The 1898 war with Spain started over speculation about an explosion on the USS Maine, an American ship protecting US interests in Cuba.

Keywords

Spanish-American War, U.S.S. Maine, Battleship, Havana, Santiago, Cuba, Spain, President Theodore Roosevelt, Manila Bay, Philippines, Admiral George Dewey, Imperialism, Japan, Hawaii, Naval Bases, Colonialism, Empire, United States Navy, Puerto Rico

Citation

War with Spain in 1898

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Transcript

War With Spain in 1898

Dr. ALBERT R. HIBBS, narrator: With the sinking of the battleship Maine, the Spanish government became the enemy. As assistant secretary of the Navy, Teddy Roosevelt sent the American Asiatic fleet from Hong Kong to Vanilla Bay in the Spanish ruled Philippine islands. And there without losing a ship or a man, Admiral Dewey won a victory over the Spanish fleet and the United States suddenly became a major imperial power, with a large overseas colony. By this stroke the United States had also moved much closer to Japan. Our government was certain that Japan was ready to capture the Hawaiian Islands. And so American officials moved into the islands in July of 1898 and took them over in the name of the United States. This gave America a marvelous naval base nearly halfway between the Philippines and California. That same month the United States Navy sank the Spanish Atlantic fleet at Santiago, Cuba. And we soon added Puerto Rico to our growing colonial empire.