Key Events & Battles: Spanish-American War

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| **Event/Battle** | **Date** | **Location** | **Significance** |
| Spanish send Valeriano ("Butcher") Weyler to Cuba to put down Cuban rebellion | February 1895 | Cuba | Cuban towns turned into concentration camps, rebels are tortured. Newspaper publishers Pulitzer and Hearst print sensational stories to boost circulation. This came to be known as the "Yellow Press." |
| McKinley elected president | November 1896 | U.S. | Two campaign promises: 1) Protect American business and 2) Free the Cuban people. |
| Negotiations between Spain and U.S. break down after insulting letter from Spanish ambassador is published | February 9, 1898 | New York Journal | Dupuy de Lome had written that Pres. McKinley was "...weak...and a would-be politician..." He resigns, though American people are angered. |
| U.S.S. Maine blows up | February 15, 1898 | Havana Harbor | 260 American sailors killed after mysterious explosion. Yellow Press call for war against Spain ("Remember the Maine"), offer rewards for proof of Spanish plot. |
| Assistant Secretary Theodore Roosevelt orders Admiral Dewey to prepare for Asian war | February 25, 1898 | Washington, D.C. | Roosevelt tells Dewey to attack Spanish fleet in the Philippines if war broke out between U.S. and Spain. |
| McKinley asks Congress to declare war | April 11, 1898 | Washington, D.C. | Although Spain agrees to all American demands, McKinley tells Congress that God has told him to attack the Spanish forces. |
| Dewey sinks Spanish fleet | May 1, 1898 | Manila Bay | In just seven hours, the entire Spanish Asian fleet is sunk. U.S. suffers one death. |
| Roosevelt's Rough Riders take San Juan Hill | June 1898 | Santiago, Cuba | Roosevelt achieves heroic stature for leading men (sans horses) up hill overlooking Santiago Harbor. |
| Americans destroy Spanish Caribbean fleet | July 3, 1898 | Off southern Cuban coast | Every Spanish warship is sunk as fleet tries to run to open sea. |
| U.S.-Filipino War | 1898-July 1902 | Philippine Islands | Led by Emilio Aguinaldo, Filipinos fought Americans for independence. Effort fails and Philippines stay under American control until captured by Japan in 1942. |

**Results of Spanish-American War**

1. 385 American battle deaths (1/20th the number lost at Gettysburg)

2. Several thousand deaths from disease and poisoned meat

3. Cost: $250,000,000

4. U.S. acquires Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippine Islands (100,000 sq. miles, 10 million people) for $20 million

5. Anti-Imperialists angered by anti-democratic aspects of imperialist efforts

6. Teller Amendment pledged that U.S. would guarantee self-rule to Cubans

7. Platt Amendment restricted Cuban foreign policies and gave U.S. land for coaling or naval stations

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Feldmeth, Greg D. "U.S. History Resources"   
http://home.earthlink.net/~gfeldmeth/USHistory.html (31 March 1998).