

EXPANDED ANSWER 24:

From the US Constitution: [Wikipedia]

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

“This clause, commonly known as the Property or Territorial Clause, grants Congress the constitutional authority for the management and control of all territories or other property owned by United States. Additionally, the clause also proclaims that nothing contained within the Constitution may be interpreted to harm (prejudice) any claim of the United States, or of any particular State. The exact scope of this clause has long been a matter of debate.”

US PRECEDENTS: [paraphrased from Wikipedia]

In keeping with the idea that the ultimate goal for the Philippines was independence, US President Theodore Roosevelt said as early as 1901, "we hope to do for them what has never been done for any people of the tropics—to make them fit for self-government after the fashion of really free nations.[4]" because of the tendency of the American public to view America's presence in the Philippines as unremunerative and expensive, Roosevelt had concluded by 1907 that, "we shall have to be prepared for giving the islands independence of a more or less complete type much sooner than I think advisable.[4]"

Under the 1898 treaty of Paris, Spain relinquished all claim of sovereignty over and title to Cuba, with the island to be occupied by the United States. Under the Teller amendment Congress had already decided against annexation. Cuba gained formal independence on 20 May 1902. Under the new Cuban constitution, however, the US retained the right to intervene in Cuban affairs and to supervise its finances and foreign relations through the Platt amendment;^[9] this, however, was later renounced as part of Franklin Roosevelt's good neighbor policy.^[9] Under the Platt amendment (1901), Cuba also agreed to lease to the US the naval base at Guantánamo Bay.