



CUBAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE BEGINS

Cuba had already tried to throw off Spanish rule during two other failed revolutions. On February 24, organized uprisings across the island sparked the third attempt. In response, Spain sent 100,000 soldiers to Cuba.

On June 12, President Grover Cleveland issued a proclamation of U.S. neutrality as Cuba and Spain fought.





RECONCENTRATION POLICY

In 1896, Spanish military leadership in Cuba began forcing large numbers of Cubans living in rebel-held areas into concentration camps.

The camps had insufficient food, housing, clothing, sanitation, and medical care. Thousands of Cubans died from starvation or disease.



Cubans in a Spanish reconcentration camp. (LOC, ca. 1899)

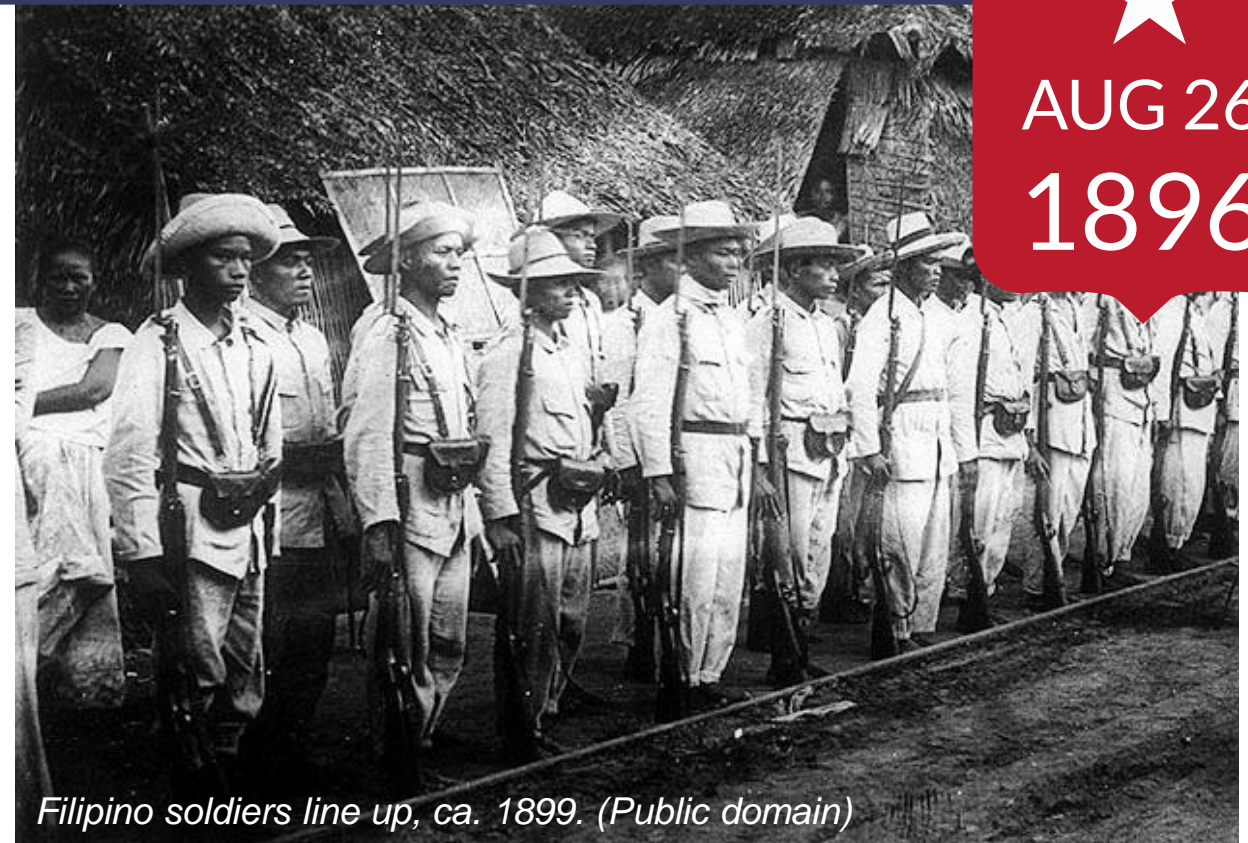
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FEB
1896





PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION BEGINS

An armed struggle began in Manila between Filipino and Spanish forces (at this time, the Philippines were a Spanish colony). Filipinos were fighting for independence.

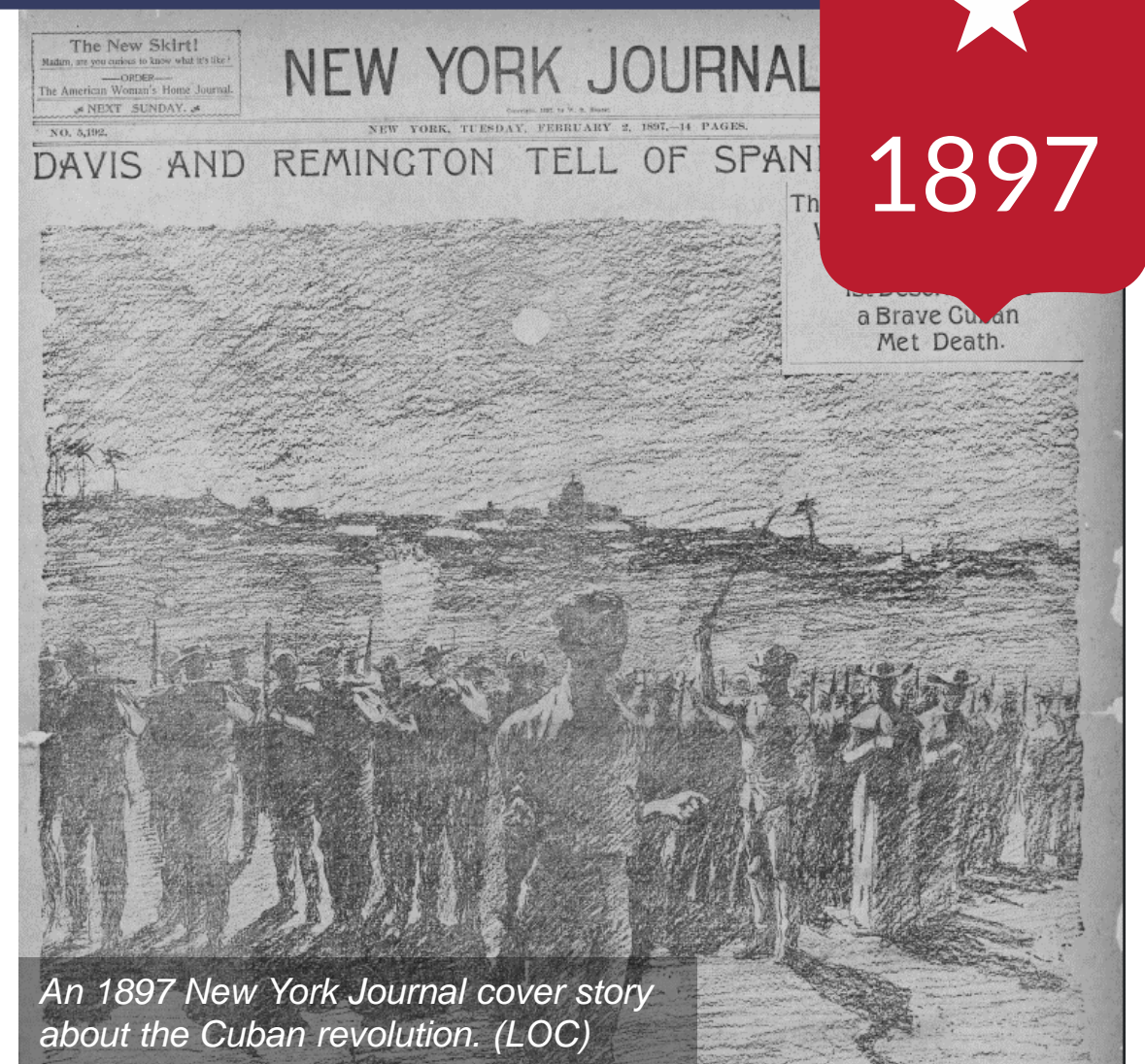




SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM

Competing for readership, the *New York Journal* (owned by William Randolph Hearst) and the *New York World* (Joseph Pulitzer) reported sensationalized stories on the Cuban revolution and

strengthened anti-Spanish feelings in the United States. Reports included a story about the execution of Adolfo Rodriguez and the rescue of Evangelina Cisneros from prison. Both Rodriguez and Cisneros were Cuban rebels.



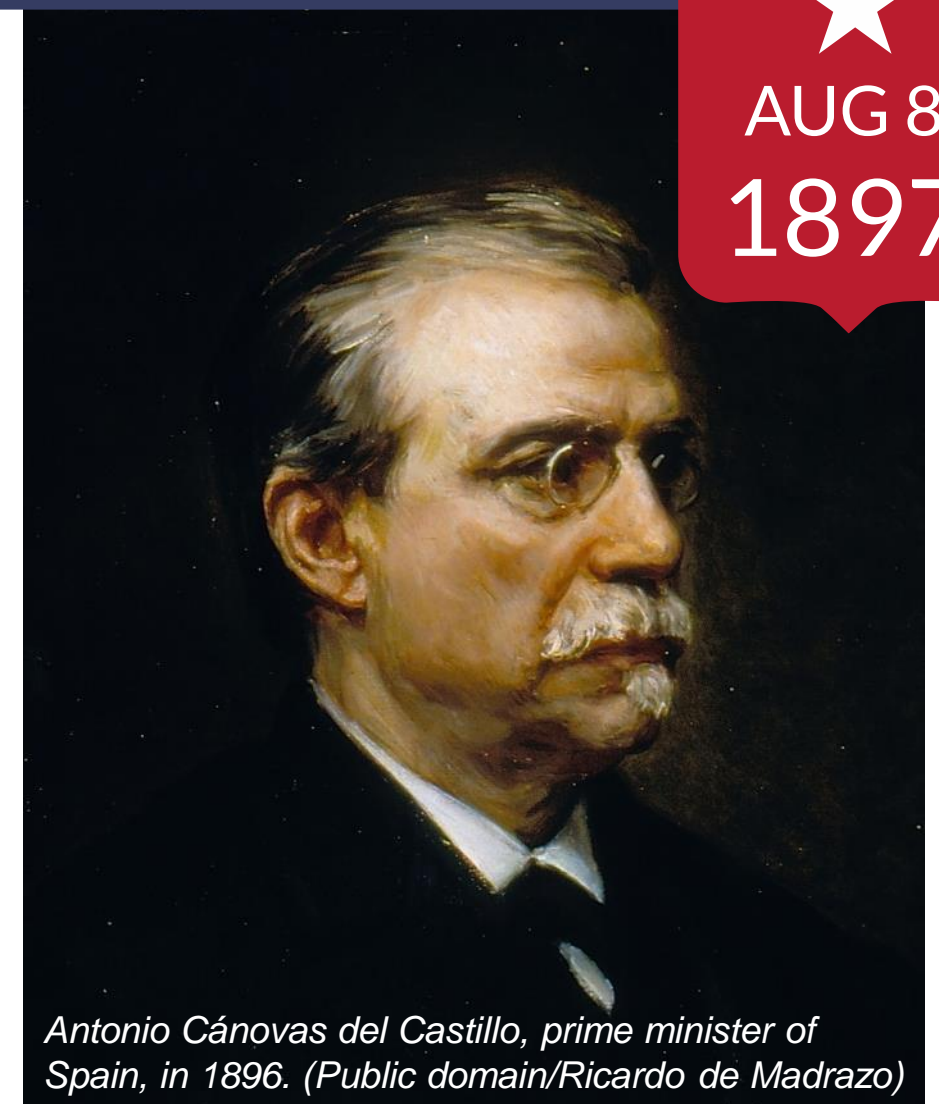
An 1897 New York Journal cover story about the Cuban revolution. (LOC)





SPANISH PRIME MINISTER ASSASSINATED

The Spanish Prime Minister was assassinated and the government changed. The new government closed reconcentration camps and offered home rule to the Cubans.



AUG 8
1897

Home rule would keep Cuba as a Spanish colony but allow Cubans to form their own government. Home rule could be changed by a later government and was rejected by the rebels, who believed they could win independence.





PACT OF BIAK-NA-BATO SIGNED

The signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato signaled a truce between the Spanish colonial government and Philippine revolutionary leaders. The revolutionary leaders were exiled to Hong Kong. Revolutionaries and civilians received monetary compensation from Spain.





USS MAINE ARRIVES IN HAVANA HARBOR

After earlier rioting, the U.S. Navy sent the USS Maine to Cuba on a “good-will visit.” The Maine was a show of strength intended to protect American lives and property in Cuba.



The USS Maine in 1897. (LOC)

JAN 25
1898





USS MAINE EXPLODES

More than 260 sailors (out of a crew of 354) were killed when the Maine exploded in the Havana harbor. The naval



The wreckage of the USS Maine in the Havana harbor on February 16, 1898. (NARA)

inquiry into the cause was inconclusive, but the press in America and many members of Congress blamed a Spanish mine. Over 100 years later, the exact cause of the explosion of the Maine is still unknown. “Remember the Maine!” became an American rallying cry for war.





PHILIPPINE INSURGENCY RENEWED

The Spanish governor of the Philippines was replaced and the new governor didn't follow all of the conditions of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato. Revolutionary activity began again.



Filipino insurgents in the suburbs of Manila, Philippines. (LOC, 1899)





U.S. DECLARED WAR

On April 19, the U.S. Congress had passed legislation authorizing President McKinley to declare war, if needed. The legislation also demanded independence for Cuba and forbade

the U.S. from annexing Cuba. After the U.S. began a blockade of Cuba on April 21, Spain declared war on April 23. On April 25, Congress declared that the U.S. and Spain had been at war since April 21.



Marine guard drilling onboard the USS Iowa. (LOC, ca. 1899)



APR 25
1898





U.S. VICTORY IN THE PHILIPPINES

With the famous quote: “You may fire when you are ready, Gridley,” Commodore George Dewey led the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay. Six hours of fighting destroyed all seven Spanish ships and killed or wounded more than 370 Spanish sailors. There were no American combat deaths and fewer than 10 casualties.



Illustration of the Battle of Manila Bay. Dewey's flagship, the USS Olympia, is shown on the lower left. (LOC, 1898)

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MAY 1
1898





U.S. VICTORY AT SAN JUAN HEIGHTS

In the most significant land battle of the war, U.S. and Cuban troops captured the San Juan Heights. It's here that Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders (a volunteer unit of

Western cowboys, Native Americans, and Ivy League athletes) with the 9th and 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers (two of the segregated, all-Black units) and white regular soldiers made their famous charge up Kettle and San Juan Hills. More than 200 U.S. soldiers were killed in the fighting, but the battle positioned U.S. troops to take Cuba.



Theodore Roosevelt and Rough Riders atop San Juan Hill after the battle. (LOC/William Dinwiddie, 1898)

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JULY 1
1898





SPANISH FLEET IN CUBA DESTROYED

Six ships of the Spanish navy attempted to break through an American blockade and leave Santiago Bay. The U.S. squadron destroyed the six ships, resulting in lopsided casualties (almost 500 Spanish casualties to 2 American).



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JULY 3
1898

The Spanish destroyer Furor is attacked by the USS Iowa, USS Indiana and USS New York in this illustration of the battle. (Public domain/R. Verdugo Landi, 1898)





U.S. ANNEXES HAWAII

Hawaiian Queen Lili'uokalani had been overthrown by American sugar planters in 1893. While Americans on the island quickly supported U.S. annexation of the island, most Hawaiians were opposed and it was politically unpopular in the U.S. Events

of the Spanish-American War, including the strategic importance of the naval base at Pearl Harbor, convinced Congress to formally annex Hawaii.



Queen Lili'uokalani in 1898. (Public domain)

JULY 7
1898





SPANISH SURRENDER AT SANTIAGO

With the surrender, land combat in Cuba ended. The U.S. Navy seized Puerto Rico soon after.



Illustration of the Battle of Santiago by Howard Chandler Christy. (LOC, 1899)





PEACE PROTOCOL SIGNED

The Protocol of Peace ended the fighting and set up conditions that would be part

of the official treaty. The war was officially ended by the signing of the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898. The terms of the treaty included Cuban independence and the ceding of Puerto Rico and Guam to the U.S.

Additionally, Spain sold the Philippines to the U.S. for \$20 million.



Secretary of State William R. Day signing the Peace Protocol. (LOC, 1898)

AUG 12
1898





PHILIPPINE BATTLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

In the Philippines, a new government was formed, which the U.S. refused to recognize. When 3 Filipino soldiers were killed by U.S. soldiers near Manila, the Philippine Republic declared war on the U.S.



The 20th Kansas Volunteer Infantry in trenches in the Philippines during the war. (LOC, ca. 1899)

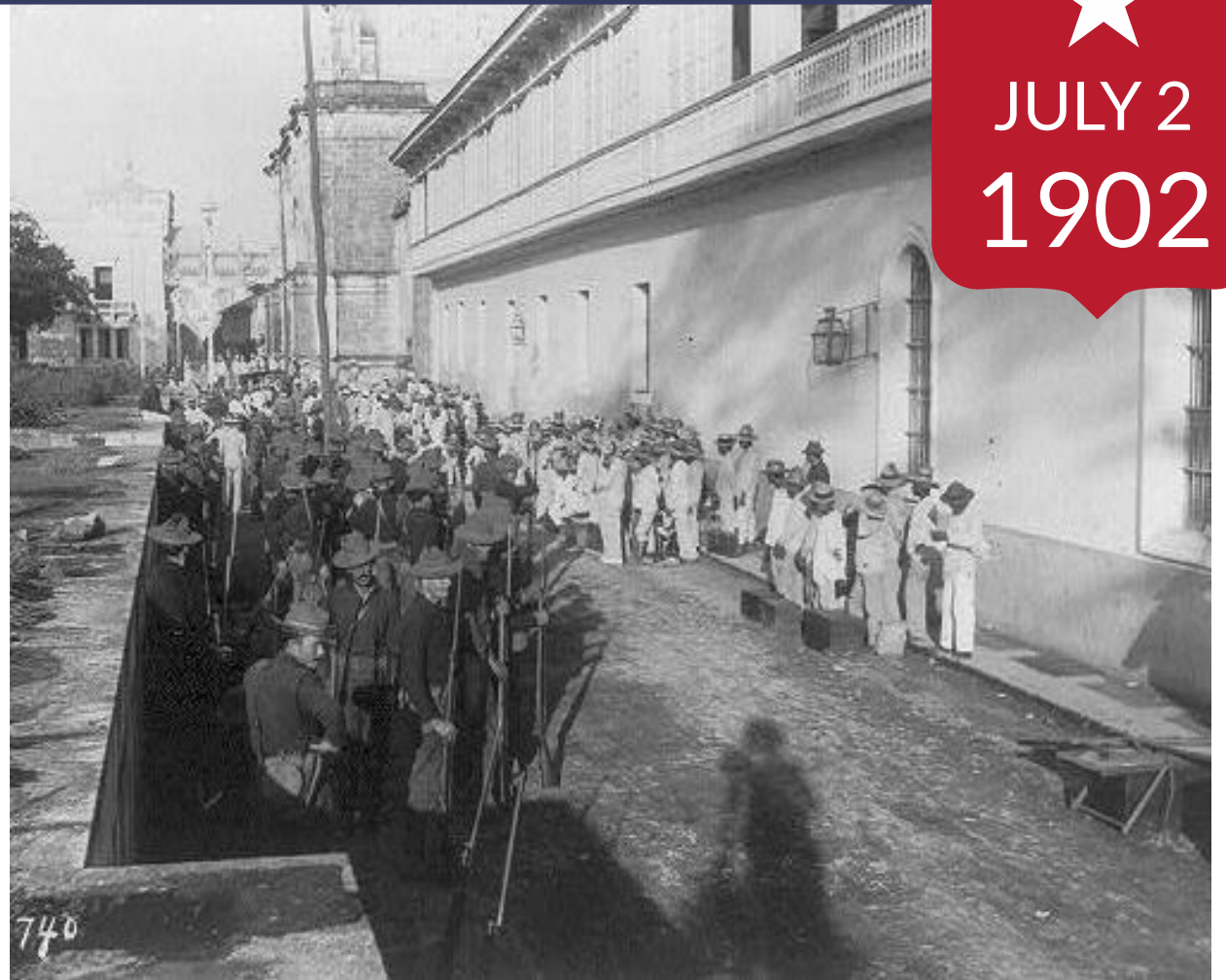
FEB 4
1899





PHILIPPINE- AMERICAN WAR ENDS

After more than 4,000 U.S. soldiers, 20,000 Filipino soldiers, and 200,000 civilians died (many civilians from famine and disease), fighting ended and the U.S. declared victory. The Philippines remained part of the U.S. until 1946, when they were finally granted independence.

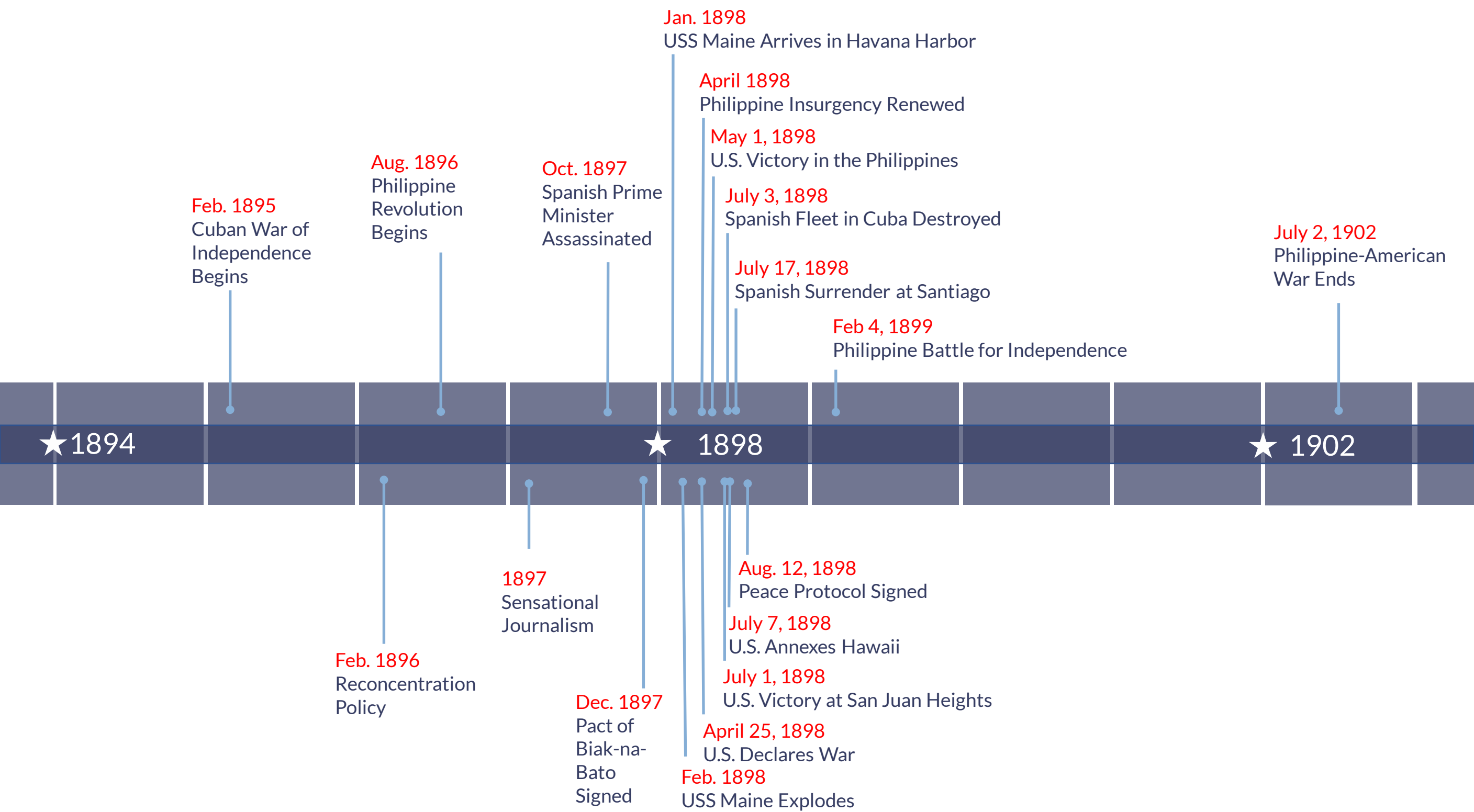


U.S. soldiers and Filipino prisoners in 1899 in Manila, Philippines. (LOC)

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JULY 2
1902



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR: A TIMELINE



1895



1896



1897



1898



1899



1900



1901



1902

