

History 271  
Devine  
Spring 2024

**Hoganson, “American Manhood and Declaring War on Spain in 1898”**

1. How were manliness, honor, and pro-war sentiments all connected? How was one’s “manliness” revealed by one’s attitude toward whether the US should fight the Spanish?
2. How had standards of masculinity changed during the late nineteenth century?
3. How did male politicians apply their personal standards of “manly” behavior to international affairs? How did attitudes about gender shape attitudes about foreign policy?
4. How might support for a belligerent foreign policy help foster “male brotherhood” across class and regional lines and also reinforce gender differences between men and women?
5. Why could women generally take a less bellicose stance on foreign policy than men without losing their reputation or personal status?
6. How did both the supporters (and critics) of President McKinley use gendered language to defend (and attack) the President’s unwillingness to go to war against Spain? How did one group’s definition of “manly” differ from the other’s?
7. How did public discussions about “McKinley’s backbone” shape US foreign policy toward Spain?