

# William Randolph Hearst



**The Question:** War is happening between the Spanish and their colonies. Should the U.S. intervene? What should be done with the territories afterwards?

**My Life:** (Picture yourself as a James Bond villain or a used car salesman)

- “You provide the pictures, I provide the war,” That’s my catchphrase.
- My friend, Joseph Pulitzer and I are giants in American media. We’ve turned failing newspapers like *The New York Morning Journal* and *The Evening World* into million dollar profit machines.
- You want to know our secret? **Yellow journalism:** the publication of semi-truthful newspaper articles that focus on emotions more than facts.
- **Now, hear me out...** Which would you rather read: a boring report that says the Spanish **might** be mistreating the Cuban and Filipino people or a burning tell-all article about lustful, bloodthirsty Spaniards burning countrysides and harassing innocent women?
- That was a rhetorical question, of course. Outrage sells and facts flop! You want to know how I know? So many people have bought my yellow newspapers that **I literally built a castle in Southern California with all my money.** Try doing that by sticking with facts.

**My Point of View and Personality:**

- I am a wealthy white male with a radical agenda.
- **The only true thing I can tell you is that I lie for a living.** Since millions of Americans buy my newspapers, they see the world the way I want them to see it. Not the way it is.
- I have directly inspired two major characters in American cinema: Charles Foster Kane from *Citizen Kane* (known by many film experts as the best movie ever made, by the way) and Elliot Carver, the main villain from the James Bond film *Tomorrow Never Dies* who prints fake news to start World War III.

**My Argument: The United States SHOULD get involved in the conflict because...**

**Americans are under attack:**

- Breaking news! The **U.S.S. Maine has been destroyed. 260 sailors have been murdered!** That American destroyer was just minding its own business off the coast of Cuba when it was **torpedoed by the bloodthirsty Spanish navy.**
- **If 260 of America’s best sailors can be blown to bits, it can happen to you!**
- **STAY OUT OF THE WATER! AS LONG AS SPAIN IS IN CUBA! YOU ARE NOT SAFE!**
- **Remember the Maine and to Hell with Spain!** (That’s my other catchphrase.)
- (SAVE FOR ACT 2) (To Reed’s question about facts) (Shush him and then say) **Speculation is boring, spectacle is where the money’s at!**
  - (To Reed’s criticism) Americans like winning wars and I like making money. Who really gets hurt in this arrangement?

**What should be done with the islands after the war?**

**Annex them:** Most of my readers don’t know a thing about Cuba, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. Maybe I should print articles saying that rum flows like water in Cuba and everyone there is single and beautiful. We’d add them as new states overnight.