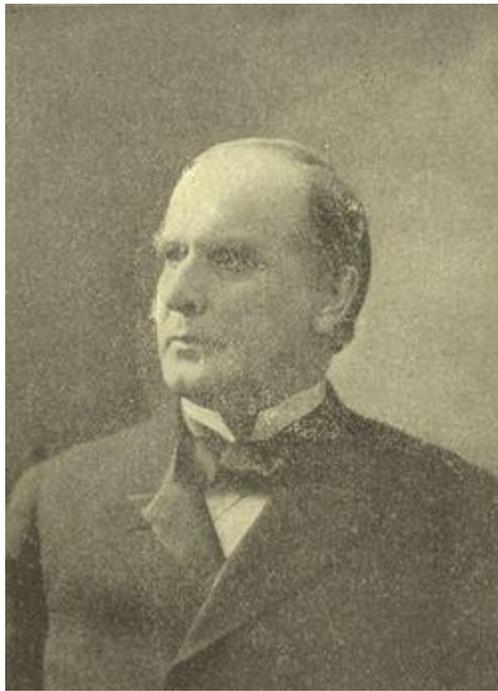


William McKinley



Biography Workbook Series

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U.S. PRESIDENT WILLIAM McKINLEY
(1843-1901)

With all the opportunities that the great American Republic offers to native ability and energy for attaining the highest civic prizes without extraneous assistance or arbitrary distinction, we have produced no more perfect example of a happy result than the career of William McKinley. Foreign critics who are unwilling to see anything good in democracy are fond of repeating certain disparaging assertions concerning American life, activities, and government.

1. **not necessary or vital:**
 - a. arbitrary
 - b. disparaging
 - c. extraneous
 - d. foreign
2. **determined by whim:**
 - a. arbitrary
 - b. disparaging
 - c. extraneous
 - d. unwilling
3. **belittling:**
 - a. arbitrary
 - b. assertions
 - c. disparaging
 - d. extraneous

Foreign critics represent the United States as virtually a plutocracy. But Mr. McKinley never was rich, and never was under the slightest suspicion of using his great office to acquire wealth. They say

Americans are rude and vulgar. But Mr. McKinley was as courteous and as gentle as the most fastidious could wish. They say Americans are ignorant of all but the most sordid affairs. But Mr. McKinley was thoroughly educated. Probably there are not half a dozen statesmen in Europe who know as much of their country as he knew of theirs.

4. **plutocracy:**
 - a. government by the clergy
 - b. government by the majority
 - c. government by the nobility
 - d. government by the wealthy
5. **common:**
 - a. fastidious
 - b. foreign
 - c. great
 - d. vulgar
6. **highly attentive to detail:**
 - a. courteous
 - b. fastidious
 - c. sordid
 - d. vulgar
7. **foul:**
 - a. fastidious
 - b. foreign
 - c. sordid
 - d. vulgar
8. **Mr. McKinley was rude and sordid.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

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Mr. McKinley's devotion to his wife and his home was known and admired by all. William McKinley carried a musket in the great Civil War, won promotion by merit, and participated in fierce battles.

This man came of Scottish ancestry, the earliest records of the family dating from 1547. The crest of the clan was a mailed hand holding an olive branch, and the motto was "Not too much." William (father of the president) was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, in 1807. Two years later, the family removed to Columbiana County, Ohio, where in 1829 he married Nancy Campbell. Nine children were born of this union, of whom William, Jr., was the seventh.

9. William McKinley fought in what American war?

The future president was born in Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio, on January 29, 1843. His grandfather and his father were iron manufacturers. His father was a Whig and a Protectionist. The family were Methodists.

10. The McKinley family belonged to what Protestant denomination?

- a. Baptists
- b. Methodists
- c. Presbyterians
- d. Quakers

11. Where was William McKinley, the future president, born?

William McKinley, Jr., was sent to the public school in Niles, Ohio, until 1852, when his father removed to Poland, Ohio, where he studied at the seminary. He is said to have excelled in mathematics and languages, but was specially noted for his activity and ability in the debating club. Here he was prepared for college, and in 1860 he entered the junior class at Meadville, Pennsylvania.

12. Where, until 1852, did the future president attend public school?

But the boy had worked too hard and steadily. In a little while, he was obliged to give up his studies and seek a change. He taught for a time in a public school. He then became a clerk in the Poland post-office. And here came the turning-point in his life.

The irrepressible conflict, foretold by poets and dreaded by statesmen, broke out in the spring of 1861. The great Civil War, which lasted four years and cost four hundred lives for every day of its duration, appealed to the young manhood of the country as nothing else ever had. While it sent many to the grave, and changed all the scheme of life for others, it opened for still others such careers as without it would have been impossible.

13. irrepressible:

- a. contagious
- b. long
- c. uncontrollable
- d. warlike

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14. foretold:
a. dreaded
b. predicted
c. repressed
d. spoken
15. duration:
a. era
b. length of time that something lasts
c. something that occurs during something else
d. something that must be endured
16. What was the average number of lives lost during each day of the U.S. Civil War?

William McKinley, Jr., then eighteen years of age, was one of the first in his town to enlist for the defense of the Republic. He became a private in the Twenty-third Ohio infantry. In this he was exceedingly fortunate, as it was one of the best regiments in the service and numbered among its officers several who became famous. William S. Rosecrans was the Colonel, Stanley Matthews the Lieutenant-Colonel, and Rutherford B. Hayes (another future president) the Major.

In the four years of its service that regiment mustered, first and last, 2,095 men. The Twenty-third Ohio infantry marched hundreds of miles and was in nineteen battles. One hundred sixty-nine of its men were killed.

17. Young William McKinley enlisted in what regiment?

Young McKinley was one of the model soldiers of the regiment. General Hayes said: "We soon found that in business and executive ability he was of unusual and surpassing capacity for a boy of his age. When battles were to be fought, or a service was to be performed in warlike things, he always took his place."

McKinley said in later years that he looked back with pleasure upon the fourteen months that he carried a musket in the ranks, for they taught him many things. The regiment was sent into West Virginia, and its first engagement was at Carnifex Ferry.

In the summer of 1862, McKinley's regiment was ordered to Washington, D.C. A few days after its arrival in Washington, it joined the Army of the Potomac, which was then moving northward to head off the Army of Northern Virginia, which was bent upon an invasion of the Northern States.

18. What military force was attempting to invade the Northern States in the summer of 1862?

The crash of arms came at South Mountain (September 14th) and Antietam (September 17th). At South

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Mountain, the regiment made three successful charges, and lost heavily. Antietam was the bloodiest day of the war, with more than 2,000 men on each side killed on the field. The Twenty-third Ohio was in the hottest of the fight, holding its position from morning until evening unrelieved.

19. What was the bloodiest day of the U.S. Civil War?

Private McKinley, meanwhile, had been made Commissary Sergeant, and his place was with the supplies in the rear. He pressed a few stragglers into his service and got ready a dinner for the regiment, with hot coffee, and loaded it into two wagons. With these he drove upon the field, under fire. The enemy's shot struck down the mules of one wagon. But with the other, McKinley reached his comrades on the firing-line, who gave a great shout of welcome when they saw him. He walked along the line, and fed every man with his own hand. There is no record that such a thing ever was done before or since. For this service he was made a second lieutenant, and in the following February he was promoted to first lieutenant.

20. Can you imagine yourself performing an act as brave as bringing your fellow soldiers dinner under heavy fire? Why or why not?

The regiment was a part of the force that headed off Morgan in his raid into Ohio, fought him at Buffington's Ford, and finally captured him. After that, it took part in a series of battles in the mountains and in the Shenandoah Valley. At Cloyd's Mountain, after a wonderful march through ravines and dense woods, they burst into the enemy's camp. McKinley led his company, which was the first to leap over the fortifications and silence the guns.

At Winchester, in July, 1864, General Crook's army of 6,000 men was attacked by Early's of 20,000, and compelled to retreat. A West Virginia regiment failed to fall back with the rest, and Lieutenant McKinley was ordered to bring it off. Major Hastings says: "None of us expected to see him again as we watched him push his horse through the open fields. Once he was completely enveloped in the smoke of an exploding shell."

21. McKinley led his company, which was the first to leap over the _____ and silence the guns.

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McKinley brought off the regiment and led it to its place in the marching column. A little later, he found an opportunity to perform another peculiar service. As they continued their retreat down the valley, they came upon four guns, with caissons, that had been abandoned.

Lieutenant McKinley asked for permission to bring them off, and received it, though his superior officers would not order the tired men to undertake the task.

"I think the Twenty-third will do it," said the young lieutenant, and when he called for volunteers every man in his company came forward and the guns were saved. The next day he was promoted to captain.

- 22. two-wheeled wagon for carrying ammunition:**
- artillery**
 - caisson**
 - fortification**
 - stagecoach**

McKinley again distinguished himself in the battles of Berryville, Fisher's Hill, and Opequan. He was now on General Crook's staff, and at the bloody battle of the Opequan there occurred an incident that showed the young officer capable of becoming a successful commander. McKinley was sent with an order to General Duval to move his brigade to a position on the right of the Sixth Corps.

The General asked, "By what route?"

Captain McKinley suggested, "I would move up this creek."

The General, ignorant of the ground, refused to move without definite orders.

"Then," said McKinley, who knew that there was urgent need of the movement, "by command of General Crook, I order you to move your command up this ravine to a position on the right of the army."

- 23. military unit with two or more battalions, groups, regiments, or squadrons:**
- brigade**
 - corps**
 - force**
 - unit**

The movement was made at once, and proved successful. McKinley was also in the fierce fight at Cedar Creek, and afterward served on Hancock's staff. In March, 1865, he received from President Lincoln a commission as Major by brevet for gallant services.

- 24. limited military promotion:**
- brevet**
 - commission**
 - raise**
 - staff**

With so much of heroic character developed at the age of twenty-two, and so much experience in the greatest conflict of the 19th century, McKinley turned to the study of law—first in an office, and then in the Albany Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in 1867.

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25. Where did William McKinley study law?

McKinley settled in Canton, Ohio, which was thenceforth his home. There, in 1871, he married Miss Ida Saxton, who was cashier in her father's bank. Their devotion for thirty years, and the tenderness and constancy with which he watched over her in the latter years when she was an invalid, form a chapter that never can be mentioned without touching the hearts of their countrymen.

26. William McKinley married whom?

Mr. McKinley made his first political speech in 1867. In 1869, as a Republican, he was elected prosecuting attorney for Stark County. In 1875, he made effective speeches for honest money and the resumption of specie payments, and in 1876 he was elected to Congress by a large majority.

He was re-elected six times, but in 1890 was defeated by the gerrymandering of his district. In 1891, he was nominated for governor of Ohio, and was elected by a plurality of 21,500. He was reelected in 1893 by a plurality of more than 80,000.

27. When did William McKinley make his first political speech?

- a. 1865
- b. 1867
- c. 1869
- d. 1871

28. William McKinley was a member of what political party?

29. specie:

- a. amazing events
- b. coined money
- c. special items
- d. types of living organisms

30. William McKinley did not serve in which political capacity?

- a. congressman
- b. governor
- c. mayor
- d. president

In Congress, McKinley had been a prominent debater on many important questions. But he was chiefly conspicuous as an advocate of protectionism. And, as Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, he was largely the author of the tariff bill of 1890 which bears his name. It was slow work getting the bill through Congress, and it did not become a law until October. The most amazing misrepresentations of it were set afloat, and it had not time to vindicate itself before the Congressional elections came on in November, when the party that had carried it through was overwhelmingly defeated.

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31. The McKinley Tariff was enacted in what year?

32. to clear from suspicion:
- a. conspicuous
 - b. prominent
 - c. protectionism
 - d. vindicate

During these years, Mr. McKinley was almost constantly in the field as a political speaker. He became known as one of the most popular and effective that the United States has produced. It is computed that he addressed a larger number of men, from the platform, than any other man that had ever lived.

McKinley was a delegate to several national conventions of his party. In 1888, and again in 1892, there was a strong movement to give him the presidential nomination. But he decisively suppressed it each time—on the first occasion because he had gone there as a friend and supporter of John Sherman, and on the second because he declared that President Harrison was entitled to re-nomination.

33. Why did William McKinley suppress his nomination for president in 1888?

In 1896, McKinley was unanimously nominated on the first ballot. One circumstance that pointed him out as the logical candidate was the fact that his tariff bill had been replaced by one that proved a complete failure. The most exciting question in the canvass was that of free coinage of silver. Mr. McKinley was on a platform that declared for the gold standard, and his opponent, William Jennings Bryan, was on one that declared for free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one. Mr. McKinley was elected by a plurality in the popular vote of more than 600,000, and in the electoral college by 271 to 176. In 1900 he was re-nominated, and his opponent as before was Mr. Bryan, the issues being the same. This time Mr. McKinley had a plurality in the popular vote of more than 800,000, and in the electoral college had 292 to 155.

34. to solicit votes from:
- a. canvass
 - b. elect
 - c. nominate
 - d. recruit

35. William McKinley supported the gold standard.

- a. True
- b. False

36. Who was William McKinley's primary opponent in the elections of 1896 and 1900?

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In the canvass of 1896, Mr. McKinley announced that he would make no electioneering tour. But the people were determined to hear him, and they went to Canton in large delegations and excursions from all parts of the country.

From his doorstep, McKinley made more than three hundred addresses, speaking thus to three-quarters of a million persons. There was scarcely any repetition, yet every speech was an admirable specimen of argument and oratory.

Immediately after his first inauguration he called a special session of Congress to revise the tariff, and the new bill was put through in time to have a fair chance to vindicate itself before new elections occurred. The other notable event in the first year of his administration was the treaty for annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, which he signed in June, but which was not confirmed by the Senate until a year later.

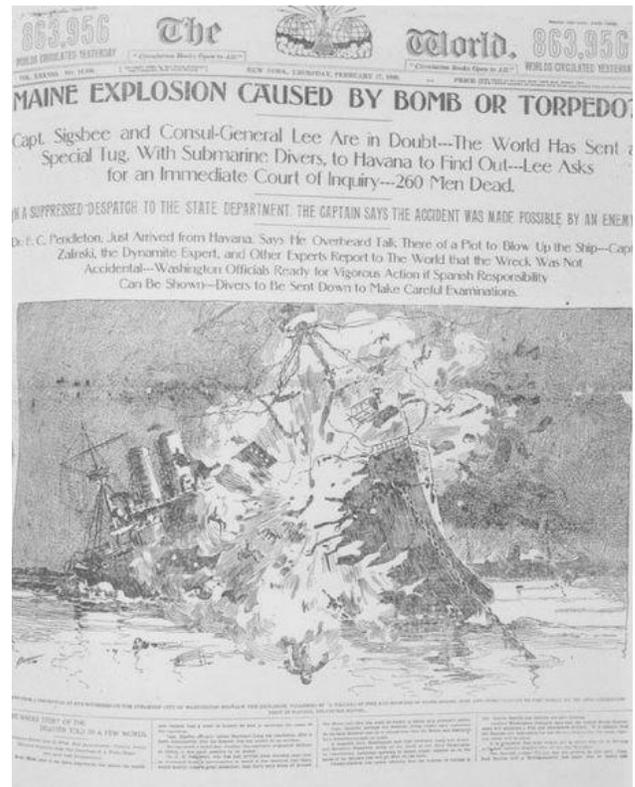
37. When did the United States annex the Hawaiian Islands?
- a. 1896
 - b. 1897
 - c. 1898
 - d. 1899

In 1898 occurred the most important event in American affairs since the Civil War—the war with Spain. This arose from yellow journalism reports of the intolerable condition of things in Cuba, where the Spanish authorities, endeavoring to suppress the last of many insurrections, had resorted to the most

cruel measures. These measures entailed horrible suffering upon the women and children.

The feeling against Spain was intensified by the blowing up of the battleship *Maine* in the harbor of Havana on February 15, 1898. Although historians of the late 20th century determined that the *Maine* most likely suffered from an accidental internal explosion, at the time, the Spanish were held responsible.

38. What ship sunk in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898?



President McKinley did his utmost to prevent actual war. When he saw that to be inevitable, he

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delayed it as long as possible and pushed on the preparations for it with all practicable speed. On April 11th, he sent to Congress a message on the subject. On the 20th, he signed a joint resolution declaring that the people of Cuba ought to be free and independent, and demanding that the Government of Spain relinquish its authority over that island. Diplomatic relations were broken off at once, and a state of war was declared.

Ten days later, an American fleet commanded by Commodore George Dewey entered the harbor of Manila, Philippine Islands, destroyed a Spanish fleet, and silenced the shore batteries, without losing a vessel or a man.

39. Who led American forces in the Philippines?

On July 3rd, another American fleet destroyed another Spanish fleet that had run out of the harbor of Santiago, Cuba, and was trying to escape westward. In this action, again, the Americans lost not a single vessel, and but one man.

Two days earlier than this, the American land forces that had been approaching the defenses of Santiago on the east advanced to the final assault, and after bloody fighting at San Juan Hill and El Caney, they were victorious. The invasion and capture of the island of Puerto Rico,

soon afterward, ended the war in the West Indies.

40. What ended the Spanish-American war in the West Indies?

41. What is the capital city of the Philippines?

42. What is the capital city of Cuba?

43. What is the capital city of Puerto Rico?

- a. Havana
- b. Madrid
- c. Manila
- d. San Juan

44. Which of the following areas did the United States not win as a result of the Spanish-American War?

- a. Cuba
- b. Hawaii
- c. Philippines
- d. Puerto Rico

In August, the American land forces that had been sent to the Philippines captured the city of Manila and its garrison. Peace soon

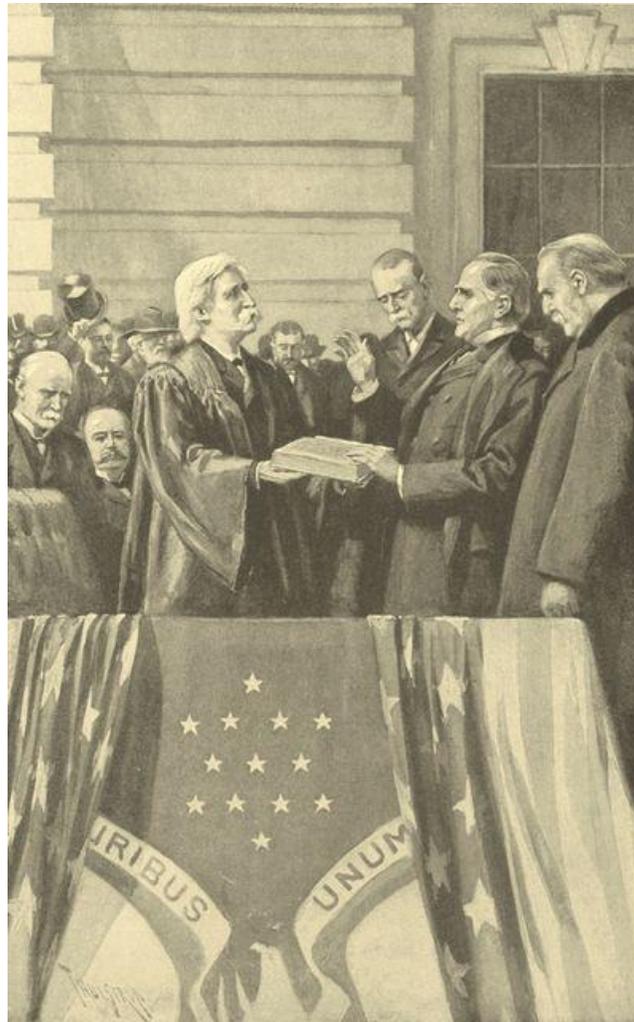
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followed, and by the treaty signed in Paris, December 10th, Spain relinquished its sovereignty over Cuba and ceded to the United States Puerto Rico and the Philippines, receiving \$20,000,000.00 as an indemnity for its expenditures in the last-named islands.

45. protection against damage or loss:
- expenditure
 - garrison
 - indemnity
 - sovereignty

46. When and where did the United States sign a peace treaty with Spain?

47. The Spanish-American War was a long, drawn out struggle that lasted several years.
- True
 - False



President Mckinley taking the oath of office.

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President McKinley traveled extensively during his term of office. He spoke many times in nearly every state. He was probably more generally beloved by the people than most of his predecessors.

McKinley visited the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, New York, in September of 1901. On the 5th of September, he delivered a notable speech, which was admired and commented upon all over the world. The next day, when he was holding a reception in the Temple of Music on the Exposition grounds, he was treacherously shot by an anarchist and wounded so that, in spite of the immediate services of the most skillful surgeons, he died on the 14th.

McKinley's amiable and dignified character was conspicuous to the last. When he saw the crowd

about to kill the assassin on the spot, he exclaimed: "Let no one hurt him!"

To the surgeons he said: "I wish you to do whatever in your judgment is best."

When his last hour came, McKinley was heard softly chanting his favorite hymns—"Nearer, My God, to Thee" and "Abide with Me." His last words were, "It is God's way—His will be done. Goodbye all—goodbye!"

Thus passed away this wonderful man, this model American, worthy of a place in history beside Washington and Lincoln. He had fought like a hero—he had wrought like a genius—he had lived like a patriot—he died like a philosopher.

48. When did President William McKinley die?

Word Search Puzzle

M	A	I	N	E	M	L	A	B
P	C	U	B	A	K	I	L	I
R	O	K	Q	J	R	H	I	A
E	L	N	I	A	A	A	N	F
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T	P	S	O	N	C	W	A	R

TERMS

Buffalo
Civil War
Cuba
Havana
Hawaii
Maine
Manila
McKinley
Ohio
president
San Juan
Spain
tariff
war

Analyzing Political Cartoons and Illustrations

Yellow journalism is a type of journalism that focuses on sensationalism in order to lure readers. Typically, yellow journalism is only loosely based on facts (if based on facts at all). The following pictorial appeared in a Hearst publication in 1898, just before the Spanish-American War. An American woman is shown being unrealistically strip-searched in the presence of three Spanish men.

49. Imagine that you are an American of 1898, viewing this image. How might you react? How might this depiction of Spaniards influence your opinion of the Spanish? Would such an illustration increase or decrease your willingness to go to war against Spain? Explain your answer.



