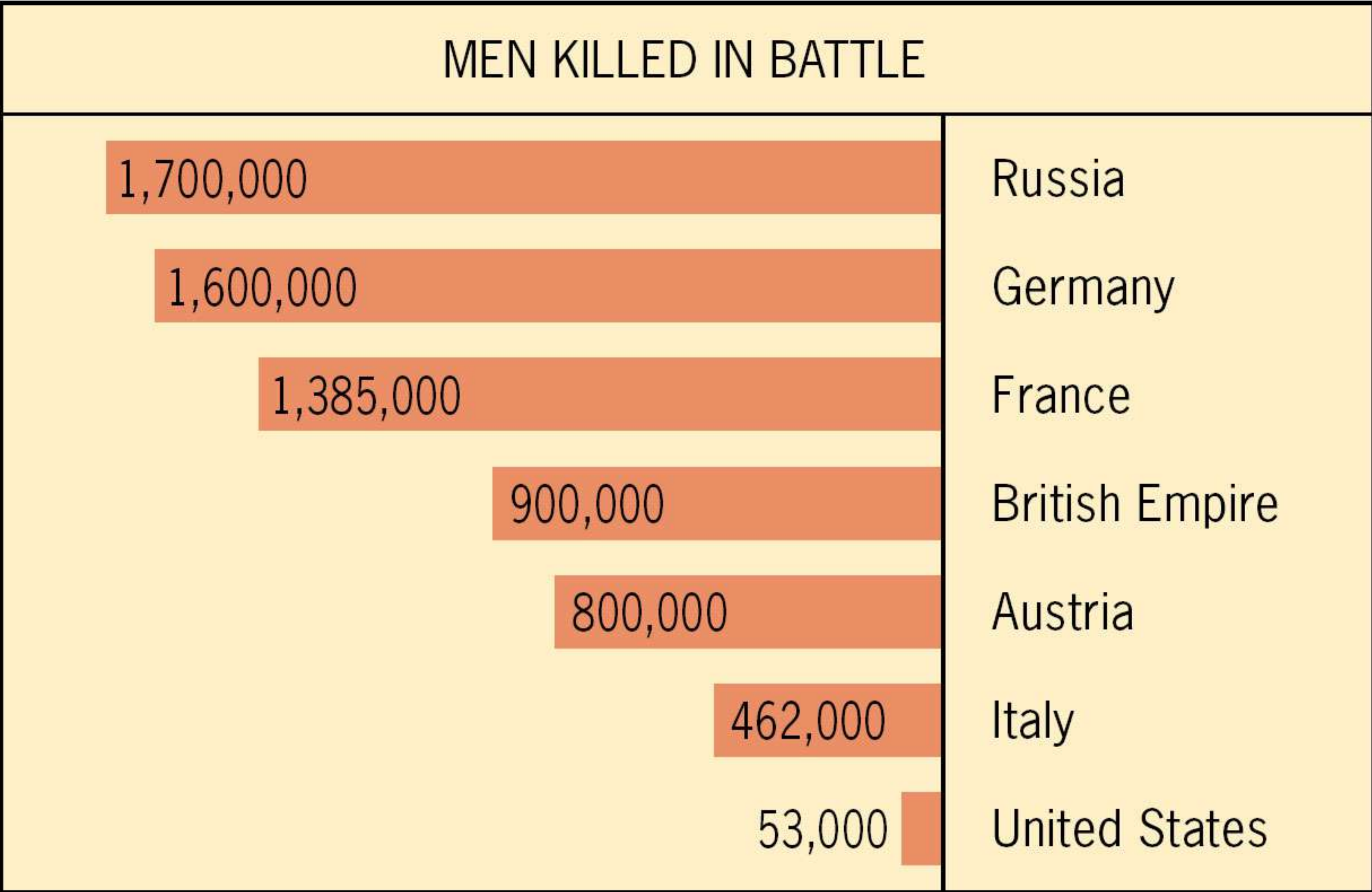


Turning Points

- **1917: Russia drops out of the war**
 - **Eastern front closed**
 - **American troops arrive**

- **1918**
 - **Allies push Germans back to border of Germany**
 - **Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates**
 - **Germany surrenders**
 - **War ends 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month**

Comparative Losses in World War I



4.2.8 Losing the Peace

Treaty of Versailles

- **Wilson's Fourteen Points**
 - **Plan for “peace without victory”**
- **League of Nations**
 - **General association of nations**
 - **Help preserve peace / prevent future wars**

- **Senate never signed Treaty of Versailles**
- **U.S. never joined League of Nations**
- **Germany's punishment**
 - **Accept blame for causing war**
 - **Reduce military**
 - **Pay war reparations**

14 Points

**1-5: diplomacy (tariffs,
seas, arms)**

**6-13: removal of
troops**

14: League of Nations

1919: Wilson in Dover, England

- Hailed by Europeans in early 1919 as the savior of the Western world**
- Wilson was a broken man months later when Americans rejected the peace treaty.**





“Stop the Wedding!”

- **Traditional isolationists, especially U.S. Senators, refused to ratify the Versailles Treaty, shattering Wilson’s dream of making the United States a more engaged international power.**

