

The 1899-1902 Philippines-American War: Identifying the Impacts of Imperialism

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For this year's NHD theme, we wanted to focus on Asian-American events that were catastrophic for both sides. Eventually, we discovered the Philippine-American War, as it greatly changed the U.S.'s role in international affairs but also altered Philippine society and identity. Furthermore, we took interest in how the war facilitated more conversation on American imperialism and as a result, more opposition by Filipino and American individuals. Although the war is generally overlooked in history, we viewed it as a significant turning point for the United States.

Our research was mainly conducted through a database called JSTOR, in which we explored many journal articles, both primary and secondary. Through these sources, we gained detailed knowledge on the Philippine-American War and what it meant for the colonizer and the colonized. With this information, we were able to compare how this war of imperialism differed from other American cases. In addition to JSTOR journal articles, we found primary sources from the Library of Congress, which provided us with first hand accounts from leaders such as Emilio Aguinaldo, the leader of the Filipino forces in the war. This research allowed us to form a cohesive analysis of the event.

We chose to construct a website for our project because of the availability of designs and styles. Additionally, we both have had experience in past years working with the NHD website builder, so we felt we could be most efficient and format a well-organized project by choosing to do a website. We began creating our project after gathering research and making an outline to lay out our ideas and way of direction. Once we did this, we collected photographs and political cartoons as well as quotes, and incorporated them within our website pages.

The Philippine-American War founded momentous changes to the United States, as it established the U.S. as a dominant global power and impacted its subsequent involvement in

foreign policy. As a “frontier in history,” this event emphasized the idea of American exceptionalism, though more importantly contributed to the U.S. success as a global leader, especially seen in World War II. Furthermore, the war changed Philippine-American relations in that it created a barrier of resentment by the Filipino people as a result of the brutal consequences of American imperialism.