

Entering the World Stage

Section 2



MAIN IDEA

A quick victory in the Spanish-American War gave the United States a new role as a world power.

Key Terms and People

José Martí leader in Cuba's struggle for independence

William Randolph Hearst *New York Journal* publisher, known for yellow journalism

Joseph Pulitzer *New York World* publisher, also known for yellow journalism

yellow journalism exaggerated style of reporting news

de Lôme letter letter ridiculing President McKinley written by Spain's minister to the United States

George Dewey commander of the U.S. Navy's Asiatic Squadron during the Spanish-American War

Emilio Aguinaldo leader of a rebel army of Philippine patriots

Rough Riders volunteer cavalry regiment in the Spanish-American War led by Theodore Roosevelt

Battle of San Juan Hill battle for control of a ridge above Santiago, Cuba

Section Summary

SIMMERING UNREST IN CUBA

By the 1890s Spain's only colonies in the Western Hemisphere were Puerto Rico and Cuba. Since 1868 Cuba had struggled for independence from Spain.

José Martí was one of the leaders of the Cuban independence movement. He was exiled, but continued to promote independence. Martí became one of Cuba's greatest heroes and was killed in battle. Spain's ruthless treatment of Cuban civilians shocked Americans.

Underline the name of one of Cuba's greatest heroes.

AMERICANS GET WAR FEVER

Many Americans felt sympathy for the Cubans. The media fed this sympathy in order to sell papers. New York newspaper publishers **William Randolph Hearst** and **Joseph Pulitzer** competed for readers. They used an exaggerated style of reporting called **yellow journalism**. Hearst's newspaper, the *Journal*, published a letter from the Spanish minister to the

How did Hearst and Pulitzer compete for readers?

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United States. The **de Lôme letter**, named for its writer, ridiculed President McKinley. Then the *Maine*, a U.S. battleship, mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor. Americans blamed Spain. On April 25, 1898, Congress declared war on Spain.

Underline the name of the U.S. battleship that blew up in Cuba.

THE COURSE OF THE WAR

The war lasted about four months. Commodore **George Dewey** had orders to move the U.S. Navy's Asiatic Squadron to the Philippines if war was declared. They attacked and destroyed the entire Spanish fleet. Philippine rebels led by **Emilio Aguinaldo** supported the Americans. Spanish forces in the Philippines surrendered on August 14, 1898.

In Cuba, many soldiers were volunteers. The most famous volunteers were the **Rough Riders**. This was a cavalry regiment led by Theodore Roosevelt. African American soldiers of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries, known as Buffalo Soldiers, also fought in Cuba. In the **Battle of San Juan Hill** the Buffalo Soldiers led the attack, supported by the Rough Riders. They captured the ridge above the city of Santiago. Two days later the U.S. Navy sank the entire Spanish fleet off Cuba. Spain signed a peace treaty giving up all claims to Cuba. It also gave Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States. The United States paid \$20 million for the Philippines.

What were the results of the Spanish-American War?

ANNEXING THE PHILIPPINES

Some people wanted the United States to annex the Philippines. Other people thought that annexation would be against American ideals. The United States did annex the Philippines, infuriating the Filipinos. For three years Filipino fighters fought the United States. Americans won the war in 1901. The United States said its goal was to prepare the islands for independence. The Philippines finally became independent in 1946.

How did the Filipinos feel about being annexed by the United States?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Interpret Yellow journalism did not end with the Spanish-American War. Make a list of current publications that engage in yellow journalism. List the types of subjects they report on.