

Group A: Spanish-American War Model:

The United States went to war with Spain to end slavery in Cuba, to put an end to colonial rule there, and to avenge the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine in Havana Harbor. Prior to going to war, the Teller Amendment was adopted to assure that the U.S. would maintain a presence in Cuba only until the war was over.

The United States held true to its word, to a degree. We forgave Cuba the debts incurred by the Spanish sovereignty, enabling the Cubans, ostensibly, to develop a free market economy and democratic rule, and vacated the island. In return, the Spanish absorbed the colonial Cuban debt, ceded Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States, and let us buy the Philippines for twenty million dollars. Cuba would then face a century of brutal and abusive regimes, and finally the ascension of Fidel Castro to power. Was this the right thing to do? Would Cuba have fared better if we had stayed directly involved in the governing of that nation?

April 19, 1898

The U.S. Congress by a vote of 311 to 6 in the House and 42 to 35 in the Senate adopted the Joint Resolution for war with Spain which included the Teller Amendment, named after Senator Henry Moore Teller (Colorado) **which disclaimed any intention of the U.S. to exercise jurisdiction or control over Cuba except in a pacification role and promised to leave the island as soon as the war was over.** President McKinley signed the resolution on April 20, 1898 and the ultimatum was forwarded to Spain:

From the Text of the Teller Amendment

“That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said Island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the Island to its people.”

<http://www.nv.cc.va.us/home/nvsageh/Hist122/Part2/TellerAmndmnt.htm>