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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