CUBAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE BEGINS

Cuba, a Spanish colony, already had two failed revolutions. On February 24, organized uprisings started the third attempt.

On June 12, President Grover Cleveland issued a proclamation of U.S. neutrality as Cuba and Spain fought.
RECONCENTRATION POLICY

Spanish military leaders forced Cubans into concentration camps. The camps didn’t have enough food, housing, clothes, medical care and sanitation. Thousands of Cubans died from starvation or disease.
PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION BEGINS

The Philippines, a Spanish colony, began their own revolution.
SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM

Competing for readership, newspapers in New York City reported exaggerated stories about the Cuban revolution. These stories strengthened anti-Spanish feelings in the United States.

An 1897 New York Journal cover story about the Cuban revolution. (LOC)
The USS Maine was an American ship docked in Havana. When it suddenly exploded, more than 260 sailors were killed (out of a crew of 354). Newspapers in America blamed the Spanish. Even now, the exact cause of the explosion is still unknown. “Remember the Maine!” became an American rallying cry for war.
U.S. Declared War

On April 25, Congress declared that the U.S. and Spain were at war. They demanded Cuban independence and said the U.S. couldn’t annex Cuba.

Marine guard drilling onboard the USS Iowa. (LOC, ca. 1899)
U.S. VICTORY IN THE PHILIPPINES

In six hours of fighting, the U.S. Pacific Fleet destroyed all seven Spanish ships in the Philippines and killed or injured more than 370 Spanish sailors. No Americans died and fewer than 10 were injured.
U.S. VICTORY AT SAN JUAN HEIGHTS

U.S. and Cuban troops captured the San Juan Heights. Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders (a volunteer unit made up of Western cowboys, Native Americans, and Ivy League athletes) charged up Kettle and San Juan Hills alongside Buffalo Soldiers (African American soldiers) and white regular soldiers.
**SPANISH FLEET IN CUBA DESTROYED**

Six ships of the Spanish navy tried to leave Santiago Bay. The U.S. Navy destroyed all six ships.

*The Spanish destroyer Furor is attacked by the USS Iowa, USS Indiana and USS New York in this illustration of the battle. (Public domain/R. Verdugo Landi, 1898)*
Hawaiian Queen Lili‘uokalani was overthrown in 1893. Americans on the island supported the U.S. annexing the island, but most Hawaiians were against it. It was also unpopular in the United States. The Spanish-American War convinced Congress to annex Hawaii.
SPANISH SURRENDER AT SANTIAGO

Fighting in Cuba ended. The U.S. Navy seized Puerto Rico soon after.

Illustration of the Battle of Santiago. (LOC, 1899)
The Protocol of Peace ended the fighting and set the terms of the official treaty.

In the treaty, Cuba became independent and the U.S. got Puerto Rico and Guam. Spain also had to sell the Philippines to the U.S. for $20 million.
The U.S. refused to recognize the new Filipino government. When 3 Filipino soldiers were killed by U.S. soldiers near Manila, Filipinos declared war on the U.S.
PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR ENDS

After 3 years and thousands of deaths, fighting ended and the U.S. declared victory.

The Philippines remained part of the U.S. until 1946, when they became independent.
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR: A TIMELINE

- Feb. 1895: Cuban War of Independence Begins
- Aug. 1896: Philippine Revolution begins
- May 1, 1898: U.S. Victory in the Philippines
- July 3, 1898: Spanish Fleet in Cuba Destroyed
- July 17, 1898: Spanish Surrender at Santiago
- Feb. 1899: Philippine Battle for Independence
- July 12, 1898: Peace Protocol Signed
- Aug. 1898: U.S. Annexes Hawaii
- July 1, 1898: U.S. Victory at San Juan Heights
- April 25, 1898: U.S. Declares War
- Feb. 1898: USS Maine Explodes

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