**Module 2: Slide Set 6: Becoming a World Power**

**Internationalism VS Isolationism**

* Americans oursued a narrolwly defined version of isolationism where the nation should influence the world by example and that it should avoid entanglement in European political and military affairs. It was code word for steering clear in fear of Europeanization which American associated with monarchy, fixed classes, etc.
* Their form of isolationism was based that the US should influence the world by example. They wanted to spread their views of democracy.
* In 1890, US Census department said that America was closed and that the nation was settled. SOme celebrated but some worried what would happen when the frontier closed?
* Internationals thought it was time to establish new frontiers in foreign territories which would ensure that future generations had the opportunity to experience the frontier.
* A famous internationalist was Alfred Thayer Mahan of the US Navy who published The Influence of Sea Power upon History, the importance of naval power as a factor in the rise of the British empire. Believed the US economy would soon be able to absorb the massive amounts of goods being produced and they should seek new markets abroad.
* Securing access to international markets due to mahan was a merchant navy, an American battleship to destroy rival fleets and a network of naval bases capable of providing fuel and supplied for the enlarged navy and maintain communication between the US and new markets.
* Another argument for internationism was the security from competing European powers. This arose from the new craze of overseas imperial expansion such as the infamous Scamble for Africa that began in 1870s - 1880s.
* These ideas emerged that oversees possession was necessary element of national prestige. Americans began to wonder whether the us was in danger of being shut out of the global marketplace or narrationsl security was at risk.
* Theodore Roosevelt thought that the US was becoming effeminate and needed to exude its masculinity.
* The next arguement was justification for British colonization that it was the “white mans burden” to rule the savagery and put their national resources to use.
* The popular argument was that the us had an obligation to protect and promote republican liberty through military power. This came from the idea that demeocracy and human rights just showing it was inadequate. Now that the us was bigger it need to promote it instead of just showcasing it.

**Rebellion and Repression in Cuba**

* By 1894, after the civil war and cubas 10 year war, US businessmen started to monopolize sugar markets in Cuba,. Their exports to the US were 12 times larger than they were to their mother country of Spain, Spain held political authority of economic authority was shifting to the US.
* Spain wanted to spread of civilization and Christianity and share cultural and linguistic elements to hold its territories together. This was important to Cuba which had been Spanish for almost 400 years. It was seen as a province of Spain rather than a colony and depended on it for prestige and trade and army training.

\*\*Continue to read through the slides “The Spanish Perspective” for further info on Spanish influence and Cuban liberation.

* This led to the fuel the fire of anti spanish propaganda. McKinley thought that the spanish actions against the rebels in Cuba was not civilized but extermination.
* Press began a circulation battle that promoted competing sensationalized tales of spanish atrocities in Cuba called the yellow journals. It built the idea that spanish empire was backwards and immoral union built on the backs of enslaved natives and funded with stolen gold and silver.
* The conflict between spain and Cuba harmed the shipping firms that the US relied on with trade with Cuba.
* US policy thought that Cuba should remain within the spanish empire but should be self ruling like Canada was with the British empire.
* Welter was eventually replaced by Blanco y Elena's in Nov 1897. Welters ruthless behavior in combination with Blanco’s conciliatory approach made the rebels realize they needed the US help.
* Negotiations with Prime Minister of span went smoothly for Cuba autonomy which began 1898. After the new govt took power rebellion broke out by Spanish officers who were critiqued by the persistent criticism of Weylers polices. McKinley sent the USS Maine to Havana to ensure safety of American citizens.

**A navy to resurrect, a ship to remember**

**\*\*** Goes through the changes in military ships design changes and how they affected them

\*\* FInal part goes over what happens to the USS Maine. Review.