



Document A: *New York Journal*

Purchased by William Randolph Hearst in 1895, the Journal published investigative and human interest stories that used a highly emotional writing style and included banner headlines and graphic images.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals
Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death.

Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.

NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.

George Eugene Bryson, the Journal's special correspondent at Havana, cables that it is the secret opinion of many Spaniards in the Cuban capital, that the Maine was destroyed and 258 men killed by means of marine mine or fixed torpedo. This is the opinion of several American naval authorities. The Spaniards, it is believed, arranged to have the Maine anchored over one of the harbor mines. Wires connected the mines with a... magazine, and it is thought the explosion was caused by sending an electric current through the wire. If this can be proven, the brutal nature of the Spaniards will be shown by the fact that they waited to spring the mine after all the men had retired for the night. The Maltese cross in the picture shows where the mine may have been fired.

Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-Of-War
Officer and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown into the Air
Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells
Survivors Brought to Key West Scou[t] the Idea of Accident
Spanish Officials Protest Too Much
Our Cabinet Orders a Searching Inquiry
Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck.
Was the Vessel Anchored Over a Mine?

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt says he is convinced that the destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor was not an accident. The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for exclusive evidence that will convict the person, persons or government criminally responsible for the [destruction]...of the American battleship and the death of 258 of its crew. The suspicion that the Maine was deliberately blown up grows stronger every hour. Not a single fact to the contrary has been produced....

Source: Excerpt from *New York Journal and Advertiser*, February 17, 1898.

Sourcing

1. How long after the explosion of the *Maine* was this article written?
2. What does the headline of the article suggest about the newspaper's point of view?

Close Reading

3. Upon what type of evidence does the *New York Journal* base its claims?



Document B: *New York Times*

Established in 1851, the *New York Times* provided investigative coverage of local New York issues and events, as well as national and international news.

MAINE'S HULL WILL DECIDE

Divers to Find Whether the Force of the Explosion Was from the Exterior or Interior.
SHE WAS AFLOAT FOR AN HOUR

Spontaneous Combustion in Coal Bunkers a Frequent Peril to the Magazines of Warships
– Hard to Blow Up the Magazine.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 – After a day of intense excitement at the Navy Department and elsewhere, growing out of the destruction of the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor last night, the situation at sundown, after the exchange of a number of cablegrams between Washington and Havana, can be summed up in the words of Secretary Long, who when asked as he was about to depart for the day whether he had reason to suspect that the disaster was the work of the enemy, replied: "I do not. In that I am influenced by the fact that Capt. Sigsbee has not yet reported to the Navy Department on the cause. He is evidently waiting to write a full report. So long as he does not express himself, I certainly cannot. I should think from the indications, however, that there was an accident – that the magazine exploded. How that came about I do not know. For the present, at least, no other warship will be sent to Havana."

Capt. Schuley, who has had experience with such large and complicated machines of war as the *New York*, did not entertain the idea that the ship had been destroyed by design. He had found that with frequent and very careful inspection fire would sometimes be generated in the coal bunkers, and he told of such a fire on board of the *New York* close to the magazine, and so hot that the heat had blistered the steel partition between the fire and the ammunition before the bunkers and magazine were flooded. He was not prepared to believe that the Spanish or Cubans in Havana were supplied with either the information or the appliances necessary to enable them to make so complete a work of demolition, while the *Maine* was under guard...

Source: Excerpt from *New York Times*, February 17, 1898.

Sourcing

1. How does the date of this article compare with the date on the *New York Journal and Advertiser* article?

Close Reading

2. According to these headlines, what happened to the *Maine*?
3. What kinds of evidence does the *New York Times* include to support its account of the incident?



Document C: *Awake United States!*

This song was rushed into print between the sinking of the Maine on February 16, 1898 and the declaration of war on April 25, 1898.

Eagle soar on high, and sound the battle cry!

1. How proudly sailed the warship Maine,
a Nation's pride, without a stain!
A wreck she lies, her sailors slain.
By Trecherous butchers, paid by Spain!

Refrain:

Eagle soar on high,
And sound the battle cry
Wave the starry flag!
In mire it shall not drag!

2. Why does the breeze such sad thoughts bring,
Like murmuring seas the echoes sing?
Why do clouds thus backward roll.
Like wave on wave, on rock on shoal!

3. Awake! Thy Stars and Stripes unfurl,
And shot and shell and vengeance hurl!
Though clouds gather, they will go,
and sunlight follow after woe.

Refrain:

Awake! it is no dream;
Dost hear the sailors scream?
Comrades will you go?
Avenge the cruel blow!

And crush their marble heart!

Source: Marie Elizabeth Lamb, *Awake United States!* (New Orleans, LA, 1898).

Sourcing

1. When and where was this song printed?

Close Reading

2. According to this song, what happened to the *Maine*?
3. What emotions are the song's lyrics supposed to evoke? Include an example from the text.



Document D: President McKinley's State of the Union Address

President McKinley went before Congress to ask for a declaration of war against Spain.

The grounds for such intervention may be briefly summarized as follows:

First, in the cause of humanity and to put an end to the barbarities, bloodshed, starvation, and horrible miseries now existing there . . .

Second, we owe it to our citizens in Cuba to afford them that protection and indemnity for life and property which no government there can or will afford . . .

Third, the right to intervene may be justified by the very serious injury to the commerce, trade, and business of our people, and by the wanton destruction of property and devastation of the island.

Fourth, and which is of the utmost importance . . . With such a conflict waged for years in an island so near us and with which our people have such trade and business relations; when the lives and liberty of our citizens are in constant danger and their property destroyed and themselves ruined; where our trading vessels are liable to seizure and are seized at our very door by warships of a foreign nation, . . . — all these and others . . . are a constant menace to our peace . . .

. . . I have already transmitted to Congress the report . . . on the destruction of the battleship *Maine* . . . The destruction of that noble vessel has filled the national heart with inexpressible horror. . . .

. . . [T]he destruction of the *Maine*, by whatever exterior cause, is a patent and impressive proof of a state of things in Cuba that is intolerable . . . [T]he Spanish government cannot assure safety and security to a vessel of the American Navy in the harbor of Havana on a mission of peace, and rightfully there. . . .

Source: Excerpt from President William McKinley's War Message to Congress, April 11, 1898.

Sourcing

1. What is McKinley's intention in speaking to Congress? What does this suggest about the tone and message that President McKinley might adopt in the speech?

Close Reading

2. McKinley lists four reasons that justify U.S. intervention in Cuba. What are these reasons? Why might McKinley have arranged them in this particular order?

Contextualizing

3. Based on McKinley's speech, describe the state of affairs in Cuba. Find three phrases from the text that support your answer.



Document E: Reconcentration Camps

By the late 1800s, the Spanish were losing control of their colony, Cuba. Concerned about guerilla warfare in the countryside, they moved rural Cubans to “reconcentration” camps where the Spanish claimed they would be better able to protect them. However, people around the world saw newspaper reports that described horrible conditions in the camps for the Cuban people, who were called “reconcentrados.” This account was forwarded to Washington, D.C., by Fitzhugh Lee, U.S. Consul-General in Havana, who said its author was “a man of integrity and character.”

SIR: . . . [W]e will relate to you what we saw with our own eyes:

Four hundred and sixty women and children thrown on the ground, heaped pell-mell as animals, some in a dying condition, others sick and others dead, without the slightest cleanliness, nor the least help. . . .

. . . Among the many deaths we witnessed there was one scene impossible to forget. There is still alive the only living witness, a young girl of 18 years, whom we found seemingly lifeless on the ground; on her right-hand side was the body of a young mother, cold and rigid, but with her young child still alive clinging to her dead breast; on her left-hand side was also the corpse of a dead woman holding her son in a dead embrace

The circumstances are the following: complete accumulation of bodies dead and alive, so that it was impossible to take one step without walking over them; the greatest want of cleanliness, want of light, air, and water; the food lacking in quality and quantity what was necessary to sustain life

From all this we deduct that the number of deaths among the reconcentrados has amounted to 77 per cent.

Source: Excerpt from unsigned enclosure included with telegram sent by Fitzhugh Lee, U.S. Consul-General in Cuba, November 27, 1897. Havana, Cuba.

Sourcing

1. Why might Lee have chosen to send this description to Washington? Check his job responsibilities (see header for Document F) before writing your answer.

Close Reading

2. Notice the graphic descriptions. How do these details about the living conditions affect you as you read? Why might these descriptions be so detailed?

Contextualizing

3. If they could have seen this letter, how do you think people in the U.S. in 1897 might have reacted to this description of the reconcentration camps?



Document F: "Prepared to Move"

Lee was appointed the U.S. Consul-General in Havana, Cuba in 1896 by President Grover Cleveland. He wrote this letter to the Assistant Secretary of State in the U.S. almost three months before the Maine explosion. The consul-general was a government official living in a foreign city charged with overseeing the protection of U.S. citizens and promoting trade. He would make periodic reports to his superiors in the U.S. Department of State.

SIR: . . .

. . . I still think that two war ships at least should be at Key West, prepared to move here at short notice, and that more of them should be sent to Dry Tortugas, and a coal station be established there. Such proceedings would seem to be in line with that prudence and foresight necessary to afford safety to the Americans residing on the island, and to their properties, both of which, I have every reason to know, are objects of the greatest concern to our Government.

I am, etc.,

FITZHUGH LEE,
Consul-General.

Source: Excerpt from telegram sent by Fitzhugh Lee, U.S. Consul-General in Cuba, December 3, 1897. Havana, Cuba.

Sourcing

1. When and where was this letter written? Why might this be important?

Close Reading

2. What two actions does Lee think the U.S. should take?

Contextualizing

3. Look at Lee's reasons for these actions. What does this indicate about U.S. interests in the region?



Document G: Monroe Doctrine

In 1823, President James Monroe made a bold foreign policy speech to Congress that signified a departure from past U.S. isolationism. The principles he laid out in the speech would become known as the “Monroe Doctrine” and would influence policy decisions thereafter.

. . . [T]he American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers . . .

. . . The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly, in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part. . . . It is only when our rights are invaded, or seriously menaced, that we resent injuries, or make preparation for our defense. With the movements in this hemisphere, we are, of necessity, more immediately connected . . . We owe it, therefore, to candor, and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers, to declare, that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere, as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence, and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration, and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling, in any other manner, their destiny, by any European power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States. . . .

Source: Excerpt from President James Monroe’s Seventh Annual Message to Congress, December 2, 1823.

Sourcing

1. Who gave this speech and when? Aside from Congress, who is really supposed to hear this address?

Close Reading

2. What is Monroe’s main message?

Contextualizing

3. There was a time when almost all of South and Central America was colonized by Spain. What does the phrase “governments who have declared their independence” suggest about developments in these colonies long before the Spanish-American War?



Document H: Miss Cuba Receives an Invitation

Miss Columbia (sitting) says to "her fair neighbor," Miss Cuba (standing): "Won't you join the stars and be my forty-sixth?" By December 1898, the U.S. had defeated the Spanish and the Treaty of Paris gave the U.S. control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. In 1901, Cuba was under U.S. military rule, Cubans were drafting their constitution, and the role of the U.S. in Cuba was being debated in both countries.



Miss Cuba Receives an Invitation. MISS COLUMBIA (to her fair neighbor): "Won't you join the stars and be my forty-sixth?" (Chicago Record-Herald, 1901.)

Source: *Chicago Record-Herald*, 1901. Chicago, Illinois.

Sourcing

1. When was this published? How long after the start of the Spanish-American War?

Close Reading

2. Why might the cartoonist have chosen a ball and chain to represent Spain?
3. Why is Miss Columbia sitting down in front of a map of the U.S.? Why is Miss Cuba standing politely? What do these images say about the relationship between Cuba and the U.S.?



Document I: March of the Flag

Beveridge gave this speech while he was campaigning to become a senator for Indiana. The speech helped him win the election and made him one of the leading advocates of American expansion.

Fellow citizens, — it is a noble land that God has given us; a land that can feed and clothe the world; . . . It is a mighty people that he has planted on this soil . . . It is a glorious history our God has bestowed upon his chosen people; . . . a history of soldiers who carried the flag across the blazing deserts and through the ranks of hostile mountains, even to the gates of sunset; a history of a multiplying people who overran a continent in half a century. . . .

. . . William McKinley is continuing the policy that Jefferson began . . .

The Opposition tells us that we ought not to govern a people without their consent. I answer, The rule of liberty that all just government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, applies only to those who are capable of self-government. I answer, We govern the Indians without their consent, we govern our territories without their consent, we govern our children without their consent. . . .

They ask us how we will govern these new possessions. I answer: . . . If England can govern foreign lands, so can America. If Germany can govern foreign lands, so can America. If they can supervise protectorates, so can America. . . .

What does all this mean for every one of us? It means opportunity for all the glorious young manhood of the republic — the most virile, ambitious, impatient, militant manhood the world has ever seen. It means that the resources and the commerce of these immensely rich dominions will be increased . . .

In Cuba, alone, there are 15,000,000 acres of forest unacquainted with the axe. There are exhaustless mines of iron. . . . There are millions of acres yet unexplored. . . .

It means new employment and better wages for every laboring man in the Union. . . .

Ah! as our commerce spreads, the flag of liberty will circle the globe . . . And, as their thunders salute the flag, benighted peoples will know that the voice of Liberty is speaking, at last, for them; that civilization is dawning, at last, for them — Liberty and Civilization, those children of Christ's gospel . . .

Fellow Americans, we are God's chosen people. . . .

Source: Excerpt from Albert J. Beveridge's Senate campaign speech, September 16, 1898.

Sourcing

1. This speech is part of a political campaign. How does that influence what you can expect of it?

Close Reading

2. What do the following phrases suggest about Beveridge's view of Americans as compared with people of other nations?
 - a) "noble land that God has given us"
 - b) "applies only to those who are capable of self-government"
 - c) "civilization is dawning, at last, for them"

Contextualizing

3. According to Beveridge, what else was going on in the U.S. and the rest of the world that made expansion a good idea?