

Spanish-American War

By Keith Olmsted

Objective:

Students will

- analyze the causes of the Spanish-American War,
- analyze the origins and significance of the *Teller and Platt Amendments*.

TEKS: US 1,3,12, & 20

Time and Materials

- One or Two class periods
- Either an overhead transparency or individual copies of the Platt and Teller Amendments from the Library of Congress
- Photographs of the *U.S.S. Maine* before & after the explosion; Photograph of the *U.S.S. Maine* baseball team.
- Map of Cuba.

The One-day Lesson

Review yesterday's lesson on yellow journalism and the deLome letter.

Show the photo of the *U.S.S. Maine*.

Why would Pres. McKinley send this battleship to Havana, Cuba? (use map of Cuba)

Show the photo of the sunken *Maine*.

Ask the students to speculate as to what happened.

Why might the Spanish have felt threatened and sunk the ship?

Why might the Cuban Rebels have caused the explosion?

To make this event more real, show the photo of the *U.S.S. Maine* baseball team. (how do you know it is the ship's team and not just the state of Maine?)

How would the sinking of the *Maine*, plus yellow journalism and the thirst for imperialism drive the U.S. to ask the Senate for a war declaration?

Pass out the Teller Amendment. Read and discuss.

What are the conditions that it adds to the war declaration?

Why did the Senate agree to this?

Pass out the Platt Amendment. Read and discuss.

Why does the Senate pass this Amendment, knowing that it had previously passed the Teller Amendment? What had changed within our country that the Senate felt the need to stay in Cuba?

Extending the Lesson

Apply the Platt and Teller Amendments to present day. (World Trade Center & Afghanistan, Bin Laden And the U.S. presence still in Cuba at Guantanamo Bay.)

Give some examples of incidents in which Americans have risen together in solidarity due to aggression from outside countries or organizations/groups.

What significance does the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay hold after September 11, 2001?

Assessment

Using the information you have learned yesterday and today, identify two people, ideas or events that helped to ignite the Spanish-American War. Write a paragraph explaining the role each played.

Photos of the *U.S.S. Maine*, sailing to Cuba and after sinking.

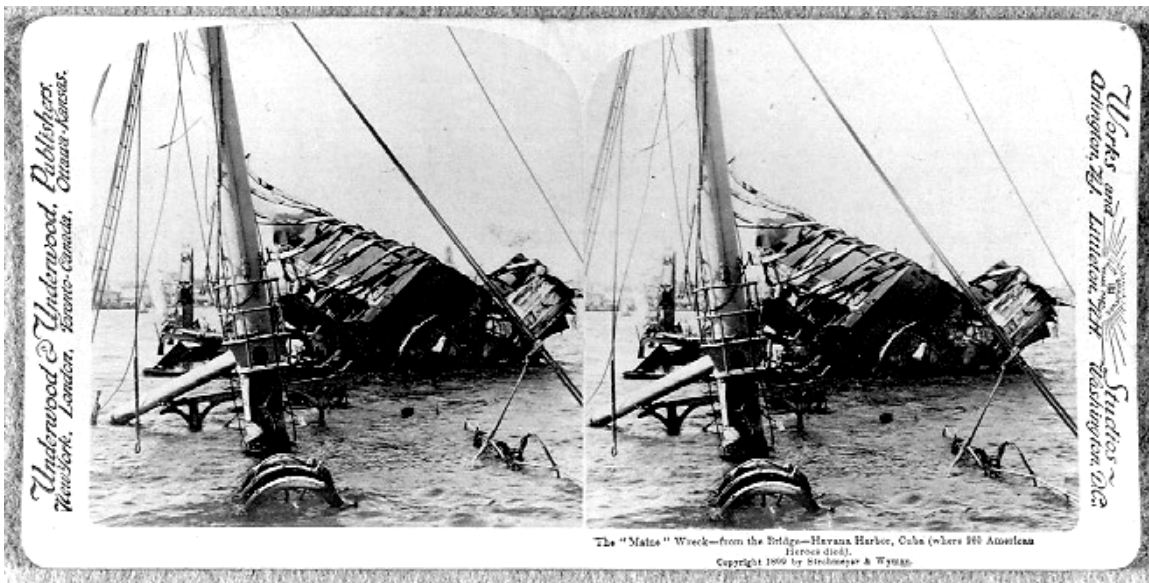
"The 'Maine' Wreck – from the Bridge – Havana Harbor, Cuba (where 260 American Heroes died)."
Stereoscopic view. New York: Underwood & Underwood, 1898.

NYPL, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Photography Collection, Robert N. Dennis Collection of Stereoscopic Views

This stereoscopic view was taken just after the explosion of the *Maine* and shows the extent of the devastation. In 1912, the remains of the ship were recovered from the bottom of Havana harbor. Sixty-four dead were found in the wreck. At that time, a second official U.S. investigation was conducted into the causes of the ship's destruction, and its conclusions coincided with those of the 1898 U.S. inquiry. The *Maine's* hull was reconstructed and then sunk with honors in the high sea

http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/epo/spanexhib/IMAGE-stereoscopic_view_of_maine_disas.html





- Why was the *Maine* sent to Havana, Cuba initially?
- How did the sinking of the *Maine* propel the U.S. to declare war against Spain?





***U.S.S. Maine* baseball team. All died in Havana harbor except for number 1, J.H. Bloomer**

America's Past time for many years had been baseball. Do you think the loss of the the lives of the *Maine's* baseball team played a significant role in the public's show of support for the U.S. government to declare war on Spain? Explain your answer.

Call Number Item in SPECIFIC SUBJ FILE - Sports--Baseball--1898 <P&P>

REPRODUCTION NUMBER LC-USZ62-26149 DLC (b&w film copy neg.)

Repository - Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

THE TELLER AMENDMENT

The following resolutions were passed without opposition by both houses of Congress on April 20 1898. The fourth is the one referred to as *The Teller Amendment*, and is named after its author, Henry M. Teller, Senator of Colorado.

Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the Island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States battle ship, with two hundred and sixty-six of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and can not longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress of April eleventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, upon which the action of Congress was invited: Therefore,

Resolved, First. That the people of the Island of Cuba are, of right ought to be, free and independent.

Second. That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States does hereby demand, that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Third. That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Fourth. That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said Island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the Island to its people.

TEXT OF THE PLATT AMENDMENT

The President of the U.S. is hereby authorized to 'leave the government and control of the island of Cuba to its people' so soon as a government shall have been established in said island under a constitution which, either as a part thereof or in an ordinance appended thereto, shall define the future relations of the United States with Cuba, substantially as follows:

I. That the government of Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or other compact with any foreign power or powers which will impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power or powers to obtain by colonization or for military or naval purposes or otherwise, lodgment in or control over any portion of said island.

II. That said government shall not assume or contract any public debt, to pay the interest upon which, and to make reasonable sinking fund provision for the ultimate discharge of which the ordinary revenues of the island, after defraying the current expenses of government, shall be inadequate.

III. That the government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the Treaty of Paris on the United States, now to be assumed and undertaken by the government of Cuba.

IV. That all acts of the United States in Cuba during its military occupancy thereof are ratified and validated, and all lawful rights acquired thereunder shall be maintained and protected.

V. That the government of Cuba will execute, and, as far as necessary, extend, the plans already devised or other plans to be mutually agreed upon, for the sanitation of the cities of the island, to the end that a recurrence of epidemic and infectious diseases may be prevented, thereby assuring protection to the people and commerce of Cuba, as well as to the commerce of the southern ports of the United States and the people residing therein.

VI. That the Isle of Pines shall be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being left to future adjustment by treaty. VII. That to enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its defense, the government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the President of the United States.

VII. That to enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its defense, the government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the President of the United States.

VIII. That by way of further assurance the government of Cuba will embody the foregoing provisions in a permanent treaty with the United States.

More background information for the teacher. Use as needed.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/>"

Teller and Platt Amendments

In April 1898 Senator Henry M. Teller (Colorado) proposed an amendment to the U.S. declaration of war against [Spain](#) which proclaimed that the United States would not establish permanent control over [Cuba](#). It stated that the United States "hereby disclaims any disposition of intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island except for pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people." The Senate passed the amendment on April 19. True to the letter of the Teller Amendment, after Spanish troops left the island in 1898, the United States occupied Cuba until 1902.

The Teller Amendment was succeeded by the Platt Amendment introduced by Senator Orville Platt (R-Connecticut) in February 1901. It allowed the United States "the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty..." The Platt Amendment was finally abrogated on May 29, 1934.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/teller.html>

Teller Amendment

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The **Teller Amendment**, enacted on [April 11, 1898](#), stated that when the United States defeated the Spanish Occupants, it would give the Cubans their freedom.

In April [1898](#) Senator [Henry M. Teller](#) (Colorado) proposed an amendment to the U.S. declaration of [war against Spain](#) which proclaimed that the United States would not establish permanent control over Cuba. It stated that the United States "*hereby disclaims any disposition of intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island except for pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.*" The Senate passed the amendment on April 19. After Spanish troops left the island in 1898, the United States occupied Cuba until 1902, as promised in the Teller Amendment.

The Teller Amendment was succeeded by the [Platt Amendment](#) introduced by Senator [Orville Platt](#) (R-Connecticut) in February 1901

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teller_Amendment

Platt Amendment

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Platt Amendment** was a [rider](#) appended to the [Army Appropriations Act](#), a [United States federal law](#) passed in March [1901](#). It stipulated the conditions for the withdrawal of United States troops remaining in [Cuba](#) since the [Spanish-American War](#), and defined the terms of Cuban-U.S. relations until [1934](#). Formulated by the U.S. [Secretary of War Elihu Root](#), the amendment was presented to the Senate by, and named for, [Connecticut Republican Senator Orville H. Platt \(1827-1905\)](#). It replaced the earlier [Teller Amendment](#).

The amendment ceded to the U.S. the naval base in Cuba ([Guantánamo Bay](#)), stipulated that Cuba would not transfer Cuban land to any power other than the U.S., mandated that Cuba would contract no [foreign debt](#) without guarantees that the interest could be served from ordinary revenues, ensured U.S. intervention in Cuban affairs when the U.S. deemed necessary, prohibited Cuba from negotiating treaties with any country other than the United States, and provided for a formal treaty detailing all the foregoing provisions.

Later in [1901](#), under U.S. pressure, Cuba included the amendment's provisions in its constitution. After [U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt](#) withdrew federal troops from the island in 1902, Cuba signed the [Cuban-American Treaty \(1903\)](#), which outlined U.S. power in Cuba and the Caribbean. [Tomás Estrada Palma](#), who had earlier favored outright annexation of Cuba by the United States, became president on [May 20, 1902](#).

Following acceptance of the amendment, the U.S. ratified a [tariff](#) pact that gave Cuban [sugar](#) preference in the U.S. market and protection to selected U.S. products in the Cuban market. As a result of U.S. action, sugar production came into complete domination of the Cuban economy, while Cuban domestic consumption was integrated into the larger market of the United States.

Except for U.S. rights to Guantánamo Bay, the Platt Amendment provisions, which Cubans considered an [imperialist](#) infringement of their [sovereignty](#), were repealed in 1934, when a new treaty with the U.S. was negotiated as a part of U.S. President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)'s "[Good Neighbor policy](#)" toward Latin America. The occupation of Guantánamo Bay still continues, and according to the treaty that right can only be revoked by the consent of both parties. The Cuban government strongly denounces the treaty on grounds that article 52 of the [1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties](#) declares a treaty void if its conclusion has been procured by the threat or use of force — in this case by the inclusion, in 1903, of the Platt Amendment in the Cuban Constitution. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platt_Amendment