

The cover features a bald eagle in flight against a blue sky with a faint American flag pattern. Below the eagle is a landscape of mountains and a forest with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The title 'Exploring America's Past' is written in a large, white, serif font across the top and middle of the image.

Exploring America's Past

A Multimedia Curriculum

Holt, Rinehart and Winston



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American newspapers. In these works, Martí urged other exiled Cubans to return home to support the revolution:

“Nations are not founded upon mere hopes in the depths of a man’s soul! . . . Down there is our Cuba, smothered in the arms that crush and corrupt it for us! . . . Let us rise up for the true republic, those of us who . . . know how to preserve it.”

When the fighting broke out, Martí returned to Cuba to help but was soon killed. He instantly became a national hero.

In an effort to regain control over the Cuban countryside, the Spanish governor-general, Valeriano Weyler, began herding farmpeople into what were called *reconcentrados*, or concentration camps. He imprisoned several hundred thousand Cubans in these camps. Weyler did this so that Cubans in the camps could not supply the rebels with food and assistance. At least 100,000 Cubans died in the concentration camps. Most were victims of disease and malnutrition.

Swaying Public Opinion

Most people in the United States sympathized with the Cubans’ wish to be independent and were horrified by the stories of Spanish cruelty. Encouraged by American support, Cuban revolutionaries established committees called *juntas* in the United States to raise money, spread propaganda, and recruit volunteers for the struggle.

This cartoon calls on the United States to save Cuba from the evil ruler Spain.



• Fighting Spanish Imperialism

As tension mounted, the publisher of the *New York Journal*, William Randolph Hearst, sent artist Frederic Remington to Cuba to draw pictures of the revolution. Hearst supported the idea of the United States entering a war with Spain on behalf of Cuba. Remington complained that he could find no signs of revolution and asked to be allowed to come home. Hearst telegraphed him:

“PLEASE REMAIN. YOU FURNISH THE PICTURES AND I’LL FURNISH THE WAR.”

On February 9, 1898, Hearst published a letter written by the Spanish minister to the United States. The private letter had been intercepted by a Cuban spy. In it the minister insulted President McKinley, calling him “a would-be politician.” Americans were outraged by the letter.

Less than one week later the USS *Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor. To this day the cause of the explosion remains a mystery. The Spanish government claimed the disaster was caused by an explosion inside the *Maine*. Many Americans assumed that the Spanish had sunk the ship with a mine, a kind of underwater bomb. Emotions ran high on both sides.

American reporters, like those who wrote for the New York Journal, helped stir up American anger against Spain after the explosion aboard the USS Maine.

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In the United States, support for war grew. However, President McKinley, a Civil War veteran, wanted to avoid war. He told a friend, "I have been through one war. I have seen the dead piled up, and I do not want to see another." McKinley did not let the sinking of the *Maine* cause an immediate diplomatic break with Spain.

War Is Declared

McKinley was still determined to stop the fighting in Cuba. He believed the Spanish must do away with the concentration camps and negotiate a truce with the Cuban rebels. He also felt that more self-government should be granted to Cuba. After the sinking of the *Maine*, Spain seemed at last willing to take

these steps in order to avoid going to war with the United States.

The rebels, however, wanted total independence. The Spanish government did not dare give in completely. Any government that "gave away" Cuba would surely be overthrown. Perhaps the king himself would be deposed. These thoughts made the Spanish stand firmly against Cuban independence.

McKinley finally decided that Spain would never give up control of Cuba voluntarily. On April 11, 1898, the president told Congress that he had "exhausted every effort" to end the "intolerable" situation in Cuba. He then asked Congress to give him the power to secure a stable government on the island.

Congress had been thundering for war for weeks. By huge majorities, Congress passed a

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR IN 1898



Learning from Maps. Naval warfare and strategy played an important role in the Spanish-American War.

► **Movement.** What route did the U.S. forces take to attack the Cuban port of Daiquiri?



• Maps



★ ★ ★ Exploring America's Past ★ ★ ★

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