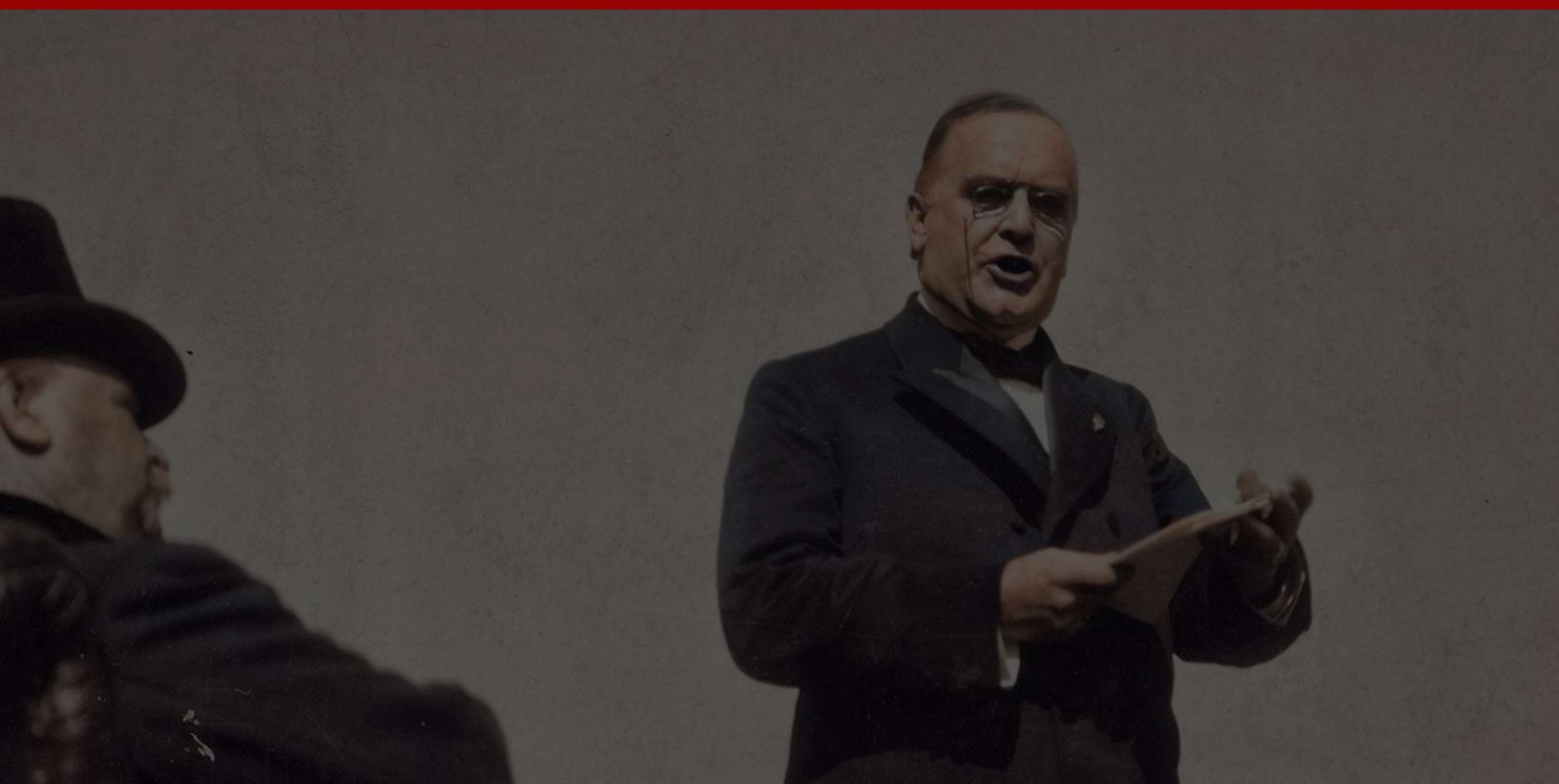




**HTU MUN**

**CASE GUIDE**



# The Prosecutor v. William McKinley



INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
HTUMUN



## Brief Background

William McKinley was the 25th president of the United States, serving from March 4, 1897, until his assassination six months into his second term. During his presidency the Spanish-American war took place under his command, where the United States came out victorious. During the war he allowed both the United States army and the Cuba rebels to wreck havoc against the Spanish navy, where the Spanish navy had an exponential loss compared with both the US and Cuban army/rebels.

In 1895, Cuba, located less than 100 miles south of the United States, attempted to overthrow Spanish colonial rule. The rebels received financial assistance from private U.S. interests and used America as a base of operations from which to attack. The Spanish military responded with brutal force where many Cuban civilians died in wretched conditions within Spanish concentration camps between 1895 and 1898. McKinley originally tried to avoid an armed conflict with Spain, but the American media, led by newspaper baron Randolph Hearst, lambasted McKinley as weak and whipped up popular sentiment for a war to give Cubans their independence.

For further information, refer to the **“William McKinley: War Message”**.

A formal declaration of war came on April 25. The Spanish-American War lasted from early May to mid-August, until U.S. forces defeated Spain near Santiago harbor in Cuba, occupied Puerto Rico and seized Manila in the Philippines.

## Under the Rome Statute

**Article 8:** War Crimes

**Article 28:** Responsibility of Commanders and Other Superiors