



Spain

At one time the Spanish Empire controlled vast areas around the globe including territories in North and South America, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. However, after the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815), Spain lost most of its colonies. Left under Spanish control were Cuba and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean and the Philippines and Guam in the Pacific along with several smaller colonial holdings in Africa.

In the 1890s, nationalist movements began in Cuba and the Philippines. *El Partido Revolucionario Cubano* (Cuban Revolutionary Party) in Cuba and the *Katipunan* in the Philippines called for armed struggle to achieve their countries' independence from Spanish rule. The Spanish governors of each of these colonies used brutal tactics in an attempt to put down the rebellions. In February 1896, Spanish General Valeriano Weyler instituted a policy of *reconcentración* (reconcentration) in Cuba. This forced Cubans living in rural areas to move to towns and cities which could be guarded by the Spanish army. However, the policy led directly to famine when the farmers were separated from their land. Reconcentration caused outrage in the United States both in the government and in the press. It also was heavily criticized in Spain. While one Spanish political party, the Conservatives, supported Weyler's methods, the opposition party, the Liberal Party, were very critical. When the Liberal Party's Práxedes Mateo Sagasta became Prime Minister in August 1897 he moved to replace Weyler. Weyler was removed as governor-general of Cuba in October 1897.

Opening Position:

- Maintain its position as a world power.
- Avoid war with the United States.

Questions to Consider:

- What kind of relationship should Spain pursue with Cuba?
- What are the costs of trying to maintain control of Cuba and the Philippines?
- What are the risks of going to war with the United States?

What can Spain negotiate with?

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

- Make an offer to the United States for an agreement in which it will not make separate commercial or military alliances with French or British.
- Offer a treaty to the United States that acknowledges its sphere of influence in the western hemisphere and promises not to politically interfere in the region.

- Offer tobacco, sugar, abaca (a plant used to make rope and other textiles) as a trade if Spain can keep its colonies.
- Incentivize Cuba with limited sovereignty and democratic elections for governor of island, but continued status as an imperial colony.
- Threaten to begin bargaining trade agreements with independent Latin, South American and Caribbean nations, threatening U.S. commercial interests.
- Propose agreement to sell the Philippines and/or Cuba to the United States for \$100 million to avoid war.
- Offer the U.S. a naval base in either Manila or Cuba in exchange for a Spanish naval base and a coaling station in Miami.