

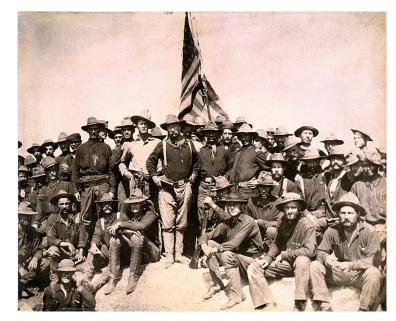
American Minute with Bill Federer Teddy Roosevelt, the Rough Riders & Battle of San Juan Hill; "Resolved ... the people of the island of Cuba ... ought to be free!"

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Slavery existed in Cuba longer than anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere, except Brazil ... continue reading American Minute here ...

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Miracles in American History

Slaves were purchased from Africa where Arab Muslim slave traders had enslaved an estimated 180 million blacks over the fourteen centuries of Islamic rule.

President James Buchanan wrote December 19, 1859:

"When a market for **African slaves** shall no longer be furnished in **Cuba** ... **Christianity** and **civilization** may gradually penetrate the existing gloom."

## President Ulysses S. Grant, who fought to end

slavery in America, stated, December 2, 1872:

"Slavery in Cuba is ... a terrible evil ...

It is greatly to be hoped that ... **Spain** will voluntarily adopt ... emancipation ... in sympathy with the other powers of the **Christian** and **civilized world.**"

**Cuban Independence movements** were attempted in the 1820s and 1830s, but these were crushed by the **Spanish monarchy.** 

On October 10, 1868, landowner **Carlos Manuel de Céspedes** freed his **slaves** and declared **Cuba's independence** from Spain.

Cubans drafted a "10th of October Manifesto," 1868:

"Rebelling against **Spanish tyranny**, we want to indicate to the world the reasons ...

**Spain** governs us with **iron** and **blood**; it imposes ... taxes at will; it **deprives us of all political, civil and religious freedom;** 

it has put us under military watch in days of peace,

**arresting, exiling and executing,** without being subject to any proceedings ...

it prohibits that we freely assemble ..."

The "10th of October Manifesto" continued:

**"Spain** loads us with hungry bureaucrats who live from our patrimony and consume the product of our work ...

So that we do not know our rights, it maintains us in the ignorance ...

It forces us to maintain a expensive **army**, whose unique

use is to repress and to humiliate us ...

To the **God** of our consciousness we appealed, and to the good faith of the civilized nations."

The "10th of October Manifesto" ended:

"We want to enjoy the **freedom** for whose use **God created man** ...

We want to abolish slavery ...

We want **freedom of meeting**, **freedom of the press and the freedom to brings back consciousness**; and we appeal to practice **inalienable rights of the man**."

In 1878, the **Spanish Government** crushed the revolt and ended **"The Ten Years War"** in which **thousands were killed.** 

Under international pressure, **Spain ended slavery by Royal decree in 1886.** 

Another "Little War" took place in 1879, and finally, in 1895, open rebellion broke out.

Spain sent Governor Valeriano Weyler to Cuba to smash anti-government protestors.

Weyler adapted the model of interring Cherokee used during Democrat Administration's of Jackson and Van Buren in the 1830s, called the Indian Removal Act.

Weyler adapted this into notorious **"concentration** camps."

Weyler rounded up hundreds of thousands of Cuban civilians from their rural farms and marched them into crowded camps -- an example later followed by Hitler's National Socialist Workers Party and Stalin's Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Ultimately, between 1896-1897, over a **third** of **Cuba's population** was in **concentration camps**.

Over **225,000 died** from **starvation**, **exposure** and **yellow fever**.

Continual pleas for help reached the United States.

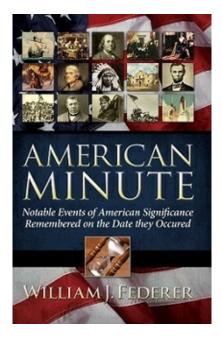
Newspaper publishers made pioneering use of sensationalism and propaganda to influence public policy.

Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* and William Randolph Hearst's *New York Journal,* stirred public sentiment with **"yellow press" journalism**, demanding **President McKinley** intervene militarily.

Heart's newspaper illustrator was **Frederic Remington**, who was on assignment in Cuba. He sent a cable message in 1897: "Everything quiet. There is no trouble here. There will be no war. Wish to return."

**Hearst** cabled back: "You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war."

American Minute-Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred



President McKinley responded by sending the USS Maine to Havana's harbor.

The ship **blew up** under suspicious conditions on February 15, 1898.

**President McKinley** approved a Resolution of Congress, April 20, 1898:

"Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the **island of Cuba**, so near our own borders,

have shocked the moral sense of the people of the **United States**, have been a disgrace to **Christian civilization**,

culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a **United States battle ship**, with 266 of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of **Havana**, and cannot longer be endured ...

... Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives ... that **the people of the island of Cuba** are and of right ought to be **free.**"

Assistant Secretary of the Navy, **Theodore Roosevelt**, resigned and organized **the first volunteer cavalry**, made up of polo riders, cowboys and even Indians.

The U.S. Army used the **Gatling Gun** for the first time in mobile offensive combat.



Miracles in American History DVDs

Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, along with

other regiments, charged up **Cuba's Kettle Hill,** then **San Juan Hill,** capturing it on JULY 1, 1898.

After **eight hours of heavy fighting** there were over **1,500 American casualties**.

One of the officers, **Lt. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing,** later rose to the highest rank ever **"General of the Armies."** 

## Pershing wrote:

"The entire command moved forward as coolly as though the buzzing of bullets was the humming of bees ...

... white regiments, black regiments, regulars and Rough Riders, representing the young manhood of the North and the South, fought shoulder to shoulder, unmindful of race or color, unmindful of whether commanded by ex-Confederate or not, and mindful of only their common duty as Americans."

Among the thousands of Americans who volunteered for service during the **Spanish American War** were **5,000 black soldiers** called **"Buffalo Soldiers,"** a name given to them by the Indians.

Other **black soldiers** were nicknamed **"The Immunes"** as they were considered **more resistant to tropical climate and diseases.** 

All races were integrated in the U.S. Army until Democrat President Woodrow Wilson segregated blacks and whites in 1914.

Casualties of the **Spanish-American War** included:

- 379 Americans killed,
- 1,645 wounded, and
- 2,621 who died of disease.

On the Spanish side:

- 1,000 killed,
- 800 wounded and
- 15,000 died of disease.

The large numbers dying of **yellow fever** led Army physician **Walter Reed** to conduct research and confirm the **disease was spread by mosquitoes**.

This discovery led to methods to control the insects, which later allowed for the **construction of the Panama Canal.** 

Sick and wounded soldiers were cared for by **Clara Barton**, founder of the **American Red Cross**, and an order of **Catholic Sisters** referred to as a **Band of Angels**.

After the War, **Cuba**, **Puerto Rico**, **Guam**, and the **Philippines** were no longer controlled by **Spain**.

President McKinley wrote, July 6, 1898:

"At a time ... of the ... glorious achievements of the naval and military arms ... at **Santiago de Cuba**,

it is fitting that we should pause and ... reverently bow before **the throne of divine grace** and give **devout praise to God**, who holdeth the nations in **the hollow of His Hands.**"

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