Victory and Its Costs

Trace how a short war reshaped U.S. power and sparked debate.

SS24.US2.1b "Describe the consequences of the Spanish-American War, including the United States' rise to global prominence, debate over territorial expansion, and military intervention in Cuba and the Philippines."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one result that expanded U.S. power abroad, circle one argument on each side of territorial expansion, and label one detail about Cuba C and one about the Philippines P.

After the Spanish-American War

1 In 1898, a war that began over Cuba changed the reach of the United States. American forces defeated Spain in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Under the Treaty of Paris, Spain ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States and transferred the Philippines for $20 million. Spain also gave up its claim to Cuba, but Cuba did not become a U.S. possession. Control of islands far from the mainland gave the United States naval footholds and a larger role in world affairs. A war lasting only months thus left decisions about distant peoples that would last for decades.

2 Victory did not settle whether the United States should govern people overseas. Supporters of expansion said Pacific bases could protect trade routes and strengthen the navy. Some also claimed that American rule would prepare islanders for self-government. Opponents argued that ruling people without their consent betrayed the nation's founding ideals. They pointed especially to the Philippines, where many residents had already fought for independence from Spain. This argument was not just about territory. It asked whether a country that celebrated liberty could become an imperial power, and who had the right to decide the future of the islands.

3 In Cuba, U.S. troops stayed after Spain's defeat, and the island became formally independent in 1902. The Platt Amendment, however, gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuban affairs and secured a U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay. U.S. forces returned during a Cuban political crisis in 1906. In the Philippines, Filipino independence fighters resisted U.S. rule in a brutal war that began in 1899. The United States declared the war over in 1902, though fighting continued in some areas. These interventions showed that the new global role depended not only on treaties and trade, but also on force.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the treaty's territorial terms help make the United States a more prominent world power?

2. Why might a supporter and an opponent of expansion judge U.S. rule in the Philippines differently?

3. How could Cuba be independent yet still face U.S. military intervention?

4. How did events in the Philippines expose a conflict between territorial expansion and self-government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are writing a newspaper editorial in 1902 about whether the United States should continue governing the Philippines. In one paragraph, make a recommendation and use the war's effects on U.S. power, the expansion debate, and events in both Cuba and the Philippines to support it.

ANSWER KEY

Victory and Its Costs

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one result that expanded U.S. power abroad, circle one argument on each side of territorial expansion, and label one detail about Cuba C and one about the Philippines P. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the treaty's territorial terms help make the United States a more prominent world power?	**The United States gained Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. These distant islands gave it naval footholds and a larger role in world affairs.**
2	Why might a supporter and an opponent of expansion judge U.S. rule in the Philippines differently?	**A supporter might value Pacific bases for trade and naval strength or see U.S. rule as preparation for self-government. An opponent might argue that ruling Filipinos without their consent violated American ideals.**
3	How could Cuba be independent yet still face U.S. military intervention?	**Cuba became formally independent in 1902, but the Platt Amendment gave the United States the right to intervene. U.S. forces returned during a crisis in 1906.**
4	How did events in the Philippines expose a conflict between territorial expansion and self-government?	**The United States took control of the Philippines, while Filipino independence fighters resisted U.S. rule. Their war showed that expansion could mean denying people the self-government they sought.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States should not keep ruling the Philippines. Its victory over Spain gave it Pacific footholds and a larger voice in world affairs, but power alone does not make foreign rule just. Supporters say island bases protect trade, yet Filipinos fought for independence from Spain and then resisted U.S. troops. Cuba became independent this year, although the Platt Amendment still permits U.S. intervention there. If Americans claim to defend liberty, they should respect Filipino self-government and limit their power to intervene in Cuba.

Accept either recommendation if the editorial uses accurate evidence from the passage and addresses U.S. power, the expansion debate, Cuba, and the Philippines. A 1902 editorial should not refer to the 1906 intervention as an event that has already happened.