

AJC Letters to the Editor, March 25, 2003

Spanish -American war revisited

The war in Iraq seems similar in many ways to the Spanish -American War fought a little more than 100 years ago. Fueled by a jingoistic press and a real desire to free the Cuban people of Spanish tyranny, it established America as an imperialist power with colonies in Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Guam and Cuba. The U.S. Navy destroyed the Spanish fleets.

While "Remember Sept. 11" is now the rallying cry, in 1898 it was "Remember the Maine!" We now believe the Spanish had no connection with the sinking of the Maine.

What have we become? How many bin Ladens will sprout as Baghdad burns?

As a young woman from Spelman College said to me, "If you're not outraged, then you're not paying attention."

LOU SARTOR , Atlanta