



THE AMERICAN METHOD OF MADNESS

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In the collective memories of many nations, the United States takes the role of the top cop, the mega-entrepreneur, the manifestation of military might. In the collective memories of its citizens, the U.S. is the bane of fascism, the heroes of the World War and the loudest advocate for civil rights in what it calls "third-world countries" —that is, up until now.

The U.S. cloaks its age-old push for power in performative policies and an utter lack of action. We know that now. The federal government's intervention in foreign and domestic affairs exhibits at best the neglect of marginalized voices and at worst the violent oppression of its own people. "Whats going on?" is a question we often hear, often in times of social upheavals, or, to the uninformed observers, times of utter madness. The media circus rarely helps, what with their tangled knots of esoteric explanations. But take a step back and one could see the patterns, the motives and, most importantly, the beneficiaries

—which oftentimes inevitably turns out to be the U.S. government. The U.S. government has time and again claimed to uphold a set of morals that values peace and independent democracies, but through methodical involvement in other nations' conflicts, the federal government contributes to a global sense of unrest and mayhem.

A classic example can be traced back to the 1800s, during Cubans fight for independence from Spain. On paper, the U.S. claimed to support Cuban independence. The outcome of the war suggests that it did not. When President William McKinley made his declaration of war with Spain, he named two reasons: defense of the U.S. economy and support of Cuban independence. However, once the U.S. was officially involved in the war, it used the conflict as an excuse to annex Hawaii. As a state, Hawaii would be used to export profitable resources like sugar as well as host a major naval base in Pearl Harbor.

