



United States Press Corps

The press in the United States followed the Cuban War of Independence very closely. Newspapers across the country covered the war. Two newspapers in New York, the *New York Journal* run by William Randolph Hearst and the *New York World* run by Joseph Pulitzer, were particularly aggressive in covering stories about the Spanish army's actions against the Cuban population. Spanish general Valeriano Weyler's policies of forcing Cubans in rural areas to move to cities and his imprisonment and execution of Cuban rebels led to outcry throughout the United States. Notable stories included "Death of Rodríguez" in the *New York Journal* on January 19, 1897, on the execution of Cuban rebel Adolfo Rodríguez and the article on October 8, 1897, on the rescue of Cuban Evangelina Cisneros from a prison on the Isle of Pines. On February 9, 1898, the *New York Journal* published the confidential letter of Spanish Ambassador Dupuy de Lôme critical of President William McKinley. In the letter, Ambassador de Lôme wrote that "McKinley is weak and a bidder for the admiration of the crowd besides being a would-be politician who tries to leave a door open behind himself while keeping on good terms with the jingoes of his party." After the explosion of the U.S.S. *Maine* on February 15, 1898, many newspapers were quick to blame the Spanish and demanded that the United States invade Cuba and defeat the Spanish army. Whether these newspapers wanted Cuba to become independent or wanted the United States to take control was not always clear.

Compared to the Cuban War for Independence, the Philippine Revolution against Spain received less U.S. press coverage. If the United States seemed likely to intervene in the Philippines, the press would likely have published more stories about the situation there.

The Press's Position:

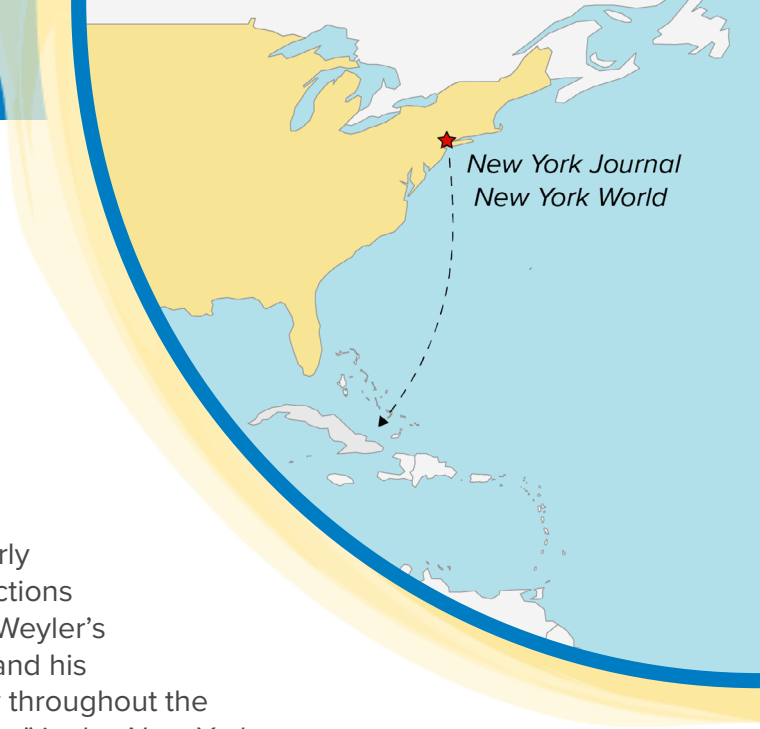
- The United States must take action against the Spanish in Cuba.
- The press wants compelling stories that people will want to read.

Questions to Consider:

- How should the press cover events in Cuba?
- Should the press also focus on events in the Philippines?
- How should the press balance the interests of the United States and the interests of Cuban and Filipino independence movements?

What can the Press negotiate with?

Remember that you don't have to offer these right away in a negotiation.



- Urge American citizens to support the U.S. Government's plan.
- Urge American citizens to support independence for Cuba and/or the Philippines.
- Portray the revolutionaries in Cuba and the Philippines as freedom fighters.
- Portray the Spanish as cruel tyrants.