



Manifest Destiny Across the Pacific

The Philippine-American War and Early Occupation, 1899-1913

[Exhibit Layout]

Introduction

After the American Navy smashed the Spanish Fleet at the Battle of Manila Bay, Filipinos across the islands assumed their independence was on the horizon. Originally viewed as liberators, the Filipinos quickly realized the Americans were no different than the Spanish.

Under the veil of spreading civilization, the United States carried Manifest Destiny westward past the American continent and into the Pacific. Starting in 1899, the Philippine-American war resulted in the devastation of the countryside, the submission of the Filipino people, and the acquisition of a key trading port in Asia.

This exhibit examines the origins and consequences of the Philippine-American War, and how the perception of benevolent assimilation was justified for brutal suppression and subjugation. Additionally, this exhibit highlights the unique history of Filipinos, as the annexation of the Philippines allowed Filipinos to become U.S. Nationals.

Filipino Independence Movement and Spanish American War

The Filipino Independence Movement, led by Jose Rizal and Emilio Aguinaldo, strived to wrest control of the Philippine Islands from Spanish Rule. The movement was brutally crushed with the execution of Rizal and the exiling of Aguinaldo.

The outbreak of the Spanish American War reinvigorated the independence movement. The United States Army attacked Spanish outposts in Cuba and Puerto Rico, before looking west across the Pacific. By mid 1898, the American Navy destroyed the Spanish Fleet at Manila Bay, and returned Aguinaldo to the Philippines from his exile in Hong Kong.

Filipino Independence Movement & the Spanish American War

Portrait of Jose Rizal, c. 1899

Black and White Print

Prints and Photograph Collection

Library of Congress



Filipino Independence Movement & the Spanish American War

Publisher Unknown

“Ultimatum!,” 1898

Prints & Photographs Collection LOT 3711

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This newspaper clipping embodies the patriotic and war-hawk rhetoric of “Yellow Journalism,” which sensationalized the war effort against Spain, and later, the Filipinos. During the 19th century, the United States media heavily influenced the expansionist ideology that enveloped American foreign policy.



Filipino Independence Movement & the Spanish American War

Udo Keppler

“A Puzzle for Populists,” 1898

Chromolithograph

Prints and Photographs Collection

Library of Congress



Filipino Independence Movement & the Spanish American War

"Battle of Manila," 1898

Popular Graphic Arts Collection, Library of Congress"



"You may fire when your are ready, Gridley" - U.S. Commodore George Dewey

Filipino Independence Movement & the Spanish American War

Emilio Aguinaldo, circa 1890s

Photoduplication

Prints and Photographs Collection

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As fighting raged in the island of Luzon, the United States transported Aguinaldo from his exile. The Americans hoped to use Aguinaldo to rally the Filipinos against the Spanish.



Benevolent Assimilation: American empire building

Unbeknownst to Aguinaldo and the Filipinos, the newly-signed Treaty of Paris merely replaced the Spanish Overlords with the Americans. President McKinley viewed the Philippines as not only as an asset but as way to stretch “civilization” across the pacific by “Benevolent Assimilation”.

“The mission of the United States is one of benevolent assimilation substituting the mild sway of justice and right for arbitrary rule” - President William McKinley, 1898



“William McKinley, President of the United States of America,” 1900,

Stregograph,
Marian S. Carson
Collection, Library
of Congress

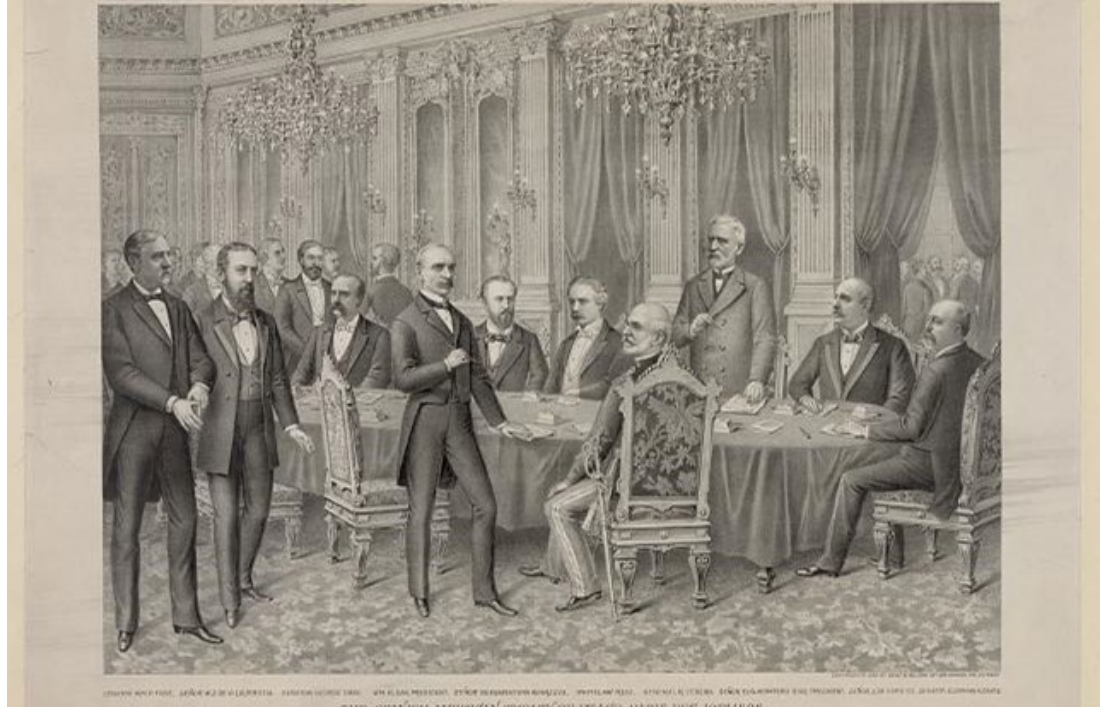
Benevolent Assimilation

The Treaty of Paris officially ended the Spanish-American War, which ceded Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the United States.

“Spanish-American Treaty of Peace,
Paris Dec. 10th 1898”

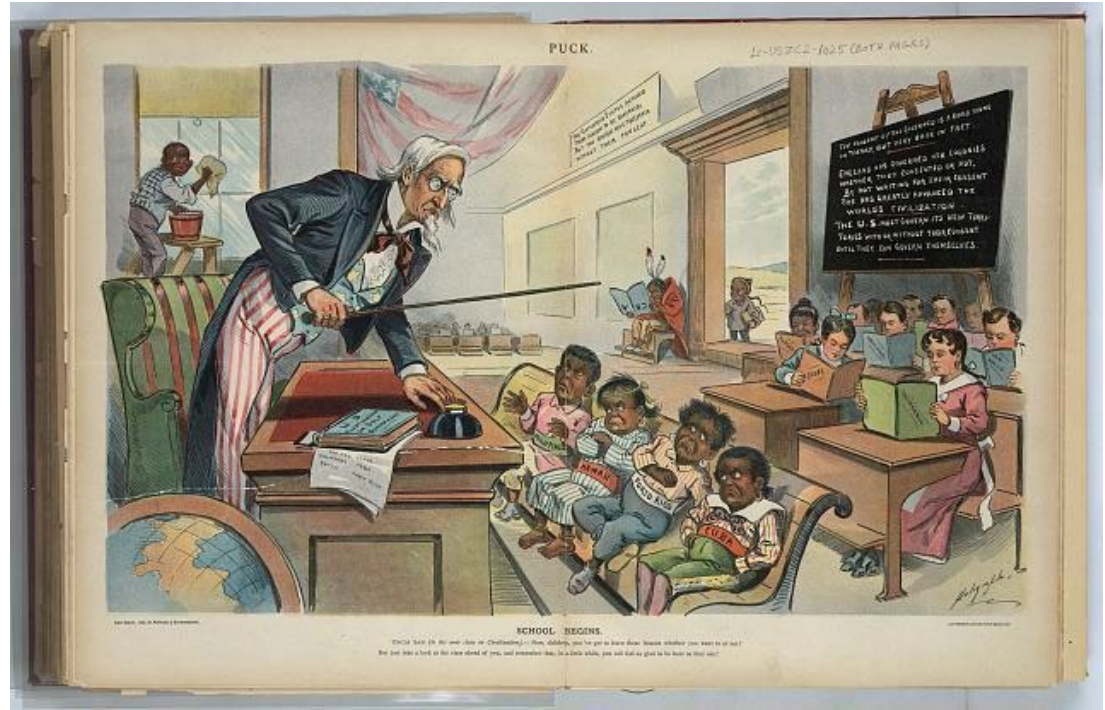
Print

Popular Graphic Arts Collection,
Library of Congress



Benevolent Assimilation

This political cartoon illustrates how American imperialism is interpreted as “the white man’s burden,” showing how the Western world’s belief that underdeveloped countries needed to be civilized by political and economic domination. Pictured here, Uncle Sam has taken it upon himself to teach the Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. Looking closely at the drawing, a book titled “U.S. First Lessons in Self-Government” is on the desk.



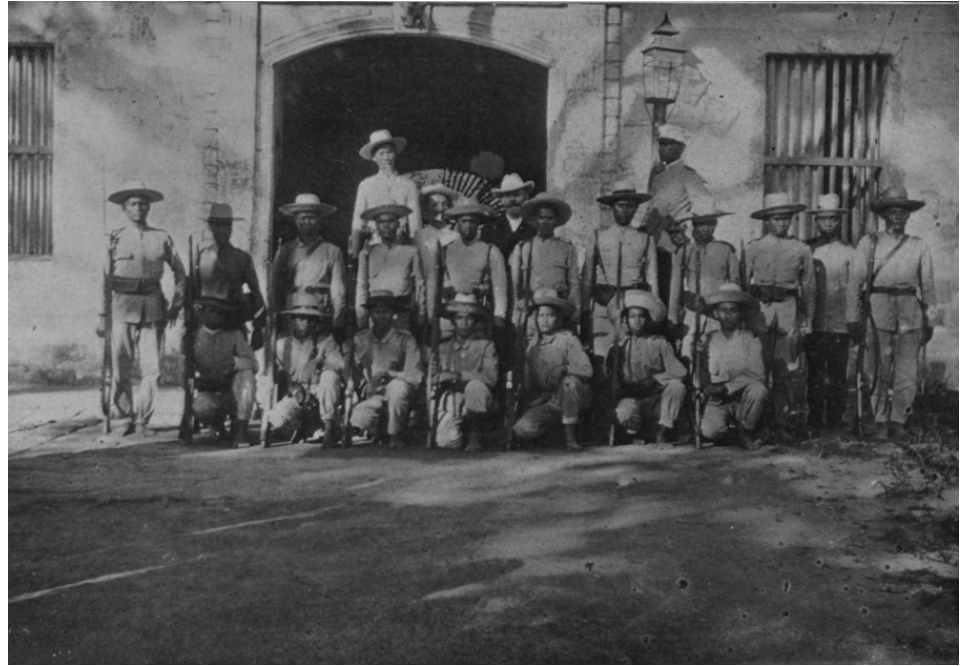
Louis Dalrymple,
“School Begins,” 1898

Chromolithograph
Prints and Photographs Collection,
Library of Congress

Open Conflict

A faux-battle between Spanish and American forces resulted in the U.S. occupation and control of the administrative center of the Islands. Aguinaldo and the Filipinos quickly convened in the Malalos.

Tagalog Philippine Soldiers, 1899
Photoduplication
Prints and Photographs Collection
Library of Congress



Open Conflict

The ill-equipped Filipino forces, with many only armed with traditional weapons such as Bolo Knives, were no match against American firepower. Illustrated in this image, the 20th Kansas Regiment staves off an attack from the Filipinos armed with the handheld knives.

“Philippine Islands: A regiment of sure shots - the fighting 20th Kansas repelling an attack,”
1899

Stereograph

Stereograph Collection

Library of Congress



Open Conflict

“Sacrifice to Aguinaldo's Ambition - Behind the
Filipino Trenches after the Battle of Malabon,
P.I.” 1899

Stereograph

Stereograph Collection

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Open Conflict

“Malolos, Philippines: Old church and smoking ruins of Aguinaldo's headquarters,” 1899
Stereograph
Stereograph Collection, Library of Congress



Open Conflict

“Immediately orders were received from General Wheaton to burn the town and kill every native in sight; which was done to a finish.” - Unknown New York Soldier

After the capture of Malolos, the Philippine Revolutionary capital, Aguinaldo order his troops to engage in a guerilla campaign. Throughout the country, Filipino soldiers blended back into the jungles and amongst the civilian population, striking when soldiers were vulnerable or alone. As seen in this picture, Americans were willing to enact gruesome reprisals; towards guerillas and civilians alike.



“Sacrifice to Aguinaldo's Ambition - Behind the Filipino Trenches after the Battle of Malabon, P.I.” 1899
Stereograph
Stereograph Collection
Library of Congress

Open Conflict

By 1901, Aguinaldo was captured and transported to Manila, where he swore an oath of loyalty to the United States. By 1902, remnants of the Northern and Central Philippine resistance was crushed. As illustrated in this photograph, the “insurrectos” are corralled by American Soldiers into prison camps throughout the country and subjected to forced labor.

“Philippines, Manila, 1899: U.S. soldiers and insurrecto prisoners at the cathedral, Walled City”

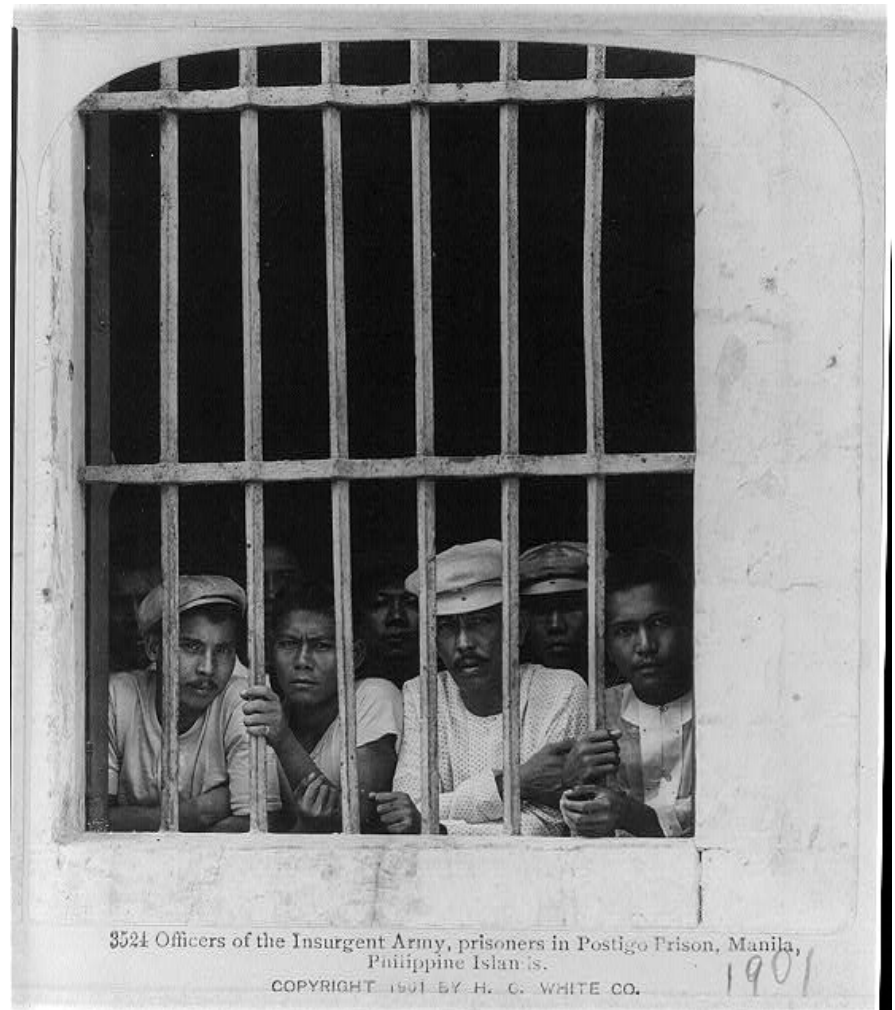
Photographic Print

Prints and Photographs Collection, Library of Congress



Open Conflict

Officers of the Insurgent Army, prisoners in
Postigo Prison, Manila, Philippine Islands," 1901
Stereograph
Stereograph Card Collection
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Philippine Defeat and Moro Rebellion

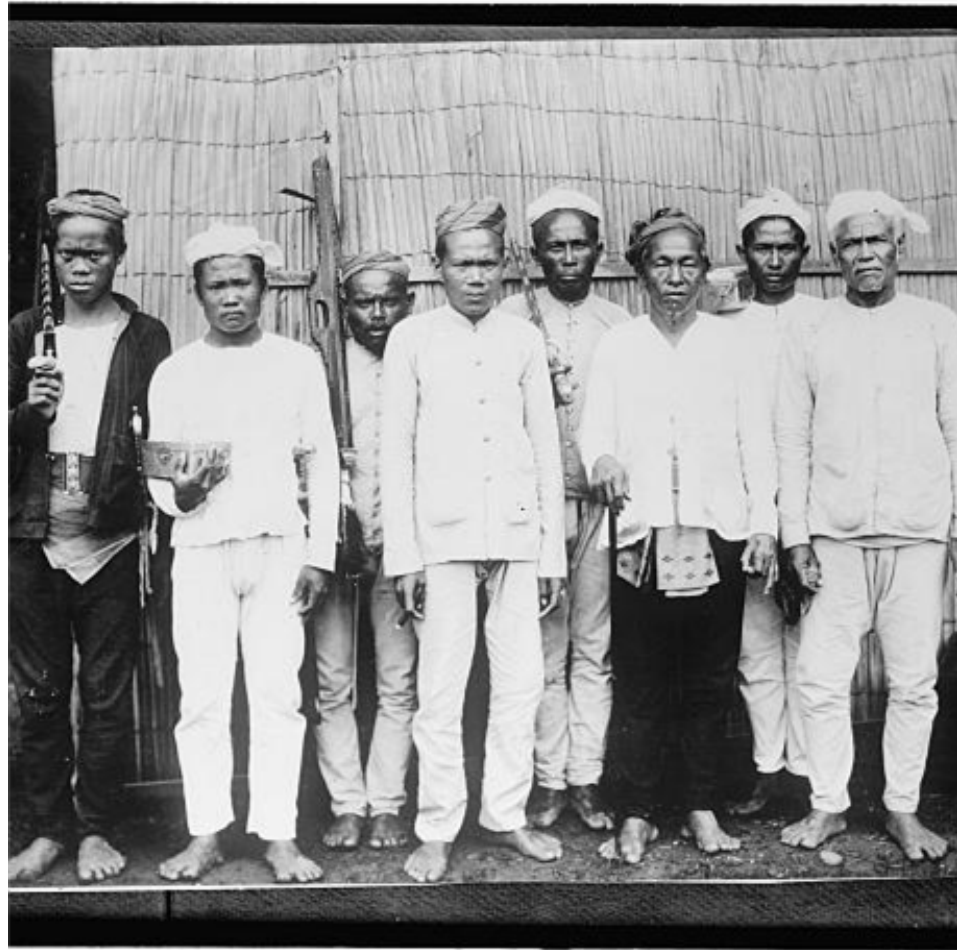
By 1902, The United States officially annexed the Philippines. While crushing the predominantly-Christian northern Filipinos, the Muslim Moro's of the southern islands of Mindanao and Zamboanga did not succumb so easily. Historically, the Moro's fiercely fought against Filipino and Spanish conquerors, and would fight against the United States until 1913.

“Moro Datu and his Followers,” circa 1910s

Negative

Harris & Ewing Collection

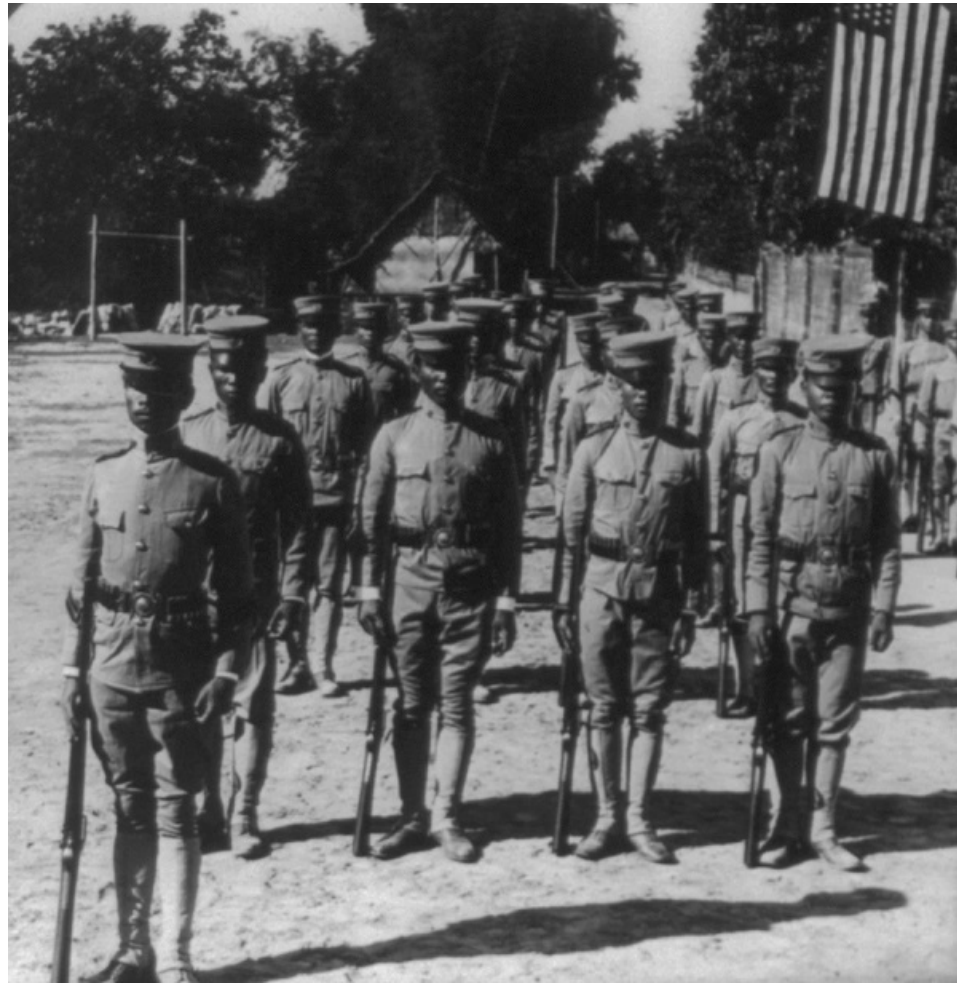
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Philippine Defeat and Moro Rebellion

To fight against the Moro's, the United States organized remnants of the Philippine Army into "Americanized" ranks. Pictured here, these soldiers were tasked in crushing the southern rebellion. After 11 years of resistance, the American and Philippine forces quelled the Moro rebellion.

Filipino Americanized-constabulary soldiers,
Manila, Philippine Islands," 1907
Stereograph
Stereograph collection, Library of Congress



Philippine Defeat and Moro Rebellion

“In the forests of Mindanao, P.I.,” circa 1900s
Stereograph
Stereograph Card Collection
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Devastation of Countryside & Colonial Period

The 14-year war and rebellion ravaged the Filipino countryside and caused the deaths of over 200,000 Filipinos. As a territory of the United States, the Filipino people found themselves in the unique position as U.S. Nationals, allowing some Filipinos to emigrate to the United States. During the 1900s and 1910s, slow emigration of Filipinos to Hawaii was primarily fueled by high unemployment caused by the war's destruction.



“The church at Guadalupe - destroyed by fire - the scene of hard fighting, Philippine Islands,” 1899

Stereograph

Stereograph Collection, Library of Congress

Devastation of Countryside & Colonial Period

After the war, Filipinos were paraded across the United States like circus animals, particularly the indigenous populations living in the Philippines rural and remote parts. Pictured, an indigenous Igirot village is assembly at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, with onlookers gawking at the “tribal” Filipinos.



“Members of Uncle Sam's infant class - Igorotte Filipinos, Igorotte Village, World's Fair, St. Louis, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.,” 1905

Stereograph Card Collection
Library of Congress

Devastation of Countryside & Colonial Period

“Our young filipinos in holiday attire at the
Fourth of July Celebration,” 1902
Stereograph
Stereograph Card Collection
Library of Congress

