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*The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography.* By Louis A. Pérez Jr. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. xviii, 171 pp. Preface, chronology, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$34.95 cloth, \$16.95 paper.)

Commemorative anniversaries produce a deluge of publications on a given subject. The 1998 centenary of the Spanish-Amer-

ican War has generated an outpouring of books and articles, many hastily written to comply with contracts and publication deadlines, and this work is no exception.

Professor Louis A. Pérez r. has written and edited numerous Cuban history books during the past twenty-three years. *The War of 1898*, sent to press in November 1997, is Perez's most brief and least documented book. A large portion of this work has been drawn, with slight modifications, from three of the author's earlier publications. For example, on page 92 he states: "On July 6.... the dreaded quarantine flag was raised ominously behind U.S. lines: yellow fever had struck." This appeared in his *Cuba Between Empires 1872-1902* (1983), page 207, as: "And on July 6 the dreaded quarantine flag was raised ominously behind American lines-yellow fever had struck." Similar repetitions occur in scores of instances. Pages 16 through 21 were borrowed mostly from pages 92 through 96 of *Cuba and the United States Ties of Singular Intimacy* (1990). Chapter four contains over a dozen quotations lifted from pages 199-212 of *Cuba Between Empires*. The middle paragraph on page 11 was taken from pages 175-76 of *Cuba Between Reform and Revolution* (1988).

The bulk of the new information is an extensive historiographical analysis of American writers during the last century. Unfortunately, Pérez does not place them in their proper ideologied schools. No distinction is made between modern historians and those early-twentieth-century scholars who espoused the Social-Darwinist and race supremacy theories of Professor William A. Dunning. There is a hodgepodge of quotations from unidentifiable progressives, pacifists, liberals, conservatives, and Marxist revisionists. As a result, some readers will be left wondering if the person cited is a scholar, a journalist, a hagiographer, or a partisan politician. Solons are mentioned without political affiliation. The poorly compiled three-page index omits all of the authors cited in the historiographical section.

This book, contradicting its title, is deficient in Cuban historiography of the war. Only six pages are dedicated to the opinions of Cuban writers and historians, all of whom have supported the Castro revolution. The works of pre-1959 authors are squeezed, without analysis, into one paragraph in the bibliographical essay. Although Pérez repeatedly stresses that American historians neglect "Cuban archival sources and manuscript collections" (pages xii, 51, 55, 109-10), he fails to quote even one manuscript source from the deteriorating Cuban archives, whose purloined documents have been appearing for sale overseas during the past decade.

While the author presents the contrasting views of writers on the meaning of 1898, some of his own arguments lack balance. Pérez mentions the revulsion felt by some American officers toward Cuban rebels of color but does not describe how African American soldiers felt about helping win freedom for Afro-Cuban insurgents, many of whom were former slaves. In fact, he omits mentioning any of the African American units in active service during the war, including four regular regiments, seven volunteer regiments, and eight state volunteer regiments. Also muted are the opinions of Mexican-American veterans, such as Rough Riders Frank Brito and Captain Maximiliano Luna. Chapter three describes various theories on the destruction of the *USS Maine*. Yet, the author excludes the predominant assumption in Cuba today, originated by the Spaniards in 1898, that the Americans intentionally blew up the battleship, since it was purportedly filled with mostly black sailors, as an excuse to start the war and annex the island.

Pérez stresses that the United States, at the behest of the Spaniards, wronged the Cubans by prohibiting them from entering Santiago de Cuba after its surrender or from participating in the peace negotiations. He could have made a good comparison with the American Revolution, when the British surrendered to the French at Yorktown, rebuffing the Continental Army, and later negotiated a separate peace treaty with France. Overall, this cursory account leaves the historical impact of 1898 beckoning for a broader interpretation.

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