



Modified 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 All Agree That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.

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

George Bryson, the Journal's special reporter at Havana, writes that it is the secret opinion of many people in Havana that the war ship Maine was destroyed by a mine and 258 men were killed on purpose by the Spanish. This is the opinion of several American naval authorities.

The Spaniards, it is believed, arranged to have the Maine drop anchor over a harbor mine. Wires connected the mine to the magazine of the ship. If this is true, the brutal nature of the Spaniards will be shown by the fact that they waited to explode the mine until all the men had gone to sleep.

Spanish officials are protesting too much that they did not do it. Our government has ordered an investigation. This newspaper has sent divers to Havana to report on the condition of the wreck. This newspaper is also offering a \$50,000 reward for exclusive evidence that will convict whoever is responsible.

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 suspicion that the Maine was purposely 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

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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?



Modified 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 Will Inspect the Ship's Hull to Find Out Whether the Explosion Was from the Outside or Inside.

Magazines of War Ships Sometimes Blow Up Because of Too Much Heat Inside –
Hard to Blow Up the Magazine from the Outside.

It has been a busy day for the Navy Department. The war ship Maine was destroyed in Havana Harbor last night. Officials in Washington and Havana have been sending cables all night long.

Secretary Long was asked whether he thought this was the work of the enemy. He replied: "I do not. I am influenced by the fact that Captain Sigsbee has not yet reported to the Navy Department. It seems he is waiting to write a full report. So long as he has not made a decision, I certainly cannot. I should think from the signs, 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 war ship will be sent to Havana."

Captain Schuley, who knows a great deal about war ships, did not entertain the idea that the Maine had been destroyed on purpose. He said that fires would sometimes start in the coal bunkers, and he told of such a fire on board another war ship that started very close to the magazine. The fire became so hot that the heat blistered the steel wall between the fire and the ammunition before the bunkers and magazine were flooded with water to stop the fire. He did not believe that the Spanish or Cubans in Havana had either the information or the equipment necessary to blow up the magazine, while the Maine was under guard.

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

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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?



Modified 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 two-faced butchers, paid by Spain!

Refrain:

Eagle soar on high,
And sound the battle cry
Wave the starry flag!
In mud 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 revenge hurl!
Though clouds gather, they will go,
and sunlight follow after woe.

Refrain:

Awake! it is no dream;
Do you 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).

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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.



Modified 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 reasons to go to war are these:

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

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

Third, the right to get involved may be justified by the very serious injury to the trade and business of our people, and by the reckless destruction of property and ruin of the island.

Fourth, and this is very important . . . With such a fight 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 might be seized by warships of a foreign nation, all these and others are a constant threat to our peace...

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

The destruction of the *Maine*, by whatever cause, is an obvious sign that things in Cuba are intolerable. The Spanish government cannot assure safety and security to 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.

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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.



Modified 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:

We will tell you what we saw with our own eyes: 460 women and children thrown on the ground, heaped in piles like animals, some in a dying condition, others sick and others dead, dirty and helpless.

Among the many deaths we witnessed, there was one scene impossible to forget. There was 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.

Bodies were piled up, dead and alive, so that it was impossible to take one step without walking over them; it was very dirty, there was little light, air, and water; there was not enough food to live on.

From all this evidence, we think that the number of deaths among the reconcentrados has amounted to 77 percent.

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

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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?



Modified 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 at least two war ships 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.

We should do this to protect the Americans on the island and their properties, both of which are objects of the greatest concern to our Government.

FITZHUGH LEE,
Consul-General.

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

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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?



Modified 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.

The American continents are free and independent. They are not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by Europe.

The citizens of the United States respect and value the liberty and happiness of their fellow men in Europe. 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 that we resent injuries, or prepare for our defense. With the events in our half of the world, we are more immediately concerned.

We owe it, therefore, to the good relations existing between the United States and the European powers, to declare, that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this half of the world 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 and maintained their independence, and whose independence we have acknowledged, we would view any oppressive interference by any European power as a clear sign of an unfriendly attitude towards the United States. . . .

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

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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.?



Modified 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 given his chosen people, a history of soldiers who carried the flag across the blazing deserts and through the hostile mountains, even to the gates of sunset, a history of a people who overran a continent in half a century.

The opposition tells us that we should not govern a people without their consent. I answer, The rule of liberty that government gets 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 lands. I answer: If England can govern foreign lands, so can America. If Germany can govern foreign lands, 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 ambitious, impatient, militant manhood the world has ever seen. It means that the resources and the commerce of these immensely rich lands will be increased.

In Cuba alone, there are 15 million acres of uncut forest. There are mines of iron. There are millions of acres still unexplored.

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

Ah! as our commerce spreads, the flag of liberty will circle the globe. And, as they salute the flag, ignorant 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, Sept. 16, 1898, Indiana.

Some of the language and phrasing in this document has been modified from the original. The original document can be found on the HTM website, www.historicalthinkingmatters.org.

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?