Chapter 9: The Birth of an American Empire, 1898-1902

Scholarship devoted to these few crucial years has been sparse, although some of it is excellent. An overall account of imperialist ventures in the Pacific and Caribbean during this period can be found in Eric T. L. Love, Race Over Empire: Racism and U.S. Imperialism, 1865-1900 (University of North Carolina Press, 2003). Viewing the sweep of U.S. interest and interventionism in the Western hemisphere is No Higher Law: American Foreign Policy and the Western Hemisphere Since 1776 (University of North Carolina Press, 2010). In The Danger of Dreams: German and American Imperialism in Latin America (University of North Carolina Press, 1999), Nancy Mitchell reveals that the “German threat” in Latin America that supposedly propelled U.S. intervention in the region was based more on American paranoia and imperialist impulses than on real German actions in the region. John L. Offner explains the background to the Spanish-American War in An Unwanted War: The Diplomacy of the United States and Spain over Cuba, 1895-1898 (University of North Carolina Press, 1992). The War Lovers: Roosevelt, Lodge, Hearst, and the Rush to Empire, 1898 (Little, Brown, 2010) by Evan Thomas reveals the influence of these three men in promoting American intervention.

The best study of the War with Spain remains David Trask's The War with Spain in 1898 (Macmillan, 1981), while Graham A. Cosmas focuses exclusively on the Army in his superb book An Army for Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War (University of Missouri Press, 1971). Cosmas's "From Order to Chaos: The War Department, the National Guard and Military Policy, 1898," Military Affairs 29 (Fall 1965), and Jerry M. Cooper's "National Guard Reform, the Army, and the Spanish-American War: The View from Wisconsin," Military Affairs 42 (February 1978), provide excellent insight into the Guard's


The Philippine-American War has also received much quality attention. Brian McAllister Linn has written the definitive account in *The Philippine War, 1899-1902* (University Press of Kansas, 2000). Also essential are Linn's *The U.S. Army and Counterinsurgency in the Philippine War, 1899-1902* (University of North Carolina Press, 1989) and Glenn Anthony May's *Battle for Batangas: A Philippine Province at War* (Yale University Press, 1991). With their sophisticated research and analysis and graceful prose, these two books have become the indispensable starting point for understanding that war. Stanley Karnow, *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines* (Random House, 1989), David H. Bain, *Sitting in Darkness: Americans in the Philippines* (Houghton Mifflin, 1984), and *A War of Frontier and Empire: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902* (Hill & Wang, 2007) by David J. Silbey offer more general accounts of the conflict. The experiences of one state’s troops are chronicled in *Colorado’s Volunteer Infantry in the Philippine Wars, 1898-1899* (University of New Mexico Press, 2006) by Geoffrey

subject of Alfred W. McCoy, Policing America’s Empire: The United States, the Philippines, and the Rise of the Surveillance State (University of Wisconsin Press, 2009).