

William McKinley

2 terms in office (1897-1901) He was assassinated six months after his election to a second term.

In the Electoral College, McKinley gained a huge majority vote of 271, while his opponent, William Jennings Bryan, received only 176. The popular vote was significantly closer with 7,102,246 to Bryan's 6,492,559. These were the only two candidates to receive any electoral votes.

4 major ideas of administration:

-Enacted the highest tariff in US history in an attempt to aid a nation still recovering from the Depression of 1893. Although he was said to be a lapdog to the big Trusts, he stated that he believed them (trusts) to be "dangerous conspiracies against the public good."
(basic idea, economic regulation)

-He was forced into the Spanish American War by Congress, after they passed three resolutions effectively declaring war on Spain to liberate Cuba. After the 100 day long war, America gains Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This crushing defeat of a major (not too major) European power earns respect from the rest of Europe and begins our path towards gaining greater influence in world events. (basic idea, Imperialism)

- At this time China was being carved up into spheres of influence by the all the major powers save one, the U.S. So, John Hay initiated the Open Door policy for Chinese affairs, which sought to give equal footing to all the imperial powers and allow recognition of China as a country. This was economically an excellent position to take for the U.S. because it permitted American merchants to continue their trade with China unabated. Whereas, if nothing had been done to check the expanding spheres of influence, Americans, having no sphere of influence, could have easily been excluded from the Chinese market. It was followed by the Europeans only to the extent of using other nations' reluctance to agree with the proposal as an excuse for theirs until the Boxer Rebellion showed that fighting amongst themselves lessened their abilities to exploit China. (basic idea, world affairs)

- In an attempt to solidify the value of paper currency and settle the issue of bimetallism, he passed the Gold Standard Act of 1900. This caused the price of gold to be set at \$20.67 per ounce and required the Treasury to hold \$150 million worth of gold. This act was not as important as was believed when new gold finds were discovered in South Africa, Alaska, and Australia, but was one of his platforms for election. (basic idea, economic regulation)

Administration- The administration is made up of Republicans who favor big business and American imperialism. Manifest Destiny is rampant throughout the administration, influencing a war with Spain and a bloody insurrection in the Philippines. Hawaii is annexed and Cuba becomes a protectorate of the U.S. The economy is on a rapid growth spurt after the Depression of 1893, putting much confidence in the McKinley administration.

Two Problems Faced:

- The Spanish American War and the Filipino insurrection
- McKinley's assassination was definitely a low point in the administration

Two Trivia Facts:

- The United States attempted to mitigate some of the financial damage done to China after the Boxer Rebellion, by later using much of its share of the reparations to fund scholarships for Chinese students studying in America.
- Although McKinley had earlier favored bimetallism and voted for the Bland-Allison Act, he accepted a platform endorsing the gold standard when he ran in 1896.