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|  | **THE PHILIPPINES**  In the fall of 1898, representatives from Spain and the United States sat down in Paris to work out a treaty. President McKinley appointed a “peace commission” to represent the United States. A majority of the commission’s members believed in expansionism. No representatives from the colonies whose fates were being decided attended the Paris conference.  The Spanish delegates assumed that the United States would annex Cuba. They suggested that the United States also take over Cuba's $400 million debt. The Americans declined. After all, the war had been fought in support of Cuban independence. However, they were glad to accept Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. | |
| The American army already controlled the city of Manila, but that control did not extend into any other areas of the Philippine Islands. After signing the treaty, President McKinley ordered the War Department to bring all the islands under military control. The people of the Philippines, he decided, were too "uncivilized" to govern themselves. The Filipinos were shocked! For two years they'd been fighting for their independence from Spain. Since the United States had supported rebels in Cuba and Hawaii, they expected support for ***their*** independence as well. | |
|  | Commodore Dewey wrote to his superiors and pointed out that the Filipinos seemed better prepared for self-government than the Cubans did. The War Department responded by sending more men and equipment to Manila. Emilio Aguinaldo, the leader of the Filipino independence movement, felt betrayed. During the war Aguinaldo’s men had battled the Spanish alongside the Americans. Aguinaldo had been led to believe that cooperation with the United States would result in independence for the Philippines. | |
|  | When it became clear that the United States intended to make the Philippines part of its Pacific empire, Aguinaldo led his bitter troops into the jungles. For three years they fought a brutal war against the American military government. In the end, the overwhelming power of the American forces defeated them. U.S. forces confined many Filipinos in concentration camps like the ones the Spanish had used in Cuba. William Howard Taft was appointed head of the Philippine Commission, charged with replacing the military government with a civilian legislature. Despite the plan to prepare the Philippines for independence, however, Americans continued to rule the islands until after World War II. | |
|  | The war in the Philippines claimed four times as many American lives as the war with Spain did. Few Americans, however, rejoiced at the victory. There were no heroes - no parades greeted the returning troops. For many, this war seemed to contradict some basic American values. | |
|  | "I have been criticized a good deal about the Philippines," McKinley said, "but I don't deserve it. The truth is . . . they came to us as a gift from the gods." | |
|  | "Congratulations," Andrew Carnegie wrote to a leading expansionist. "You seem to have about finished your work of civilizing the Filipinos. It is thought that about eight thousand of them have been completely civilized and sent to heaven. I hope you like it." (Note: Andrew Carnegie was an outspoken anti-imperialist) | |