

“Divine Providence is about to place independence within our reach. The Americans have extended their protective mantle to our beloved country, now that they have severed relations with Spain, owing to the tyranny that nation is exercising in Cuba. The American fleet will prevent any reinforcements coming from Spain. There, where you see the American flag flying, assemble in numbers; they are our redeemers.”



Filipino leader Emilio Aguinaldo, 1898, following America's defeat of the Spanish fleet in Manilla Bay.

“The insane attack of these people upon their liberators! It is not likely that Aguinaldo himself will exhibit much staying power. After one or two collisions, the insurgent army will break up.”

The New York Times

February, 1899

Last night one of our boys was found shot and his stomach cut open. Immediately orders were received to burn the town and kill every native in sight. I am probably growing hard-hearted for I am in my glory when I can sight my gun on some dark skin and pull the trigger.



A.A. Barnes,
B.3rd U.S. Artillery,
C.1899

We have a vast and intricate business built up through years of toil and struggle, in which every part of this country has its stake. Isolation is no longer possible or desirable.



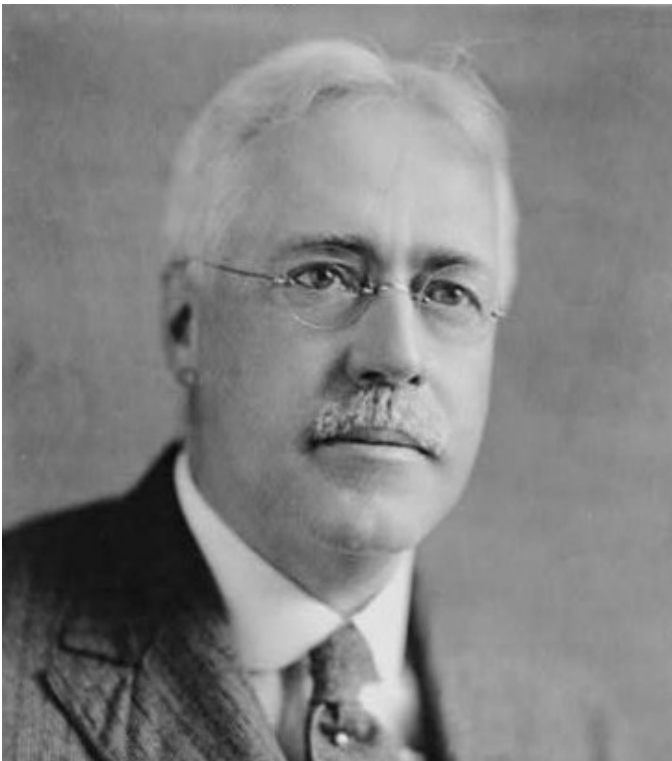
President William McKinley, at the Pan-American Exposition, September 5, 1901

When I realized the Philippines had dropped into our laps I confess I did not know what to do with them. . . . And one night late it came to me this way-I don't know how it was, but it came: (1) That we could not give them back to Spain—that would be cowardly and dishonorable; (2) That we could turn them over to France and Germany—our commercial rivals in the Orient—that would be bad business and discreditable; (3) That we could not leave them to themselves—they were unfit for self-government—and they would soon have anarchy and misrule over there worse than Spain's was; and (4) That there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace do the very best we could do by them.



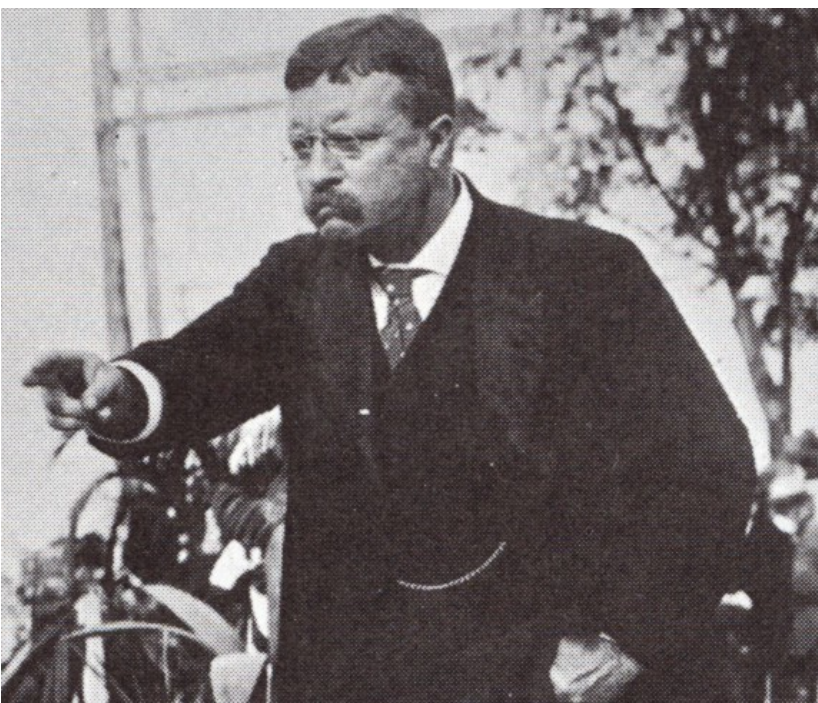
President William
McKinley, September 5,
1899

It is as a base for commercial operations that the islands seem to possess the greatest importance. They occupy a favored location, not with reference to one part of any particular country of the Orient, but to all part. . . . Together with the islands of the Japanese Empire, the Philippines are the pickets of the Pacific, standing guard at the entrances to trade with the millions of China and Korea, French IndoChina, the Malay Peninsula, and the Islands of Indonesia to the South.



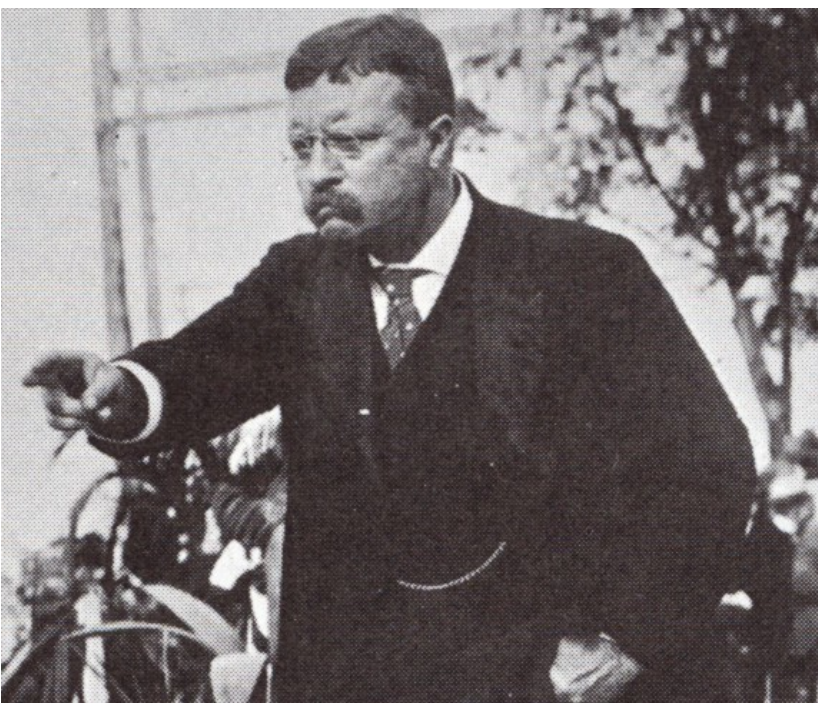
Frank A, Vanderlip,
U.S. Asst. Secretary of the
Treasury, 1898

In the West Indies and the Philippines alike we are confronted by most difficult problems. It is cowardly to shrink from solving them in a proper way; for solved they must be, if not by us, by some stronger and more manful race.



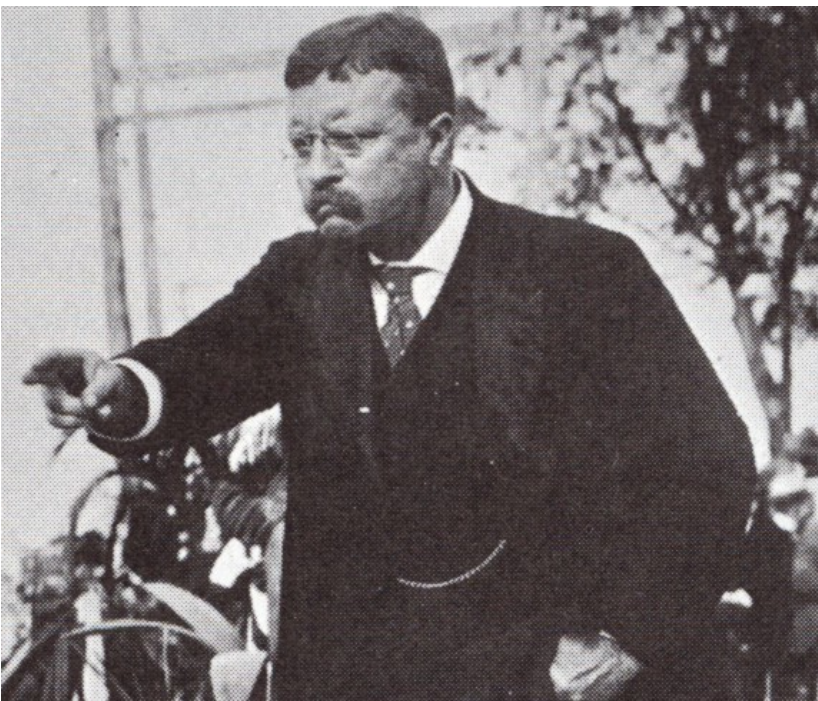
Theodore Roosevelt,
1900

“If we are to be a really great people, we must strive in good faith to play a great part in the world.”



Theodore Roosevelt,
1899

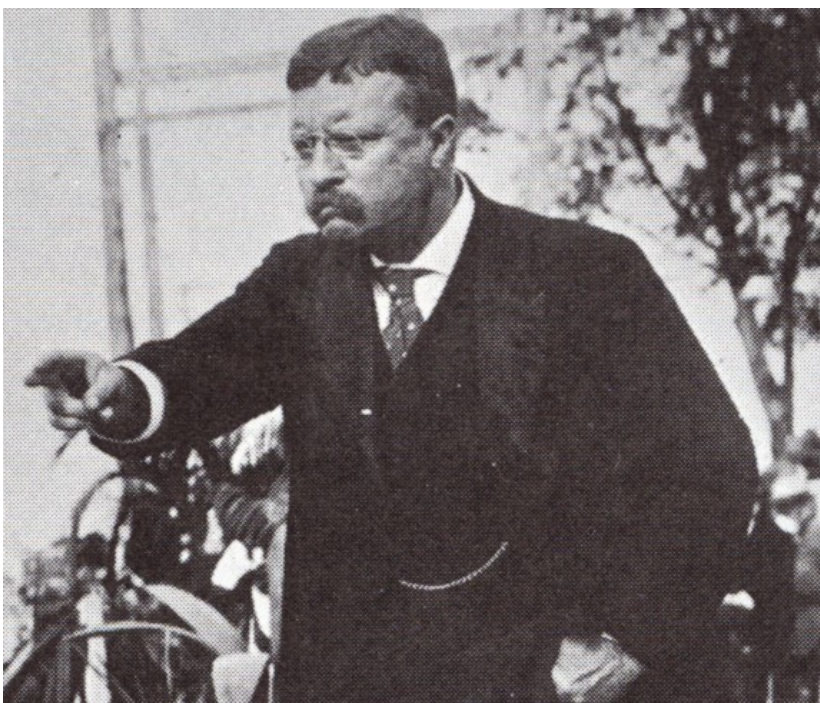
**“Our whole
national history
has been one of
expansion.”**



**Theodore Roosevelt,
1899**

**Theodore Roosevelt,
defending his actions in
acquiring rights to construct
the Panama Canal:**

**"I took the Isthmus, started
the canal and then left
Congress not to debate the
canal but to debate me."**



Theodore Roosevelt

“The American soldier is as stern a foe as ever man saw on the battlefield. He is the advance guard of liberty and justice, of law and order, and peace and happiness.”



**Elihu Root, Secretary
of State, 1909**

Secretary of War Elihu Root, when asked by President Theodore Roosevelt if he had adequately justified his actions in acquiring rights to build the Panama Canal: “You have shown that you were accused of seduction, and you have conclusively proved that you were guilty of rape.”



**Elihu Root,
Secretary of War,
1903**

“If a contest undertaken for the sake of humanity degenerates into a war of conquest, we shall find it difficult to meet the charge of having added hypocrisy to greed. Our guns destroyed a Spanish fleet, but they cannot destroy that self-evident truth that governments derive their powers, not from superior force, but from the consent of the governed.”



**William Jennings Bryan,
Democratic Party leader,
1898**

“We are here to insist that a war begun in the cause of humanity shall not be turned into a war for empire, that an attempt to win for Cubans the right to govern themselves shall not be made an excuse for extending our sway over alien people without their consent. It is said that the people are unfit for self-government. Not such the spirit of our fathers.”



**William Jennings Bryan,
Democratic Party leader,
1898**

“Nothing can wipe from our flag the disgrace if it floats over any but a free people. It should be enough that if we adopt this policy of conquest we are false to our principles and false to our express promises.”



**William Jennings Bryan,
Democratic Party leader,
1898**