The Philippine–American War

What were the causes of the conflict?
How did the conflict impact American views of imperialism?
What can we learn from the conflict today?
What was the Philippine–American War?

• The Philippine-American War was a little-known imperialistic conflict
  – 1899-1902
  – The United States
  – The natives of the Philippian Islands

• Raised questions of the United States’ intentions / methods in the Pacific
Spanish Colonization in the Philippians (1400’s – 1800’s)
The Spanish-American War (1898)
Spanish American War’s Main Theatre: Cuba
How did the US get involved in the Philippines?

- Originally the US saw the Philippines as a “2nd front” during the Spanish-American War
  - Tie up enemy troops / naval ships
- Started to see the Philippines as an oversees empire
  - Naval “coaling stations”
Pacific “Coaling Stations”

The United States Expands Its Influence
- United States
- U.S. possession
- U.S. protectorate

Alaska 1867

The Influence of Sea Power on History: 1660-1783

Alfred T. Mahan → The Influence of Sea Power on History: 1660-1783
Battle of Manila (1898)
Commodore George Dewey (1837-1917)

You may fire when ready...

-Commodore Dewey

Dewey’s flagship, the USS Olympia
The USS Olympia Today in Philadelphia, cir 2011
How did the Filipinos originally view the Americans?

- Originally, the Filipinos viewed the Americans as allies / friends
  - Helped them in their revolt against the Spanish

- Hoped that the US would grant them independence when the war was over
Who was Emilio Aguinaldo?

- Emilio Aguinaldo was a local leader-turned-revolutionary
  - 1869-1964
  - Founded the Filipino resistance group, the Katipunan

- Helped to lead Filipino resistance towards the Spanish / exiled
  - Returned to the Philippines during the Spanish-American War w/ the help of the US
Aguinaldo in the field with his rebel fighters as they waged their war against the Spanish with the help of American arms and supplies, 1898
How did the Philippine–American War start?

• The Treaty of Paris (1898)
  – Spain sells the Philippians to the US for $20 million
  – Aguinaldo declared Filipino independence

• President William McKinley ignored Aguinaldo’s government
  – Installs a US colonial government w/ US troops
The Swearing in of Aguinaldo as the Philippines first president, 1898
Opening of the Filipino Parliament, 1898
McKinley’s Goals for the Philippians

1. We can’t give the islands back to Spain = “cowardly & dishonorable”

2. Can’t give the islands away to Germany or France = “bad business & discreetable”

3. Can’t give the islands to the Filipino people = “unfit for self-government”

“nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them”
The Philippines new Governor-General
The Philippines new Governor-General
The Philippines new Governor-General
The dispatching of American occupation troops, 1898
What were the goals of both sides in the conflict?

- **US:**
  - Suppress the rebellion quickly
  - Establish US-dominance of the islands

- **Filipino:**
  - Inflict constant casualties on US troops
  - Influence McKinley’s re-election campaign (1900)
How was the conflict fought?

• At first, Aguinaldo and his followers waged a conventional war
  – Poorly supplied
  – Little success

• After McKinley’s re-election, Aguinaldo declared a guerrilla conflict
Filipino Troops at the start of the war, 1898
The Election of 1900

Democrat & anti-Imperialist
William Jennings Bryan

Republican President
William McKinley
McKinley Wins!!!!!
American troops in Manila, 1898
How did US troops react to fighting in a tropical setting?

• Many US troops were not properly trained to fight in a guerilla war, far from home
  – Victims of ambushes / booby traps
  – Terrorized by Filipino fighters
  – Paranoia

• Resulted in extreme violence
  – “Free-fire zones”
  – “reconcentrado” camps
Little experience with “jungle fighting”, 1898
“Search & Destroy” raids, 1900
Filipino ambushes / raids (1900)
Filipino ambushes / raids (1900)
Filipino “booby traps”, 1901
Torture and terrorizing US troops, 1900
American troops interacting with local natives, 1900
US troops “torturing” Filipino POWs, 1901
US troops “torturing” Filipino POWs, 1901
Execution of Filipino “criminals” 1900
Executed Filipino prisoners, 1901
“Free Fire” Zones, 1901
“Free Fire” Zones, 1901
US “reconcentrado” camps, 1901
American war crimes?
How did the American public react to the war?

- The American public was deeply divided by the conflict

- Pro-war:
  - “Ways justify the means”

- Anti-war:
  - Waste of American lives
  - Crimes against mankind
American coffins returning home, 1906
How did the war eventually end?

- In 1901, Aguinaldo is captured by US forces
  - Swears an oath of loyalty to the US
  - Asked his followers to surrender

- Scattered fighting will continue for another 10 years
The Capture of Aguinaldo, 1901
Surrender of many Filipino fighters, 1901
Filipino More (Muslim) fighters continue the fight, 1907
A Gun with More Stopping Power

John M. Browning’s Masterpiece - .45 caliber m1911 Semi-Automatic
The sidearm of WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam
What were the results of the Philippine–American War?

• The Philippines would remain a US territory / naval base (1898-1940’s)
  – 5,000+ US casualties
  – 200,000+ Filipino casualties

• Despite the issues of the conflict, the Philippines remains a strong ally of the US today
US Troops in the Philippines, 2010
Amigo (2011)