

The Spanish-American War

1800's - Slowly Spain loses its empire in South and Central America as many colonies fight for their independence.

Late 1800's - Only Spanish colonies left in the America are Cuba and Puerto Rico.

1895 - Cuban rebels begin another attempt at winning their independence.

Spain reacts with brutal consequences. General Weyler uses torture and executions to control the rebels. 100,000 people die of starvation in prison camps.

War Fever

Yellow Journalism - US papers tell sensational stories of the cruelty of General Weyler. Americans want to support the Cubans.

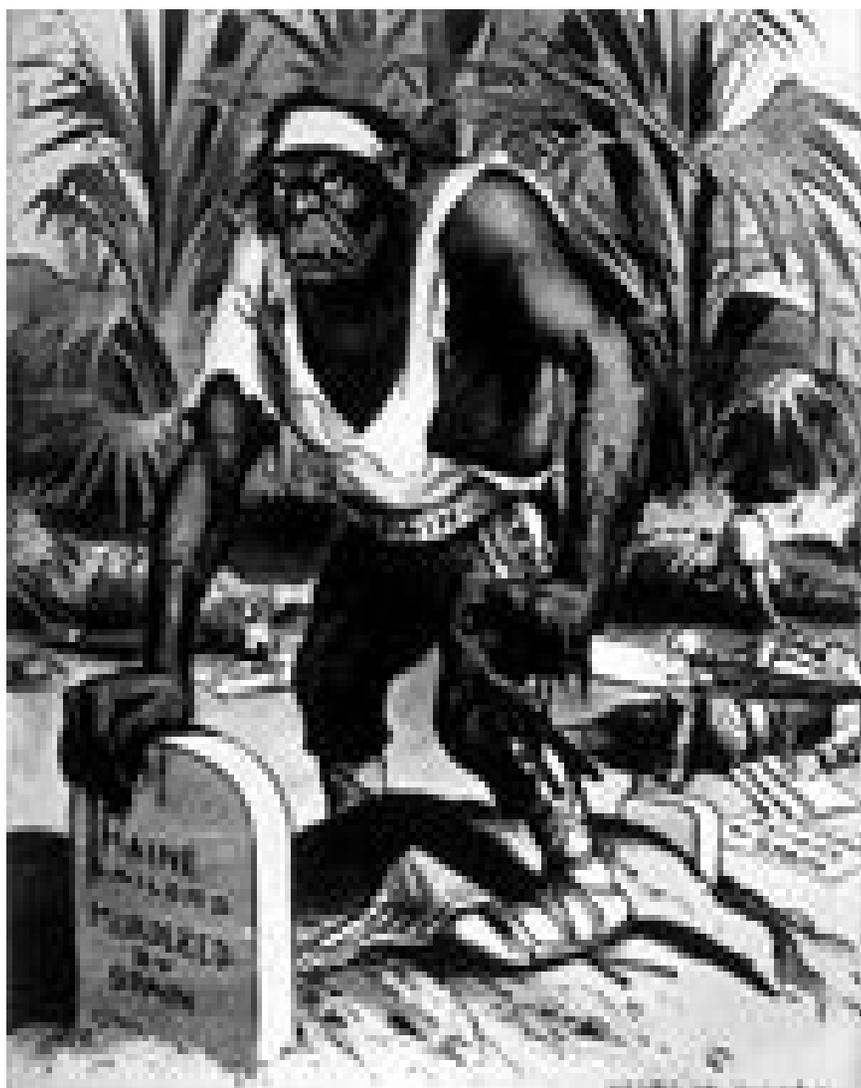
Joseph Pulitzer, “You supply the pictures, I’ll supply the war!”

1898 - US sends the USS Maine, a battleship, to Havana to help protect American citizens and interests.

Feb. 15th - USS Maine mysteriously explodes killing more than 260 US Sailors.

Papers are quick to blame Spain

“Destruction of the warship Maine was the work of an enemy”



Actual cause of explosion has never been determined, it was probably an accident or possibly done by the Cuban rebels.

Why?

Americans are outraged and US decides to declare war on Spain, but only after we get ready.

April 30 - Admiral Dewey launches a sneak attack on the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay, Philippines.

Spanish fleet in Pacific is destroyed.

US soldiers help Emilio Aguinaldo and Filipino rebels to take over the islands.



SPAIN SEES STARS—AND STRIPES.

The War Ends

US troops invade Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders capture San Juan Hill, allows the US to capture Santiago Bay.

War is over 4 months after it starts. Spain surrenders on August 12th, 1898.

Results

Cuba gains its “independence” - In their Constitution we inserted the Platt Amendment which gave the US the right to intervene in Cuba and gave us a naval base.

Puerto Rico and Guam are given to the US. Foraker Act give Puerto Rican people only a limited say in their govt.

1917- Puerto Rican people are given US citizenship.

US buys the Philippines for \$20 million. By paying them it made us feel good about ourselves. Allowed us to look like the good guy. We didn't have to pay.

US had promised Aguinaldo and Filipino rebels their independence

US reneges on its deal and stays in the Philippines.

Filipino rebels fight a new war against the US trying to get their independence.

US captures Aguinaldo and retains the Philippines until 1946.



