

Ch 18 Section 2 The Spanish-American War

Cubans Rebel Against Spain

American Interest in Cuba

- U.S. long interested in Cuba; wants to buy Cuba from Spain
- During 1868–1878 war for independence, American sympathies with Cuba
- 1886 abolition of slavery leads to U.S. investment in sugar cane

The Second War for Independence

- **José Martí**—poet, journalist—launches second revolution in 1895
- Guerrilla campaign destroys American-owned sugar mills, plantations
- U.S. public opinion split:
 - business wants to support Spain
 - others favor Cuban cause

War Fever Escalates

Spain Takes Action

- 1896, General **Valeriano Weyler** sent to Cuba to restore order
- Puts about 300,000 Cubans in concentration camps

Headline Wars

- Newspapers exploit Weyler's actions in circulation war
- **Yellow journalism**—sensational writing used to lure, enrage readers

The de Lôme Letter

- Headlines increase American sympathy for independent Cuba
- McKinley wants to avoid war, tries diplomacy to resolve crisis
- Private letter by Spanish minister Enrique Dupuy de Lôme published
 - calls McKinley weak, swayed by public
- Spain apologizes, de Lôme resigns; American public angry

The U.S.S. *Maine* Explodes

- **U.S.S. *Maine*** sent to pick up U.S. citizens, protect U.S. property
- Ship blows up in Havana harbor; newspapers blame Spain

War with Spain Erupts

The U.S. Declares War

- Spain agrees to most U.S. demands, public opinion still favors war
- U.S. declares war April 1898

The War in the Philippines

- First battle with Spain occurs in Spanish colony of the Philippines
- Commodore **George Dewey** destroys Spanish fleet in Manila harbor
- Filipinos, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, support Dewey
- August 1898, Spanish troops in Manila surrender to U.S.

The War in the Caribbean

- U.S. blockades Cuba; Spanish fleet in Santiago de Cuba harbor
- Unlike navy, U.S. army has small professional force, many volunteers
 - volunteers ill-prepared, ill-supplied

Rough Riders

- **Rough Riders**—Leonard Wood, Theodore Roosevelt lead volunteer cavalry
- Roosevelt declared hero of attack on strategic **San Juan Hill**
- Spanish fleet tries to escape blockade, is destroyed in naval battle
- U.S. troops invade Puerto Rico soon after

Treaty of Paris

- Spain, U.S. sign armistice August 1898; meet in Paris to make treaty
- Spain frees Cuba; hands Guam, Puerto Rico to U.S.; sells Philippines

Debate over the Treaty

- **Treaty of Paris** touches off great debate over imperialism
- McKinley tries to justify annexation of Philippines on moral grounds
- Opponents give political, moral, economic arguments against