

Chapter 12-Day 2

Section 2—The Spanish-American War

- Feb. 15, 1898 the USS Maine anchored in Havana Harbor, Cuba (a Spanish colony) exploded. We blamed Spain.
- Cuba one of Spain's oldest and most profitable colony, fights for independence off and on since 1868. 1895 they start another rebellion
- William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer wrote "sensational stories" about it. This became known as **yellow journalism**.
- Cuban rebels attack American businesses to try and draw U.S. into war
- 1897 Pres. McKinley wants to negotiate between Cuban rebels and Spain or we might intervene
- Spain offered Cuba autonomy but would remain part of Spanish empire. Cuba refused.
- Jan. 1898 riots in Havana, Pres. McKinley sends USS Maine to protect Americans
- Feb. 1898 New York Journal publishes letter from Spanish Ambassador criticizing Pres. McKinley
- Maine explodes. U.S. goes to war
- Teller Amendment declared we were fight for Cuban independence.
- April 19, 1898 U.S. Congress declares Cuba independent from Spain and we demand Spain withdraw. They refuse and declare war on US
- Spanish-American War fought on 2 fronts, in the Pacific and at Cuba. 1st action took place in the Philippines. Commodore Dewey attacked Spanish ships in Manila Bay. Destroying all. Army sends troops to seize Guam.
- Army not ready—volunteers lacked training and equipment.
- June 14, 1898, 17,000 American troops land in Cuba. Spanish fleet occupied Santiago Harbor protected by shore guns. Plan was to take guns and drive Spanish fleet into arms of U.S. navy
- Rough Riders was a volunteer cavalry unit led by Leonard Wood, 2nd in command Teddy Roosevelt
- Americans captured Kettle Hill, then went to San Juan Hill outside Santiago. Spanish commander panics and orders Spanish fleet to flee, right into arms of U.S. navy. 2 weeks later Spanish resistance ends.
- U.S. occupies Puerto Rico another Spanish colony.
- Aug 12, 1898 cease fire signed
- War lasted 3 months—2,500 Americans die, only 400 in battle, the rest died from food poisoning, yellow fever, malaria and inadequate medical care.
- Treaty of Paris 1898—established Cuban independence, United States got Guam, Puerto Rico, and we paid \$20 million for Philippines. We were now an empire.
- Not everyone happy about empire (1)Andrew Carnegie thought cost outweighed benefits (2)Samuel Gompers warned Filipinos would drive wages down (3)Jane Addams and Samuel Clemens believed it violated basic American principles