



▲ An American soldier and two Filipino women

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

A Plea for Peace

Sixto Lopez, a leading Filipino spokesman, wrote to President McKinley to express his disapproval of America's decision to keep control of the Philippines. When he wrote the letter, many Filipinos had already taken up arms against the U.S. military.

“I only know that the Filipino people are asking for [what] the American people have enjoyed for more than a hundred years. . . . At this season of peace I plead for peace. I plead on behalf of the wife and mother whose cheeks are coursing the silent tears . . . on behalf of the sad little faces, too young to realize what has happened. . . .”

—Sixto Lopez, 1900

The United States and East Asia

Objectives

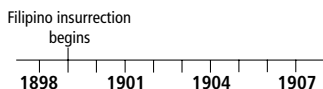
- Examine the causes and consequences of the Philippine insurrection.
- Analyze the effects of the Open Door Policy.
- Describe how the United States dealt with the rising power of Japan.

Terms and People

insurrection	Open Door Policy
guerrilla warfare	Russo-Japanese War
William Howard Taft	“Gentlemen’s Agreement”
sphere of influence	Great White Fleet
John Hay	
Boxer Rebellion	

NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence As you read, use a timeline to trace events and developments in East Asia that tested America’s new global power.



Why It Matters America’s decision to keep the Philippines reflected a desire to expand its influence, compete with European colonial powers, and gain new trade in Asia. American leaders devised policies to open China and other Asian markets to U.S. producers. They also wanted to extend the benefits of American culture to the people of the region. Imperialism in East Asia brought greater power and wealth to Americans, but it also increased international tensions in Asia. **Section Focus Question:** How did the United States extend its influence in Asia?

Filipinos Rebel Against U.S. Rule

The Filipino nationalist leader Emilio Aguinaldo had thought that the United States was an ally in the Filipino struggle for independence. His forces had fought side by side with the Americans against the Spanish. However, after the United States decided to maintain possession of the Philippines, Aguinaldo grew disillusioned with America. He helped organize an **insurrection**, or rebellion, against U.S. rule. The rebels believed they were fighting for the same principle of self-rule that had inspired America’s colonial patriots during the American Revolution.

Guerrilla War Erupts in the Philippines Outgunned by American troops, Filipino insurgents relied on **guerrilla warfare**, a form of non-traditional warfare generally involving small bands of fighters

War and Peace in the Philippines

War: In 1899, Filipino rebels launched an uprising to fight the U.S. occupation of the Philippines. The American response was swift and brutal. Villages were burned, crops were destroyed, and suspected *insurrectos* were lined up and shot. Guerrillas led by Emilio Aguinaldo retaliated against American soldiers with bullets and knives. Heavy fighting raged for two years.

Peace: The tone of the American campaign for order changed when William Howard Taft replaced the U.S. military commander as governor general in 1901. Although clashes continued in some locations for decades, Taft's civilian administrators and their Filipino supporters worked hard to rebuild the war-torn islands.

◀ American soldiers take cover in a trench outside Manila.

Emilio Aguinaldo poses on horseback in front of his army. ▶

to attack behind American lines. In turn, the American military used extraordinary measures to crush the rebellion. Like the Spanish in Cuba, U.S. soldiers gathered civilians into overcrowded concentration camps. General Jacob Smith ordered his soldiers not to take prisoners. "I wish you to kill and burn, the more you kill and burn the better you will please me," he commented. A California newspaper defended such actions:

Primary Source

"Let us all be frank. WE DO NOT WANT THE FILIPINOS. WE DO WANT THE PHILIPPINES. All of our troubles in this annexation matter have been caused by the presence in the Philippine Islands of the Filipinos. . . . The more of them killed the better. It seems harsh. But they must yield before the superior race."

—San Francisco *Argonaut*, 1902

In the spring of 1901, the Americans captured Aguinaldo. Although the fighting did not end immediately, his capture marked the beginning of the end of the insurrection. The war in the Philippines took more lives than the Spanish-American War. Nearly 5,000 Americans and 200,000 Filipinos died in the fighting. The U.S. government sent more than 100,000 troops to fight in the war and spent upwards of \$400 million to defeat the insurgency. The conflict highlighted the rigors of fighting against guerrilla insurgents.

Reforms Lead to Promise of Self-Rule In 1901, William Howard Taft—a future President of the United States—became governor of the Philippines. Taft had large ambitions for helping the islands recover from the rebellion. He censored the press and placed dissidents in jail to maintain order and to win the support of the Filipino people. At the same time, he extended limited self-rule and ordered the construction of schools, roads, and bridges.

Vocabulary Builder

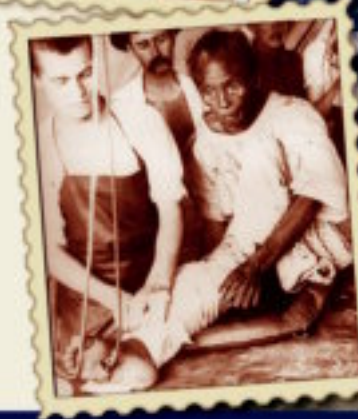
rigor – (RIHG uhr) *n.* extreme hardship or difficulty

- ▲ Filipino rebels often used bolo knives in addition to rifles to fight American soldiers.



The American presence in the Philippines provided several benefits for Filipinos:

- **Political reform:** After 1901, Taft's civilian government extended limited self-rule to Filipinos. The Philippine Assembly (shown above) convened in Manila in 1907.
- **Healthcare:** U.S. administrators established a public health system to care for Filipinos. At right, American doctors aid a Filipino woman wounded during the insurrection.
- **Education:** The American commission also built new schools for Filipino children and staffed them with teachers from the United States. (See photo at far right.)



In 1916, Congress passed the Jones Act, which pledged that the Philippines would ultimately gain their independence. Thirty years later, after U.S. forces liberated the islands from Japanese occupation at the end of World War II, the Philippines finally became an independent nation.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** Why did hostilities erupt in the Philippines after the Spanish-American War?

The United States Pursues Interests in China

By 1899, once-mighty China had fallen into political, economic, and military disarray. Its huge population, however, was a tempting target for other nations' imported goods. Rather than compete for Chinese trade, Britain, France, Germany, and Russia carved China into distinct **spheres of influence**. Within its zone, each power had privileged access to Chinese ports and markets. Japan also expanded its regional influence, grabbing territory in China and Korea. Since the United States did not have a zone, this system of "special privileges" threatened to limit American trade in China.

America Declares Equal Trade in China In order to overcome these barriers, U.S. Secretary of State **John Hay** issued the first of a series of notes to foreign diplomats in 1899. He notified the leaders of imperialist nations that the United States expected "perfect equality of treatment for commerce" in China. Hay's note had little immediate impact on the actions of European nations or Japan. However, it served as a guiding principle of American foreign policy in Asia for years to come.

Thinking Critically

1. Make Generalizations

How did the Filipino uprising present a new challenge to American soldiers?

2. Explain Effects

What two things happened in 1901 that signaled a shift in the rebellion?

History Interactive

For: To discover more about the
Filipino insurrection
Web Code: nep-0509

American Soldiers Rescue Diplomats in China

U.S. troops went into the Chinese capital of Beijing in 1900 to help put an end to the Boxer Rebellion. Below, the troops march through the Forbidden City in close ranks.

The U.S. Intervenes in the Boxer Rebellion In response to the growing influence of outsiders in their country, some Chinese joined secret societies. One such society, the Righteous and Harmonious Fists, won the nickname “Boxers” from Europeans because its members trained in martial arts. The secret societies celebrated traditional Chinese customs and criticized Western ways. They also condemned Chinese converts to Christianity. Over time, simmering anger exploded into an outright rebellion against the “foreign devils.”

In May 1900, the Boxers killed foreign missionaries and besieged the foreign diplomats’ district in Beijing. A multinational force of European, American, and Japanese troops was sent to the Chinese capital to quash the **Boxer Rebellion**. An initial force of 2,100 soldiers grew to more than 20,000, including 2,000 Americans. After putting down the rebellion, European powers compelled China’s imperial government to pay an indemnity, or money to repair damage caused by the rebellion. This poured more fuel onto the nationalist fire. Chinese nationalists would eventually revolt and overthrow the emperor in 1911.

Hay Reaffirms the Open Door Policy As the Boxer Rebellion engulfed China, Secretary of State Hay reasserted America’s **Open Door Policy**. In a second note to European powers, Hay stated that the United States wanted to “preserve Chinese territorial and administrative entity.” In other words, America did not want colonies in China; it just wanted free trade there. As an act of goodwill, the United States used some of the indemnity money it received from China to fund scholarships for Chinese students to study in America.

 **Checkpoint** How did the United States protect its commercial interests in China?

Tensions Rise Between America and Japan

Like the United States, Japan wanted to expand its influence in China. Japan also disapproved of the European “carve-up” of the region. Furthermore, the Japanese took offense to the presence of Russian troops in Manchuria, a region of China that bordered Russia. In February 1904, without a declaration of war, Japan attacked and bottled up Russia’s Pacific fleet stationed at Port Arthur, China. The Japanese fol-

lowed up on this victory with a series of major land engagements in Manchuria that caused more than 100,000 Russian casualties. However, Japan also suffered heavy losses in the fighting.



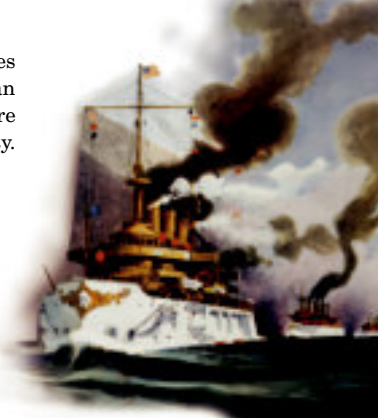
Roosevelt Settles the Russo-Japanese War In 1905, representatives from Russia and Japan met in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to negotiate an end to the **Russo-Japanese War**. When the talks stalled, President Theodore Roosevelt intervened and convinced the two sides to sign a peace treaty. (Roosevelt had become President when McKinley was assassinated in 1901.) For his efforts, Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize. The President's intervention—and his receipt of the famous award—prominently displayed America's growing role in world affairs.

Anti-Asian Prejudice Troubles Relations Despite Roosevelt's achievement, America entered troubled waters in its relations with Japan. A root cause of this trouble was anti-Asian sentiment on the West Coast of the United States. In the fall of 1906, the San Francisco School Board banned Japanese, Chinese, and Korean children from attending public schools with white children. The incident drew Japan's immediate wrath. One Tokyo journal demanded that Japan retaliate. "Stand up Japanese nation! Our countrymen have been HUMILIATED on the other side of the Pacific," the newspaper cried out.

Roosevelt disapproved of the decision to segregate Asian children in the San Francisco schools. He understood Japan's anger with America. To calm tensions, he negotiated a "**Gentlemen's Agreement**" with Japan. According to the pact, the school board pledged to end its segregation policy. In return, Japan agreed to limit the emigration of its citizens to the United States.

The Great White Fleet Sets Sail While Roosevelt used diplomacy to ease tensions with Japan, he also promoted military preparedness to protect U.S. interests in Asia. Expressing rising concerns about Japan's territorial expansion at the expense of China, Korea, and Russia—the President won congressional support for a new force of navy ships, known as the **Great White Fleet**. In 1907, Roosevelt sent this armada of 16 white battleships on a "good will cruise" around the world. The voyage of the Great White Fleet demonstrated America's increased military power to the world.

✓ **Checkpoint** What were some of the difficulties America faced in maintaining good relations with Japan?



A Mighty American Fleet

After stopping at several Latin American ports, the Great White Fleet moved on to Asia and made a friendly visit to the Japanese port city of Yokohama. *How do you think the Japanese felt about the U.S. warships' visit?*

SECTION

3 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nea-0507

Comprehension

- 1. Terms and People** For each item below, write a sentence explaining its significance.
 - insurrection
 - guerrilla warfare
 - William Howard Taft
 - Boxer Rebellion
 - Open Door Policy

- 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence** Use your timeline to answer the Section Focus Question: How did the United States extend its influence in Asia?

Writing About History

- 3. Quick Write: Write an Introduction** A narrative essay needs an introduction that "hooks" a reader and draws him or her into your story. Suppose that you want to write a narrative from the perspective of an American sailor aboard a battleship in the Great White Fleet. Draft an introduction that captures the excitement and purpose of the fleet's departure from America.

Critical Thinking

- 4. Recognize Bias** Based on what you have read, what role do you think racial attitudes played in U.S. policy in the Philippines?
- 5. Analyze Information** Identify two threats to U.S. interests in China, and describe how the U.S. government responded to those threats.
- 6. Apply Information** How do President Roosevelt's actions toward Japan illustrate the use of diplomacy and compromise?