

THE FIRST WARS OF THE ERA OF MODERN HISTORY

Muydinov Mukhammadali

Faculty of History of Fergana State University

3rd year student

Annotation: *The Spanish-American (1898), Anglo - Boer (1899 - 1902) and Russian-Japanese (1904-1905) wars were the first warriors for the redivision of an already divided world. The cause of the Spanish-American War was the desire of the United States to seize the economically and strategically important islands in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and in the Caribbean that belonged to Spain. Under the pretext of helping the population of these islands, who fought against the Spanish colonialists, the United States in April 1898 . started a war with Spain.*

Keywords : *the American fleet, wooden Spanish ships , liberation movement , war , conqueror .*

Introduction : The warships of the American fleet, which had powerful artillery and armor for that time, easily destroyed wooden Spanish ships armed with obsolete cannons. The garrisons of Spanish troops in Cuba and the Philippines were defeated mainly by rebel detachments that had risen to fight for national independence. Already in August 1898 . Spain admitted defeat. The USA seized the Philippine Islands, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, suppressing the national liberation movement there.

The outcome of this war was predetermined by the immeasurable economic and military superiority of the United States over Spain . The Spanish-American War clearly showed the important role of economic potential, the superiority and power of the armored fleet, the high efficiency of smokeless powder, rapid-fire and long-range artillery.

The reason for the Anglo-Boer War was the desire of England to seize the two small Boer republics of Transvaal and Orange, on whose territory there were the richest deposits of gold and diamonds. Defending their independence, the Boers created an army on a militia basis with a total strength of up to 60 thousand people, arming it with the latest magazine rifles for that time and a small number of machine guns and rapid-firing artillery. They skillfully used the capabilities of the new weapon and in 1899 . inflicted several heavy defeats on the British invaders.

B 1900 . England sent over 200,000 soldiers against the Boers and occupied the territory of the Transvaal and Orange. The Boers switched to guerrilla methods of warfare and for two years fought a heroic struggle against the British troops, although the number of the latter reached 450 thousand people. Only the brutal repression of the British against the civilian population forced the Boers to spring 1902 . stop resisting.

The Anglo-Boer War confirmed that the fire of rapid-fire rifled weapons was becoming the decisive element of combat, and the skirmisher chain was the most expedient form of infantry battle formation. The field defense of troops has been developed with extensive use of advantageous lines, natural and artificial obstacles. When attacking such a defense, artillery preparation was required. In the course of the war, the great importance of

the moral factor, the moral and combat superiority of the army waging a just war, manifested itself.

Some features of the wars of the era of modern history were clearly manifested during the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905. The cause of the war was the clash of interests of tsarist Russia and imperial Japan, who sought to turn Korea, Manchuria and other regions of the Far East into their colonies. Consequently, both countries waged an unjust, predatory war.

Discussion : Russia underestimated the strength of the enemy and poorly prepared for the war: the only railway linking the center of the country with the theater of operations, and the fortifications of the main base of the Russian fleet - the fortress of Port Arthur - were unfinished. By the beginning of the war, Russia had only about 100,000 soldiers and 57 warships in the Far East. According to the strategic plan, the Russian army had to conduct defense for several months, necessary for the transfer and concentration of forces and means, and then go on the offensive and defeat the enemy army.

Japan, with the help of the United States and England, created a large army (over 370 thousand people) and a strong navy (73 warships), which surpassed the Russian squadron in the Far East in armored cruisers, cruisers and destroyers.

Japan's strategic plan called for the conquest of dominance at sea by a surprise attack on the Russian Pacific squadron in Port Arthur, the transfer of land armies to the continent and the capture of the Liaodong Peninsula and Manchuria before the arrival of large Russian army forces there.

The war began on the night of January 27 (February 9) 1904 . treacherous attack of the main forces of the Japanese fleet on the Russian Pacific squadron, which was carelessly standing on the outer roadstead of Port Arthur. At the same time, two Russian battleships and one cruiser were seriously damaged.

Japan, having achieved superiority at sea, was able to transport its ground forces to the continent almost without hindrance and deployed five armies there.

Russian troops in the Far East were consolidated into the so-called Manchurian army . When its number reached 300 thousand people (at the end 1904 .), The 1st, 2nd and 3rd armies were created.

During the course of the war, Japan retained the initiative of actions at sea and on land. The outcome of the war was decided in a tense and lengthy (May-December 1904 r) struggle for the seaside fortress of Port Arthur and in several major battles between the main forces of the Russian and Japanese armies. Due to mediocre leadership and poor command and control of the troops, the defense of Port Arthur and the main field battles ended in the defeat of the Russian troops.

The Russian government hoped to change the course of the war by transferring a large squadron formed in the Baltic to the Far East. However, in May 1905 . this squadron was attacked and completely defeated by the main forces of the Japanese fleet in the Tsushima Strait. Military failures and the growth of the revolution within the country forced the tsarist government to accept the terms of peace dictated by Japan.

The main culprit behind the defeat of Russia was the reactionary tsarist system, which hampered the development of the country in all areas, including the military.

Achieved by the beginning of the twentieth century. the level of development of the productive forces had a decisive influence on the methods of waging war. The troops were armed with repeating rifles, rapid-fire cannons (up to 10 rounds per minute), and a small number of machine guns. The mortar was invented. Armored ships with mechanical engines, armed with long-range artillery and torpedo tubes, formed the basis of the combat power of the navy. The importance of superiority at sea increased. The rapidly developing means of transport (railroads and the navy) made it possible to transfer large groupings of troops over vast distances. New means of communication were widely used - telegraph and telephone; radio began to be used in the troops.

Solution : Important changes have taken place in tactics. The strength and effectiveness of the fire increased so much that the use of close masses of infantry and cavalry in battle became impossible. The artillery fire zone increased from 2- 3 km to 5- 6 km, and, entering this zone, the troops were forced to use a dismembered formation in order to get close to the enemy without unnecessary losses. The main form of combat order of the infantry in the zone of rifle and machine-gun fire was the rifle chain. To deliver a bayonet strike, the infantry had to first accumulate enough forces at the starting line for an attack. Without reliable artillery preparation, i.e. without the suppression of the main fire weapons of the enemy, it was difficult to count on the success of the attack. Thus, an offensive battle, combining fire, maneuver and strike, was carried out to a depth of several kilometers and began to be divided into periods of rapprochement, offensive and attack. In order to reduce losses from enemy fire and achieve surprise strikes, they began to resort to night battles more often.

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