



THE US MILITARY  
AND  
THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR



# AMERICA: 1890'S



## AMERICA: 1890's

Since the end of the Civil War in 1865, the United States had:

- United the coasts by railroad
- Become an industrial power
- Conquered the frontier and “civilized” the Indians

Just a couple problems however...

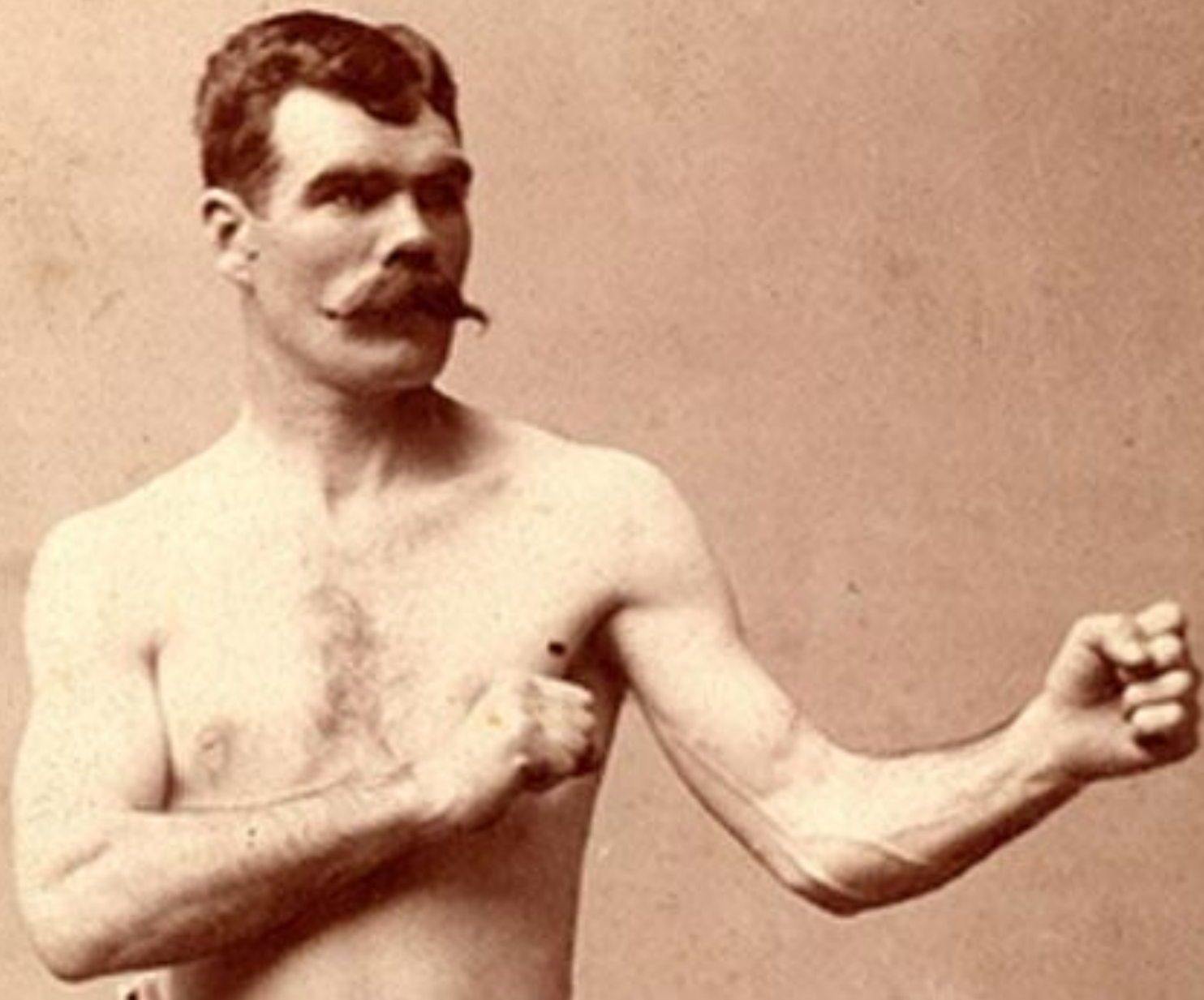


# AMERICA ♦ 1890'S

The country was still politically and culturally divided due to the Civil War, 1861-1865.

**Frontier Anxiety:** The frontier forged immigrants into a strong, unified, country through the struggle against the wilderness and Indians.

Now that the frontier was closed, many Americans feared that the country would grow lazy, corrupt and divided like Europe.





# CUBA

A historical painting depicting a battle scene. In the foreground, soldiers on horseback are engaged in combat. A Cuban flag, featuring three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and red with a white star in the center, is visible on the right side. The background shows more soldiers and a hazy, battle-torn landscape.

## CUBA

Since the 1870's, Cubans seeking independence had been waging a guerilla war against their Spanish rulers.

In order to control the population, many Cubans were herded into concentration camps where they died of disease and starvation.

Outraged, some Americans begin raising money for the Cuban rebels and smuggling arms to them.







# SPANIARDS SEARCH WOMEN ON AMERICAN STEAMERS

DRAWN BY FREDERIC REMINGTON





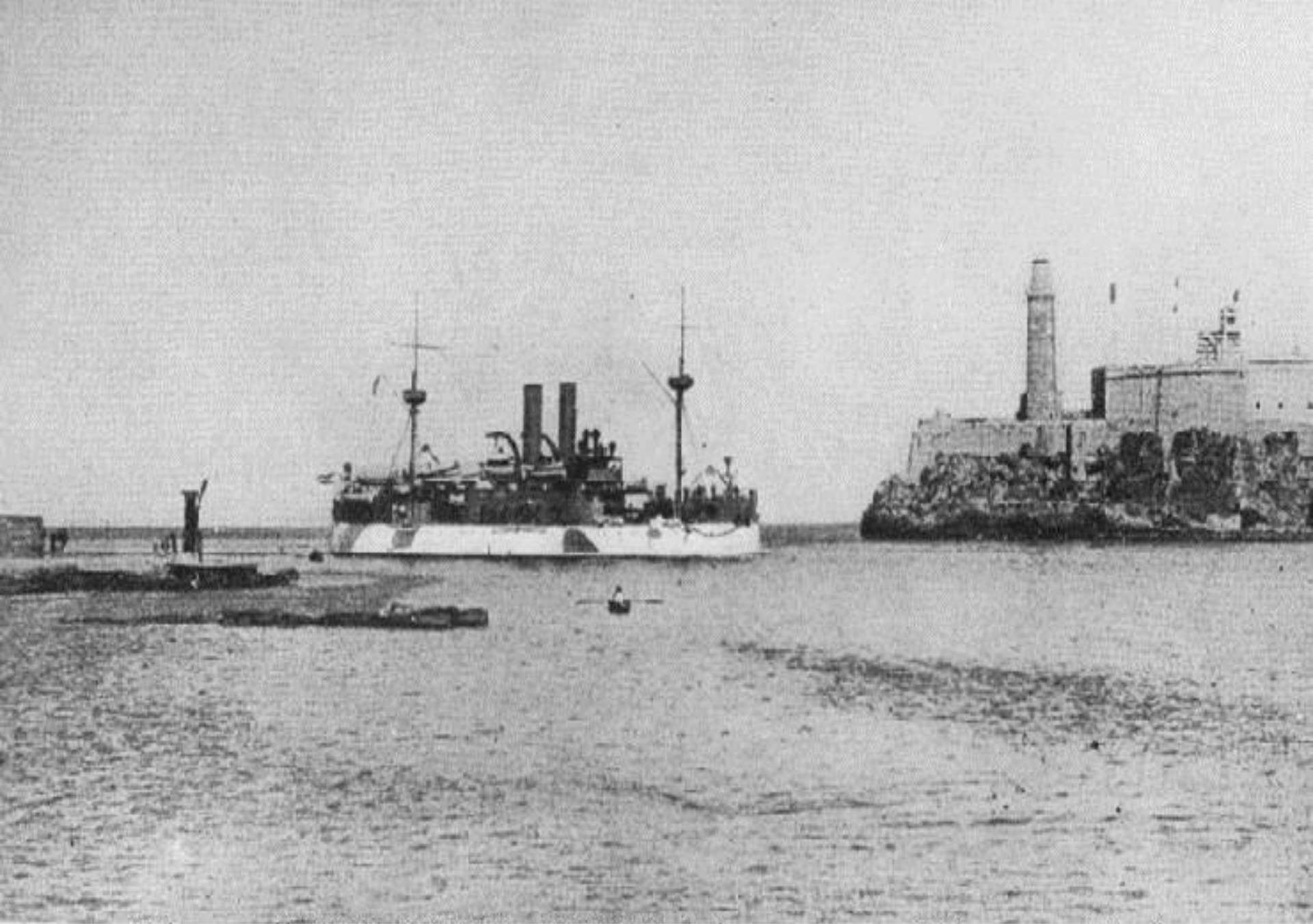


Photo # NH 48619 USS Maine enters Havana Harbor

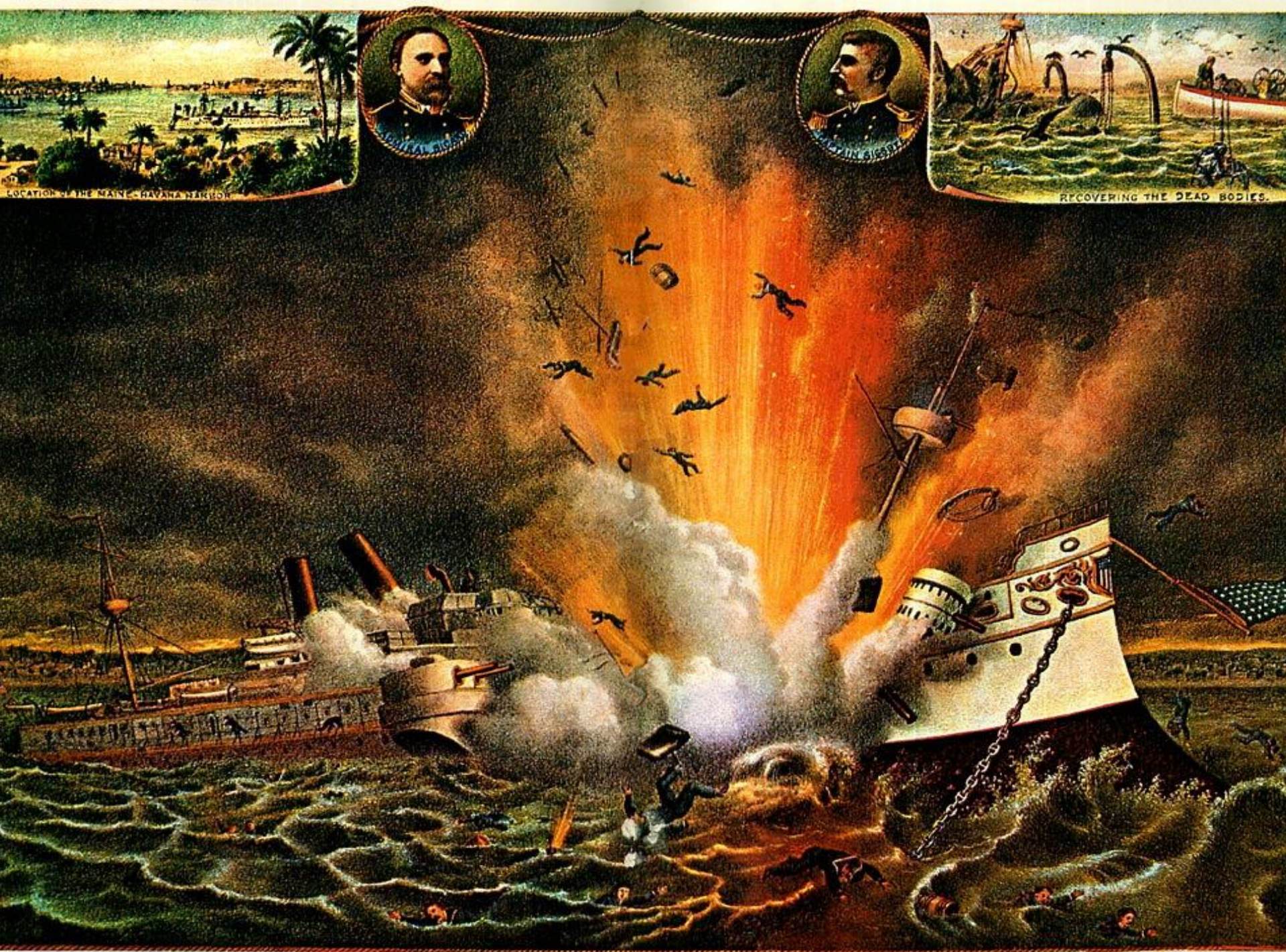




LOCATION OF THE MAINE, HAVANA HARBOR



RECOVERING THE DEAD BODIES









The wreck of USS Maine in Havana Harbor, 16 Feb. 1898,  
the morning after the explosion. [NH 46776]









UNKNOWN

SAILOR

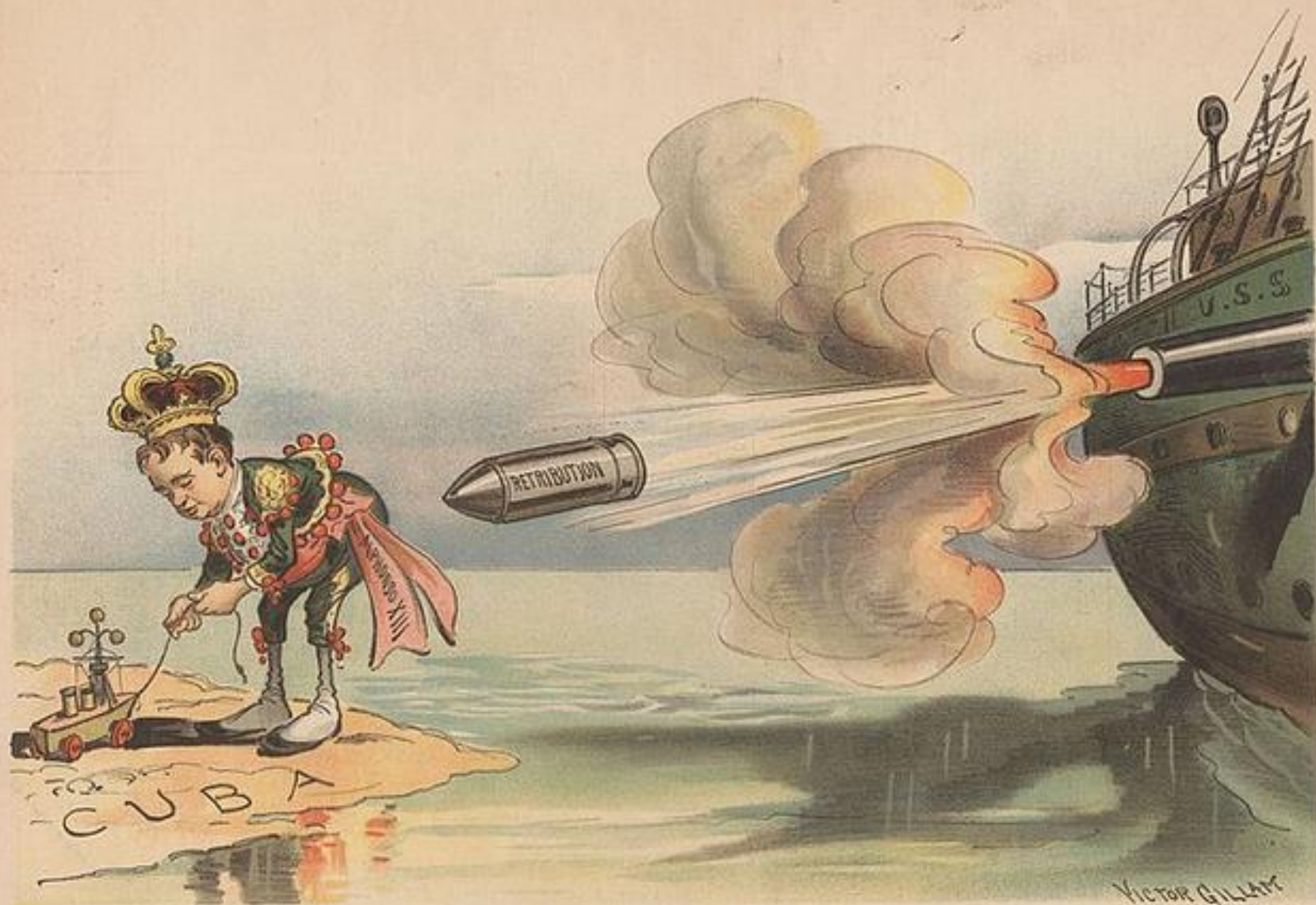
FOUR UNKNOWN  
USS MAINE







Judge



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UNLUCKY "13"

VICTOR GILLAM  
Scribner & Mitchell Co. & Co. N.Y.

# NAVY

Three revolutions took place in naval technology during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

1850s: Steam Power

1860s: Armor & Rotating Gun Turrets

1870s: Self-propelled Torpedo

1880s: The U.S. Navy was rated the 19<sup>th</sup> most powerful in the world.

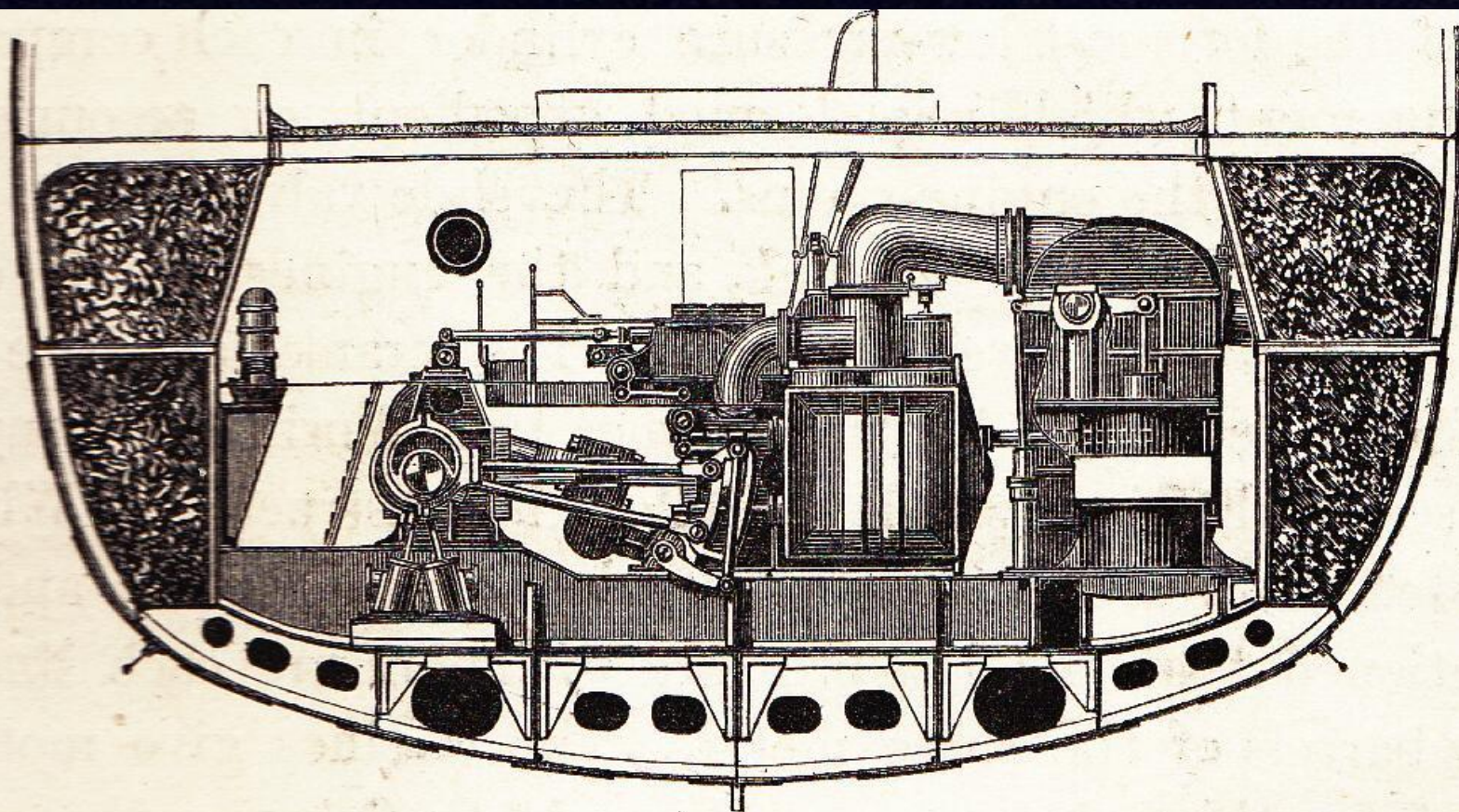
Brazil was the most powerful in the Americas (Freaked out the U.S.).





"Black Gang"  
"The Boys"





‘IRIS’ (SECTION THROUGH ENGINE-ROOM).

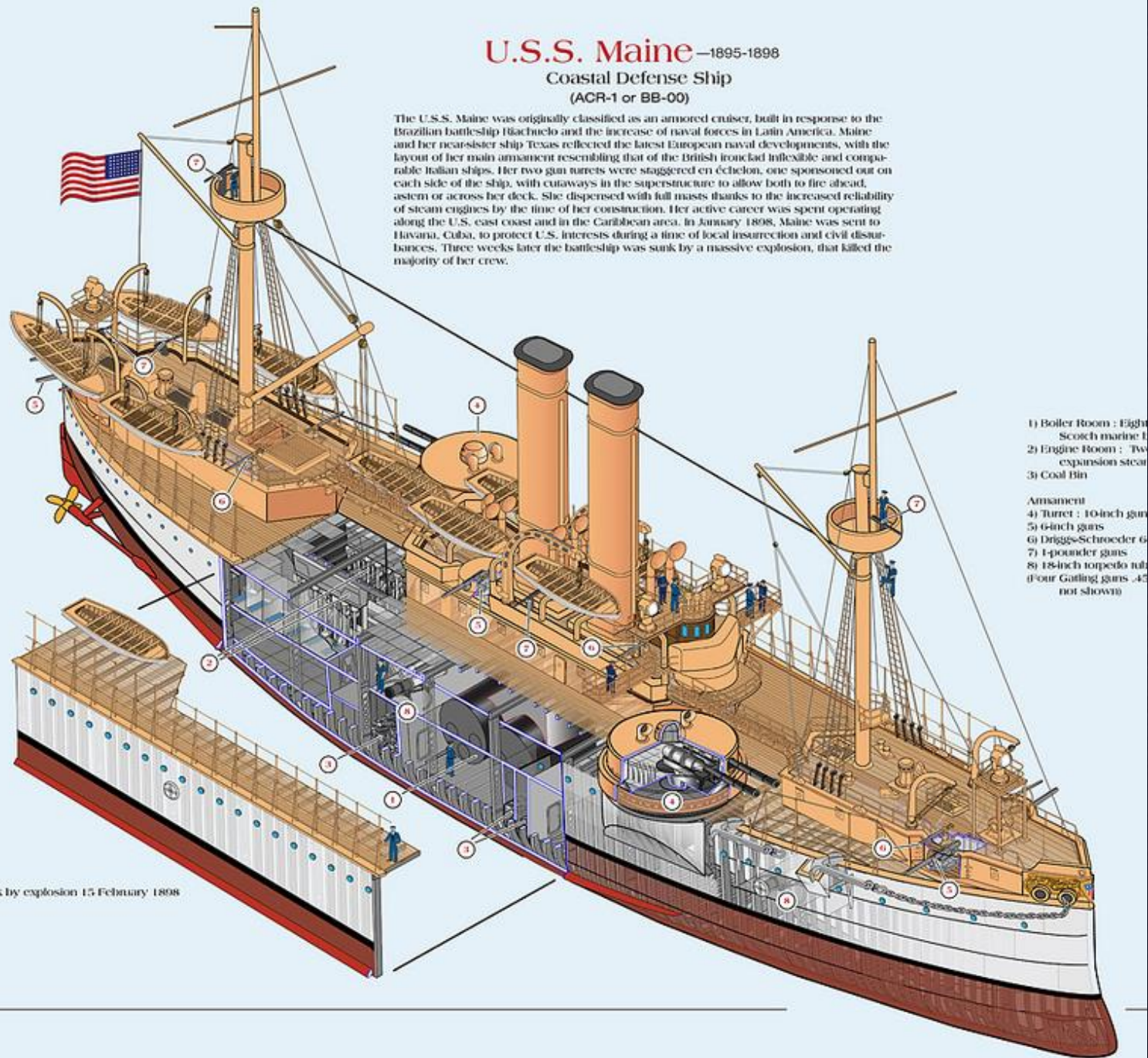


## U.S.S. Maine —1895-1898

### Coastal Defense Ship

(ACR-1 or BB-00)

The U.S.S. Maine was originally classified as an armored cruiser, built in response to the Brazilian battleship *Blachudo* and the increase of naval forces in Latin America. Maine and her near-sister ship *Texas* reflected the latest European naval developments, with the layout of her main armament resembling that of the British ironclad *Inflexible* and comparable Italian ships. Her two gun turrets were staggered en échelon, one sponsoned out on each side of the ship, with cutaways in the superstructure to allow both to fire ahead, astern or across her deck. She dispensed with full masts thanks to the increased reliability of steam engines by the time of her construction. Her active career was spent operating along the U.S. east coast and in the Caribbean area. In January 1898, Maine was sent to Havana, Cuba, to protect U.S. interests during a time of local insurrection and civil disturbances. Three weeks later the battleship was sunk by a massive explosion, that killed the majority of her crew.

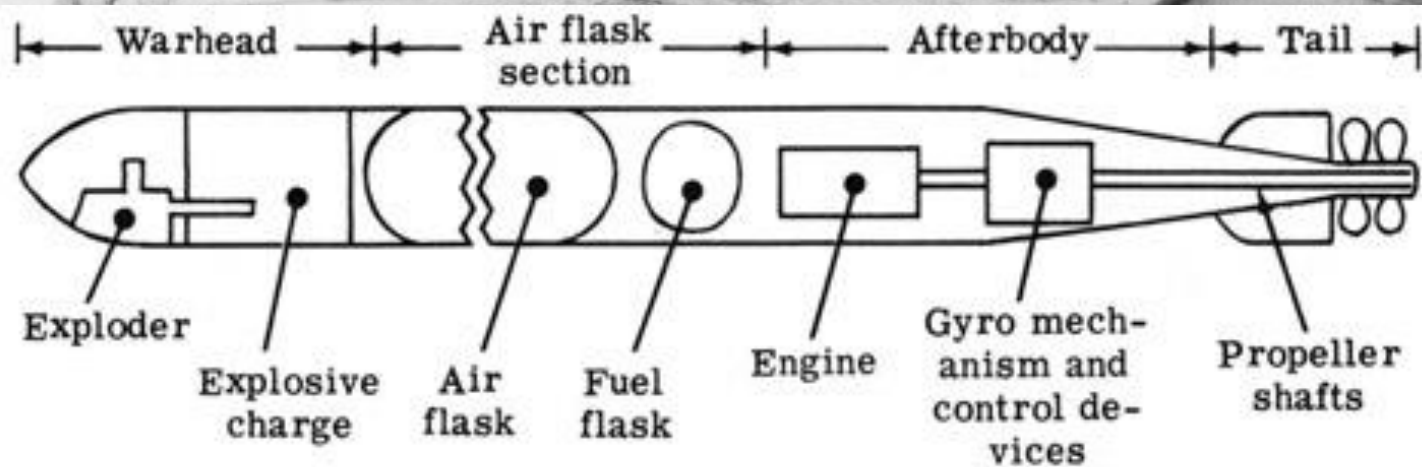


- 1) Boiler Room : Eight Scotch marine type
- 2) Engine Room : Two expansion steam
- 3) Coal Bin

- Armament
- 4) Turret : 10-inch guns
- 5) 6-inch guns
- 6) Driggs-Schroeder 6
- 7) 14-pounder guns
- 8) 18-inch torpedo tube
- (four Gatling guns, 42 not shown)

Sunk by explosion 15 February 1898





**PARTS OF A TYPICAL AIR-STEAM AIMED TORPEDO**

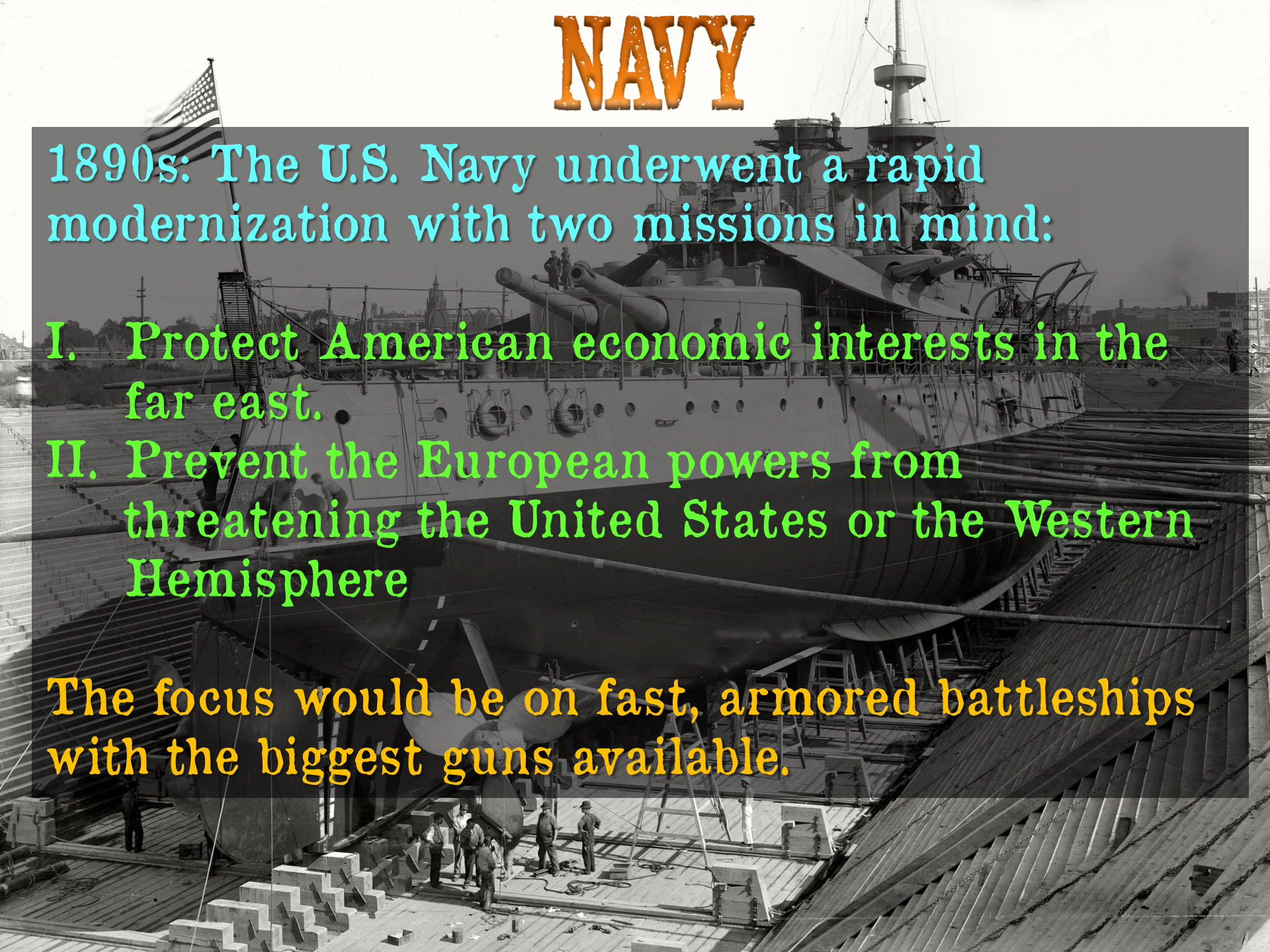


# NAVY

1890s: The U.S. Navy underwent a rapid modernization with two missions in mind:

- I. Protect American economic interests in the far east.
- II. Prevent the European powers from threatening the United States or the Western Hemisphere

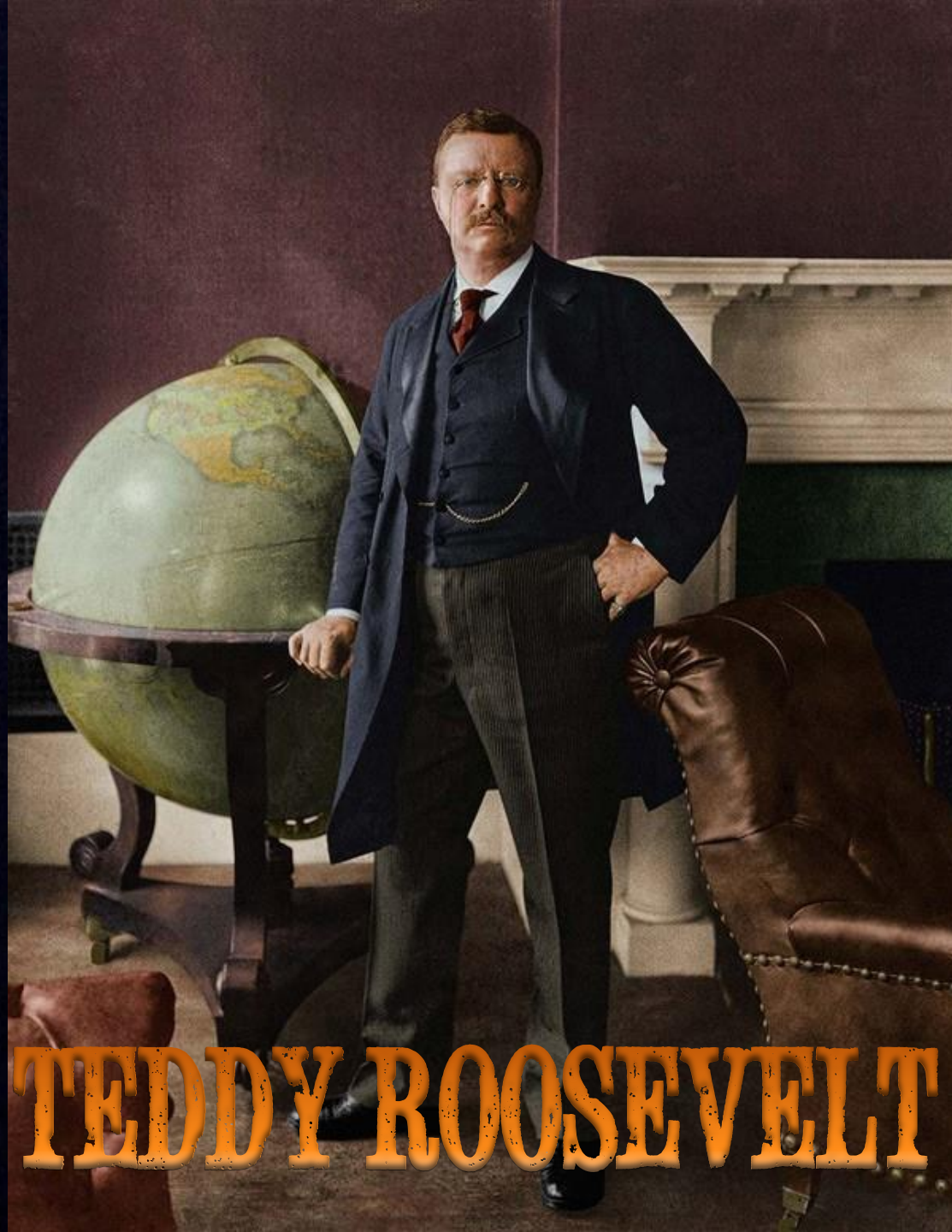
The focus would be on fast, armored battleships with the biggest guns available.











TEDDY ROOSEVELT



# MANILA BAY

## U.S. NAVY

The first engagement of the war takes place when the USN Asiatic Fleet under Commodore Dewey surprises the Spanish fleet in the Philippines.

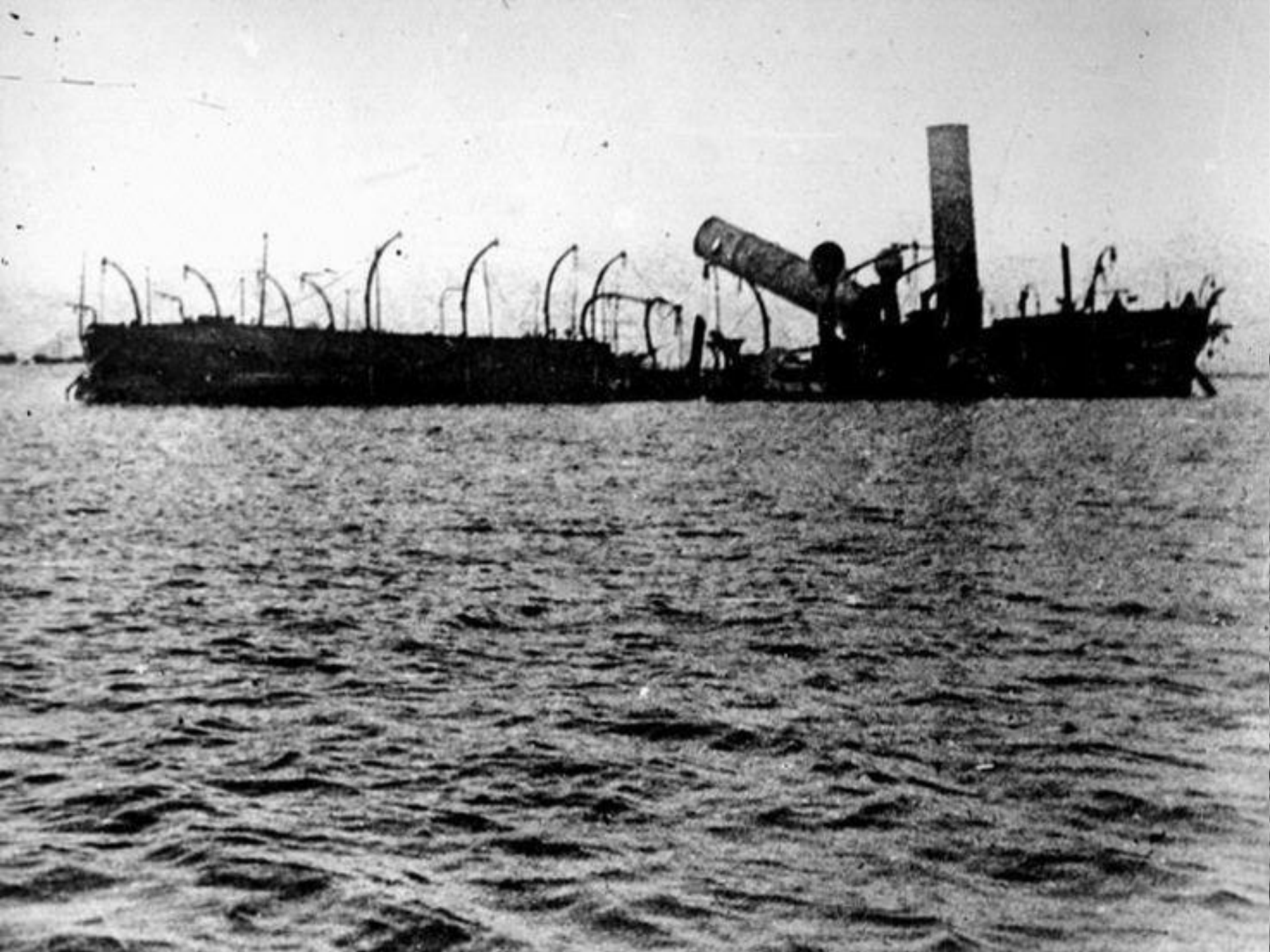
## SIGNIFICANCE

- I. The Spanish pacific fleet is destroyed
- II. Spanish forces in the Philippines are cut off from resupply and forced to surrender.
- III. The U.S. Navy now has a base in the far east.

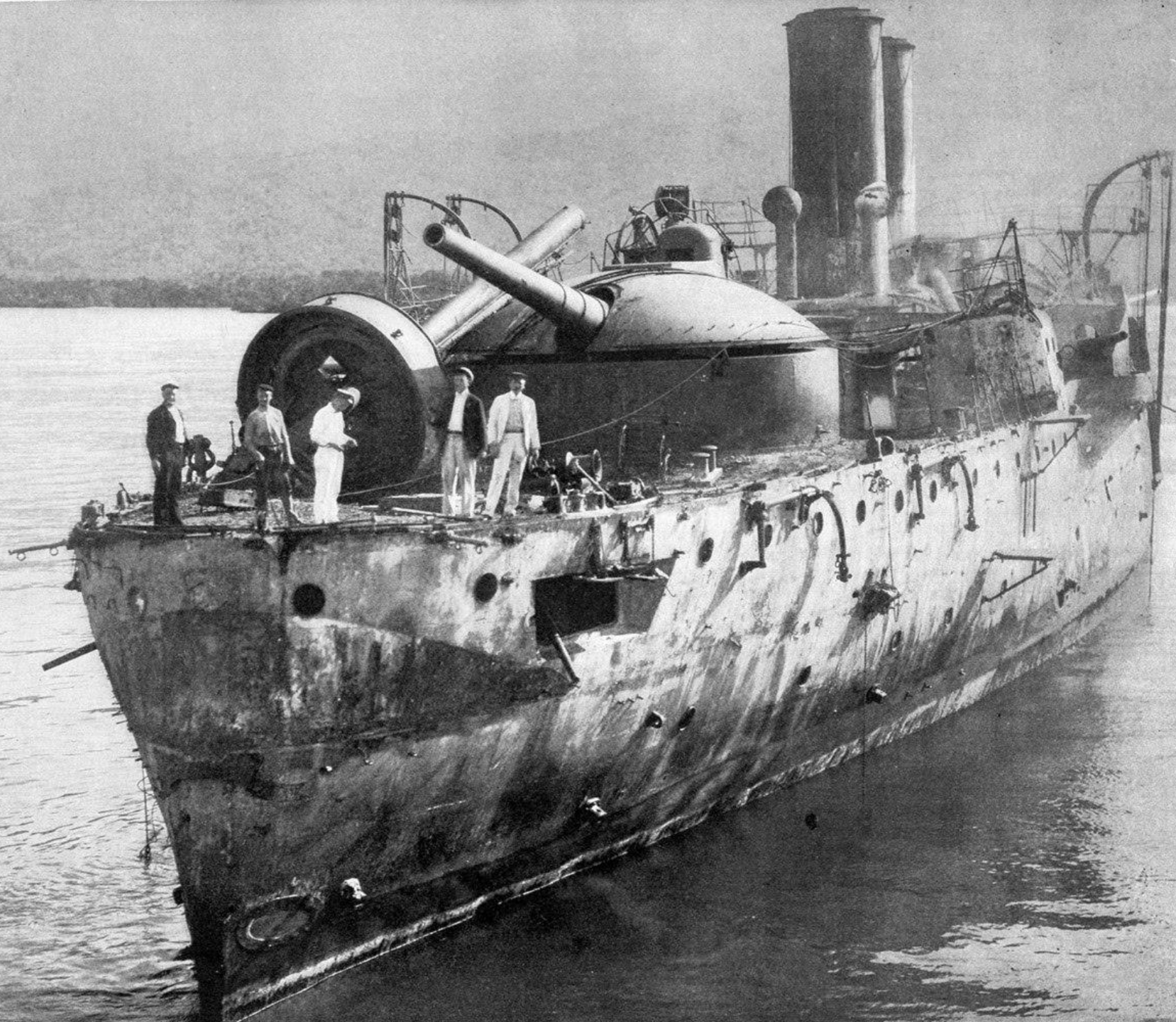


















# U.S. ARMY

## U.S. ARMY

## PROBLEMS

- ☒ Traditionally small force
- ☒ Experienced fighting Indians, not professionally trained European armies
- ☒ Had never fought outside of North America





# LAND FORCES

**No Reserves:** State volunteer militias (forerunners of the National Guard) could not be called up to fight overseas.

150,000 volunteers were needed.

Ironically, although the military was segregated, the most experienced soldiers were all-Black units known as the Buffalo soldiers.



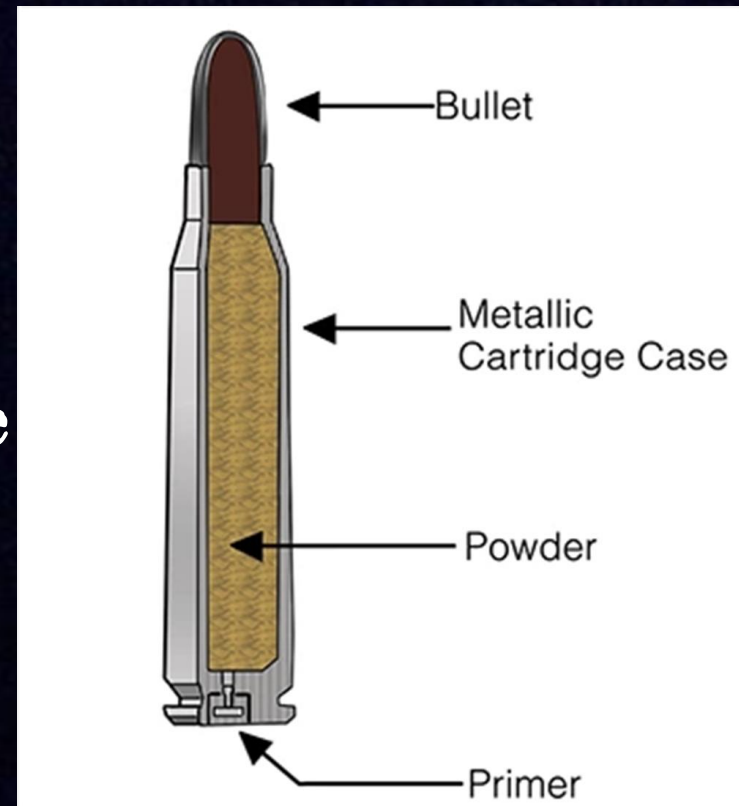


# INFANTRY WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT

Following the Civil War, a soldier's weapon changed from single-shot muzzle-loading black powder firearms to **repeating firearms** which used a self-contained cartridge and **smokeless powder**.

## ADVANTAGES

- ♠ Increased accuracy
- ♠ Better weather resistance
- ♠ Improved concealment
- ♠ Faster reloading and rate of fire
- ♠ Less fouling







Primer





The services also adopted a double-action revolver as the standard side-arm, the .38 Caliber Colt M1892

**SINGLE ACTION:** Pistol needs to be cocked before each round is fired.

**DOUBLE ACTION:** A single pull of the trigger cocks and fires the weapon.

**CALIBER:** Diameter of the bullet/barrel of the firearm

The double-action was effective in decreasing reaction time, but the .38 caliber round was found to be too weak.





# HOW IT CHANGED THE MILITARY

The U.S.  
demonstrates that it  
can fight a European  
enemy and  
win=WORLD POWER

U.S. acquires overseas  
bases in Cuba & the  
Philippines.

The U.S. must develop  
a military capable of  
defending those  
bases.

