

# American Involvement in the Caribbean

Many Americans believed that the US had **special interests in the Caribbean** region. After the Spanish-American War, the United States gained **direct control of Puerto Rico and indirect control of Cuba.**

The construction of the **Panama Canal** and the **rise of American business interests** in the Caribbean further contributed to American involvement. American leaders acted to **keep other foreign powers out** of the region because they might pose a threat to the United States.

# WORLD, 1898 - 1902

EVENTS DIRECTLY FROM  
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR



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RUSSIA

NA

Beijing  
Boxer Rebellion, 1900

JAPAN

Hong Kong

PHILIPPINES

Manila Bay, 1898

GUAM

San Francisco

UNITED STATES

Norfolk

ATLANTIC OCEAN

ASIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

Hawaii (U.S.)

MEXICO

Tampa

CUBA

PUERTO RICO

Martinique  
Curacao

AFRICA

SOUTH

AMERICA

AUSTRALIA

## AFTERMATH

Guam, Philippines, and Puerto Rico were Spanish possessions ceded or sold to the United States after the War.

The United States also forces fought in the Philippine Insurrection 1898 - 1902 and in the Boxer Rebellion in 1900.

# The Panama Canal

The Spanish-American War has shown the importance of building a **canal**(a man-made waterway that connects two bodies of water) **between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.**

It took a **battleship six weeks to sail 14,000 miles from the west coast of the US to Cuba.** By 1903, the US decided to build a canal **across Panama**, in Central America. At that time, Panama was part of Colombia.

# Panama Canal cont.

The US **offered Colombia \$10 million** for the land to build a canal.

When Colombia delayed giving its acceptance, President **Roosevelt bargained with a group of rebels in Panama.** He sent warships to help Panama gain its independence from Colombia, and the **rebels agreed to sell the US the land** to build the canal.

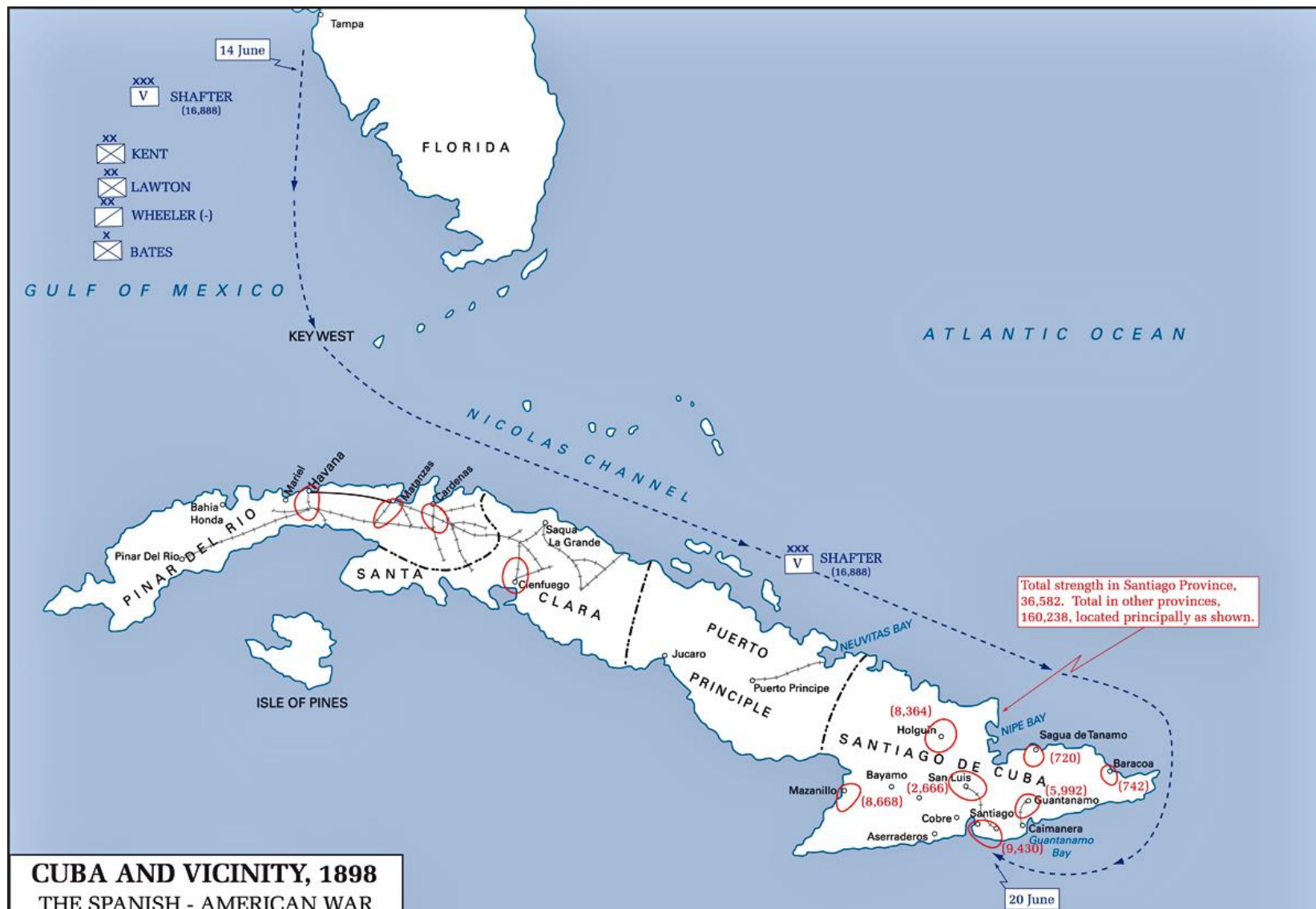
The actions of the US against Colombia **angered many Latin American countries.** Panama gained its independence and the canal was completed after **ten years of construction (1903-1914).** The US was given **control of the Panama Canal Zone.**

# Issues with Colombia



# Cuba

Following the Spanish-American War, Cuba became an **American protectorate** (a territory under the protection and control of another country.) **American forces** remained on the island, and **American businesses invested heavily in Cuba.**



**CUBA AND VICINITY, 1898**  
**THE SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR**  
 Spanish Dispositions, 20 June 1898





# Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico became an **American possession** after 1898. Since 1952, Puerto Rico has governed itself as a **US “Commonwealth.”**

However, there is a great deal of **disagreement** as to how **Puerto Rico** should be governed in the future.



# U.S. Policy in the Caribbean

In the early 1900s, the US government began to take a more active part in the affairs of Latin America. In 1904, President **Theodore Roosevelt** declared that the US would act as a **policeman in the Western Hemisphere**. The **expansion of US power in Latin America** was known as the **Big Stick Policy**. It was often used by the US to **justify sending troops** to the West Indies and Central America. Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic became American protectorates like Cuba. These **frequent interventions** caused **many Latin American nations to resent the U.S.**