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Impact of the Spanish American War

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Question 2: Evaluate the extent to which the Spanish- American War was a turning point in American history, analyzing what changed and what stayed the same from the period before the war to the period after it.

The Spanish-American War refers to the US-Spain conflict in 1898 resulting in the latter colonial rule on Americas and US acquisition of regions in the western Pacific and Latin America. It marked the turning point of American history through changing the foreign policy that holds up to date. It was a pivotal point in the foreign policy that saw American initial engagement with the enemy in the rising period of modern warfare. The Spanish war saw American change from non-interference with the global military and political affairs to focus on being a leader in the global arena. Before the war, the American philosophy was centered on the one created by the founding fathers. However, after the war, George Washington cautioned the nation to focus on reducing the prospects of war (Koinstinen, 1997). In his state of the nation address, he asserted that the greatest behavior concerning foreign countries is extending commercial links and minimizing political connection to the lowest mark possible.

The Spanish war had a significant impact on the American position in global politics. America acquired colonies that were formerly under Spanish rule through the Treaty of Paris such as the Philippine. America as the winner of the war turned into a major world power through these far seas possessions. Before the War, Europeans were considered to be world giants through the possession of colonies as a source of prestige and economic explosion. However, American trumping over Spain one of the influential power in Europe America gained a significant stake in the world politics. The gain was a short term as War would make America lead in influencing the European affairs and the rest of the world to date.

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Reference

Koistinen, P. A. (1997). *Mobilizing for Modern War: The Political Economy of American Warfare, 1865-1919*. University Press of Kansas.

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