

Spanish-American War

- ❖ President **McKinley** was prez prior to & during the S-A War
 - ❖ He was resistant to war w/ Spain
 - ❖ Believed atrocities were committed by rebels & Spanish
- ❖ Before McKinley committed to war, Spain started reforming its treatment of Cuba
 - ❖ **Weyler was recalled to Spain**
 - ❖ **Spain promised more self-govt. for the Cubans**
 - ❖ The rebels demanded total independence
- ❖ McKinley urged the “**war hawks**” to give Spain a chance to change
 - ❖ 2 incidents provoked demands for war
 - ❖ The **de Lome letter**
 - ❖ Private letter from a Spanish diplomat – intercepted
 - ❖ De Lome called McKinley weak and indecisive
 - ❖ Hearst published the text – seen as an insult to U.S.
 - ❖ **Sinking of the U.S.S. Maine**
 - ❖ Battleship docked in Havana harbor – mysteriously exploded
 - ❖ Possible mine or torpedo – maybe an accident
 - ❖ 260 killed
 - ❖ Hearst paper accused Spanish – offered \$50K reward for capture of attackers
 - ❖ Pro-war battle cry: “**Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain!**”
 - ❖ The pressure on McKinley was too strong – he called for war
 - ❖ **War declared on 4/20/1898**
- ❖ **S-A War fought on two fronts – Caribbean & Philippines**
 - ❖ U.S. Naval commander in Philippines – **Commodore George Dewey**
 - ❖ His famous quote: “You may fire when ready, Gridley”



- ❖ U.S. annihilated the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay
 - ❖ U.S. teamed w/ Filipino rebels led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo
 - ❖ Spanish surrendered to U.S. – **NOT** the rebels
- ❖ In Cuba, U.S. admiral William Sampson formed naval blockade
 - ❖ Sealed Spanish fleet in Santiago Harbor
 - ❖ U.S. ground troops brought in – mostly ill-prepared volunteers
 - ❖ One group – **Rough Riders** – led by T. Roosevelt
 - ❖ Most famous battle – **Battle of San Juan Hill (7/1/98)**
 - ❖ Rough Riders & 2 Black regiments beat the Spanish
- ❖ After SJH & victory over Spanish fleet, U.S. invaded Puerto Rico - 7/26/98
- ❖ The Spanish surrendered – signed the **Treaty of Paris (12/10/98)**
 - ❖ Among “prizes” of U.S. victory, U.S. gets **Puerto Rico & Guam**
 - ❖ Cuba was to become independent
 - ❖ A question remained: **What should be done w/ the Philippines?**
 - ❖ **Many Americans wanted to annex them**
 - ❖ Could use the islands for military & commercial reasons
 - ❖ McKinley had to choose between:
 - ❖ Leaving the islands in Spanish control
 - ❖ Turn them over to another Euro power
 - ❖ Allow the Filipinos to govern themselves
 - ❖ Take control of the Philippines ourselves
 - ❖ Could "help" them modernize, Christianize, etc
 - ❖ He **chose to take control**
 - ❖ The Treaty had to be ratified by Congress
 - ❖ Many opposed imperial expansion
 - ❖ Some said it was against American ideal of liberty
 - ❖ Others (labor) didn't want Filipinos vying for jobs
 - ❖ Some were simply racist & didn't want dark skinned subjects under U.S. rule
 - ❖ Despite the opposition, the Treaty of Paris (1898) passed by a narrow margin
 - ❖ **The U.S. was on the way to being an empire**

