

## Introduction to Digital History

### Third Research Exercise: Using United States Government Records



**Background:** The Treaty of Paris (Dec. 10, 1898) concluded the Spanish-American War, which among other things forced Spain to cede Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Spanish West Indies to U.S. control. The United States paid Spain \$20,000,000.00 for possession of the Philippines. Prior to outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the people of the Philippines had been engaged in an armed revolt against Spanish rule. Between the defeat of the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay in May 1898 and the Treaty of Paris, American policy in the Philippines remained unclear. During this period, General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence and sovereignty of the Philippines from Spanish rule. The Treaty of Paris was a blow to revolutionaries, which was further compounded by McKinley's "Benevolent Assimilation" policy and the arrival of U.S. troops. In February, the United States and Filipino revolutionaries engaged in a drawn-out war, which would not end fully until 1913.

#### **Assignment:**

1. Using digitized government records from the United States explore a theme related today's in-class lab on the Philippines. You must use the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) and at least one of the digitized collections at the Library of Congress on the Spanish-American War.

Track government policy in the Foreign Relations of the United States. What was the official American view of the occupation of the Philippines and the Philippine-American War? What did government officials say about the way in which the war was conducted or about subsequent American occupational policy in the Philippines?

<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/ebooks>

<https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/frus/>

In addition to FRUS, explore the Library of Congress's digitized collections related the Spanish-American War.:

**Teddy Roosevelt Papers:**

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/theodore-roosevelt-papers/about-this-collection/>

**Taft papers:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/william-howard-taft-papers/about-this-collection/>

**Pershing Papers (Philippines Diary):**

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mss35949043/>

**The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures:**

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/spanish-american-war-in-motion-pictures/about-this-collection/>

2. Write a 1-2 page analysis of your discoveries. Where you surprised by anything that you found? Did you narrow or expand your search as you experimented with various databases? **Next, select one document.** Describe its content and analyze why you think it is important. If it is a document, **who wrote it? When was it written and why? Who was the audience?** In addition, offer a brief account of how you located your sources. For example: I used FRUS between 1898 and 1923. I used the search terms "Aguinaldo," "water-cure," and "Treaty of Paris."

**Your short research assignment should include the following information:**

1) A comparative analysis of using **at least two different types of databases** (Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS), one of the digitized archival collections from the **Library of Congress**.

2) A textual or visual analysis of ONE primary source that you found during the research exercise. Describe it but also analyze the document, photograph, map etc. Why is it important? Select something that is exciting, compelling or unexpected.

3) Provide a short account of how you located your source.

You may use secondary sources to find suitable search terms for dates, people and events. Along with this assignment, you will find a chapter from an excellent secondary source called the *Blood of Government* by Paul Kramer.

**Due September 21 at 11:59 PM!!!! Please upload a copy to CourseDen.**