Differing Perspectives

Filipinos Side
- Third Phase of Revolution against Spain
  - Started in 1896
- Not fall under another colonial power

American Perspective
- Part of Spanish-American War
- Part of Western Imperial Expansion

Chronology

War preceded by growing animosity between US and Filipino troops
- Intensified once US excluded Filipinos from siege of Manila, August, 1898

Mock Battle
- Spain surrender to the US
- Filipinos retreat to Malolos

From patron and ally, Filipinos now perceive the US as threat

US Occupation of Manila, Aug. 1898

TREATY OF PARIS
Dec. 10, 1898: Treaty of Paris

Signed between US & Spain

- US pays Spain $20M for the Philippines
  Filipino representatives excluded from negotiations
- US refused to recognize Filipino sovereignty
  - Instead claims right to rule over the Philippines through conquest and purchase

Signing the Treaty of Paris, Feb. 1899

Philippine delegate, excluded from Paris talks

Headline from the Salt Lake Herald, 1899

Feb. 4, 1899

Hostilities erupt in Manila

- U.S. troops quickly gain upper hand

March 31, 1899

Capture Malolos

- Aguinaldo again forced to flee north
- Filipinos resort to guerilla warfare
Pvt. William Grayson, (1876-1941) Nebraska Volunteers, fired first shot of the Filipino-American War, 1899

Headlines from New York International Tribune

Headlines from The San Francisco Call, Jan 1899

US Troops laying siege to Malolos, Feb. 1899

Why war? from Filipino perspective:

- War: the continuation of the anti-colonial revolution
  - at stake: liberation from colonial rule
- US should have been sympathetic to Filipino struggle
  - Returned Aguinaldo from exile
- Protection of its new sovereignty
- Use of guerilla tactics response to superior military force of US
Filipino revolutionary troops

Early Philippine flag

from American perspective:

Race War

- Continuation of the Indian Wars
  - Military leaders were veterans of the Indian Wars

Ideology of white supremacy and Anglo-Saxon superiority:

- Filipinos racially incapable of ruling themselves
  - entitled U.S. to decide on fate of the Filipinos

US refused to recognize Malolos Republic

- victory over Spain and Treaty of Paris established their right to rule the Philippines

US saw Filipino resistance as criminal “insurrection”, unlawful insurgency

- US regarded “Filipinos” as not even a nation
  - only a loose collection of warring “tribes”
  - Corrupted by centuries of Spanish Catholicism

Racializing the war:
Filipinos as “hordes”, 1899

Damn, damn, damn the Filipino Pock-marked khaki ladrone; Underneath the starry flag Civilize him with a Krag, And return us to our own beloved home.
At other times the Filipinos, starting with Aguinaldo was depicted as an irresponsible brat playing at being a soldier that Uncle Sam had to discipline for his own good.

Americans *racialized* war

Pitted civilized whites against uncivilized “savages”

- guerilla warfare proof of Filipino “savagery” and “backwardness” analogous to Indians

Paved way for an American *war of racial extermination*

- Filipinos less than human
- U.S. targeted both Filipino insurgents and civilians suspected of helping them

US adopted “savage” tactics adopted to fight “savages”:

- use of torture ("water cure")
- killing of prisoners
- burning and looting of villages
- “re-concentration” of villages into concentration camps (1900-1903)
Administering the “water cure”

Pursuing the war, 1899-1900

Mass graves for war dead

War of extermination

- "I want no prisoners" and "I wish you to kill and burn; and the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me."
- Orders of Jacob "Howling Jake" Smith in Samar, 1901

Water-cure song, 1899

Get the good old syringe boys and fill it to the brim
We’ve caught another nigger and we’ll operate on him
Let someone take the handle who can work it with a vim
Shouting the battle cry of freedom

[Chorus]
Hurrah Hurrah We bring the Jubilee
Hurrah Hurrah The flag that makes him free
Shove in the nozzel [sic] deep and let him taste of liberty
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.203
Buffalo Soldiers

A small number of African American troops participated in the war

- Joined US military to prove abilities and loyalty
  - Equal treatment & full citizenship
- Confronted with another people of color
  - Were far more ambivalent about war
- Some supported the war
  - Route to acquiring land & full emancipation

Letter of African American soldier from the Philippines

Every colored soldier who goes to the Philippine Islands to fight the brave men there who are fighting and dying for their freedom... is fighting to curse the country with color-phobia, lynchings, Jim Crow (rain) can, and everything else that white prejudice can do to blight the darker races... and since the Filipinos belong to the darker human variety, it is the Negro fighting against himself.  

Globalization of Racism and Jim Crow

Others saw empire as the globalization of racism and Jim Crow

WEB DuBois prophecy:

- The color line was going to be the most significant problem of the 20th century

Anti-imperialist resolution from the colored citizens of Boston, protesting the US invasion of the Philippines in 1899

Defectors

- Others identified with Filipino struggles
- Small number defected to Philippine side
- Example: David Fagen

Sketch of David Fagen, (1875-7)
Defected to Filipino side, Nov. 1899.
What were the costs of war?

Height of war 1899 - 1903
for U.S.: sent total of 126,400 troops
• 4,000 dead
• 75% from non-combat causes
Won the war, but would have to wage the peace

For Filipinos

Nothing less than catastrophic:
• at least 250,000+ dead
• from fighting, starvation, and disease
  ○ massive disruption of the economy, agriculture, food supply
  ○ spread of disease, e.g., cholera epidemic and hoof and mouth disease

The war winds down

capture of Aguinaldo, March 23, 1901
• eventual surrender & collaboration of other Filipino leaders

Pres. Theodore Roosevelt declares war officially over on July 4, 1902
but, Filipino resistance continued for several years
examples:
• Apolinario Mabini who refused to take oath of allegiance to the U.S.
• Exiled to Guam

Macario Sakay, leader of “Tagalog Republic” till 1907
• Held out for “kalayaan” and radical social change

Artemio Ricarte (1866-1945)
• captured and exiled repeatedly
• repeatedly organized plots till the 1920s
Went into exile in Yokohama, Japan
  ◦ Returned to collaborate with the Japanese forces, 1942

Gen. Artemio Ricarte with other revolutionary leaders going into exile to Guam, 1901

In Sum:
• War, like Revolution, inconclusive, unfinished
  ◦ Recurrence of insurgencies, fear of social revolution: backdrop for US colonial rule
Among Filipinos: enduring wish for “Kalayaan”
• But different ideas about its meaning
  ◦ “freedom”, “independence”, “equality”, “care-free”, “paradise”, etc.?
Hence, on-going conflicts about the means to realize it