

The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography

By Louis A. Jr. Perez, Louis A. Perez

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A century after the Cuban war for independence was fought, Louis Perez examines the meaning of the war of 1898 as represented in one hundred years of American historical writing. Offering both a critique of the conventional historiography and an alternate history of the war informed by Cuban sources, Perez explores the assumptions that have shaped our understanding of the "Spanish-American War--a construct, he argues, that denies the Cubans' participation in their own struggle for liberation from Spanish rule.

Perez examines historical accounts of the destruction of the battleship *Maine*, the representation of public opinion as a precipitant of war, and the treatment of the military campaign in Cuba. Equally important, he shows how historical narratives have helped sustain notions of America's national purpose and policy, many of which were first articulated in 1898. Cuba insinuated itself into one of the most important chapters of U.S. history, and what happened on the island in the final decade of the nineteenth century--and the way in which what happened was subsequently represented--has had far-reaching implications, many of which continue to resonate today.

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Editorial Review

Review
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"Historian"

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"Latin American Research Review"

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"The Americas"

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"Historian"

ÝA¨ probing and provocative critique of the North American historiographical treatment of the conflict.

"Pacific Historical Review"

Elegantly written and crammed with the ideas and insights of a master historian.

"Latin American Studies"

Review
A rich review of the literature and sources of the 1898 war, *The War of 1898: Between History and Historiography* commands authority and will become the standard work to which scholars turn.--Thomas G. Paterson, University of Connecticut

One hundred years after the conflict, the publication of Perez's work forms another significant contribution to Cuban history. It is comprehensive in its review of historical writing on the war and well balanced on the main aspects of the conflict. Scholars of both American and Caribbean history will no doubt find the text refreshing and stimulating.--*Journal of Caribbean History*

A provocative reinterpretation that will undoubtedly influence subsequent writing about the war.--*Latin*

American Research Review

Louis A. Perez, Jr., who brings extensive research, thought, and writing to this task, renders a probing and provocative critique of the North American historiographical treatment of the conflict. . . . In this exhaustively researched, lucidly argued essay, Perez contributes significantly to an understanding of both the history and the historiography of the War of 1898.--*Pacific Historical Review*

Perez sets the record straight.--*International History Review*

No serious student of the 1890s and after can ignore this book; it will have important implications for all those who study post-1895 U.S.-Cuban relations. Just about everyone who has written monographs on the 1898 war or--especially--American history or U.S. diplomatic textbooks is going to have to do some extensive rewrites as a result of this book.--Walter LaFeber, Cornell University

[A] tightly-written examination of the import of the Spanish-Cuban-United States War of 1898. . . . We have indeed been well served both professionally and publicly by Perez's critical reappraisal of 1898 and its significations.--*The Americas*

Perez's study is a refreshing and balanced addition to the literature. Focusing not only on 1898 but also on its place in history, he performs the admirable task of exploring and analyzing the events in their greater context. The book is lucid, well documented, and balanced. . . . This is a model study in a handsome edition that is unusually attractive in its graphic layout.--*Choice*

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The incomparable Louis A. Perez, Jr. has written a stimulating perspective on U.S.-Cuban relationships based on nineteenth-century perspectives and historiographical literature. . . . This work is recommended for students of Cuban history and the general reader.--*Colonial Latin American Historical Review*

The War of 1898 is a brilliant frontal assault on the generations of scholars who have offered this modern

American creation myth as history. . . . [Perez's] analysis is the most thorough, persuasive, and nuanced to date.--Raleigh *News & Observer*

Elegantly written and crammed with the ideas and insights of a master historian. It provides an extremely thorough and perceptive critique of the historical literature on the war that will be stimulating and required reading for anyone who writes on or teaches this particular topic. . . . An excellent study which will certainly accelerate the historiographical trend.--*Latin American Studies*

Perez has hit on the soft underbelly of U.S. policy in 1898, which U.S. historians have often tended to repress.--*New York Review of Books*

Perez has provided us with a brief, detailed recounting of the extent to which historical studies of what he correctly calls the 'Spanish-Cuban-American War' of 1898 were influenced by contemporary U.S. accounts of that conflict, which took credit for having brought freedom to the Cuban people. In correcting that bias, Perez gives considerable space to the work of Cuban scholars, who insist that the U.S. 'victory' was made possible only by the ongoing insurgency by rebels against Spanish rule, and that the self-proclaimed idealism of the American incursion was in fact a mask for intervention in and control of Cuban internal affairs. This is an impressive, enlightening survey and an important addition to the very long shelf of works inspired by this 'neglected' war.--John Seelye, University of Florida

From the Inside Flap
Focusing on the War of 1898, Louis Perez presents both a critique of the conventional historiography and an alternate history of the war that is informed by Cuban sources.

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