

SPANISH- AMERICAN WAR

The USS Maine

- Feb. 15, 1898:
 - The USS Maine was anchored in the harbor of Havana, Cuba



- 365 Officers and Sailors were on board
- The Maine exploded, killing 266
- Americans blamed the explosion on Spain

Cause of the Explosion?

- Cuban people were rebelling against Spain, which ruled Cuba, and many blamed the explosion on Spain
- Stories of Spanish atrocities committed against the rebels were printed in newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer
 - Sensational reporting became known as “Yellow Journalism”

War Begins

- 1897—Pres. William McKinley takes office and wants to avoid involvement in the Cuban revolt
- McKinley sent the Maine to Havana in case Americans in Cuba had to be evacuated
- After the Maine exploded, the press blamed Spain—Congress authorized money for war preparations
- McKinley (under great public pressure) authorized the use of force and America is at war with Spain

Theodore Roosevelt

- Assistant Secretary of War
- Organizes a group of soldiers known as the “Rough Riders”



Spanish-American War

- ⦿ Commodore George Dewey led a US Navy squadron into Manila Bay in the Philippines
 - Dewey's fleet quickly destroyed the Spanish warships
 - Why the Philippines?
 - It was a Spanish colony
- ⦿ American forces quickly took the Philippines from Spain



BATTLE OF MANILA

- ◎ Rebellions occurred in the Philippines
 - Reconcentration camps separated guerrillas from civilians
 - Thousands died from disease and starvation
 - William Howard Taft was the civilian governor of the islands
 - He tried to win over the civilians

Taft (seated on a water buffalo) c. 1904

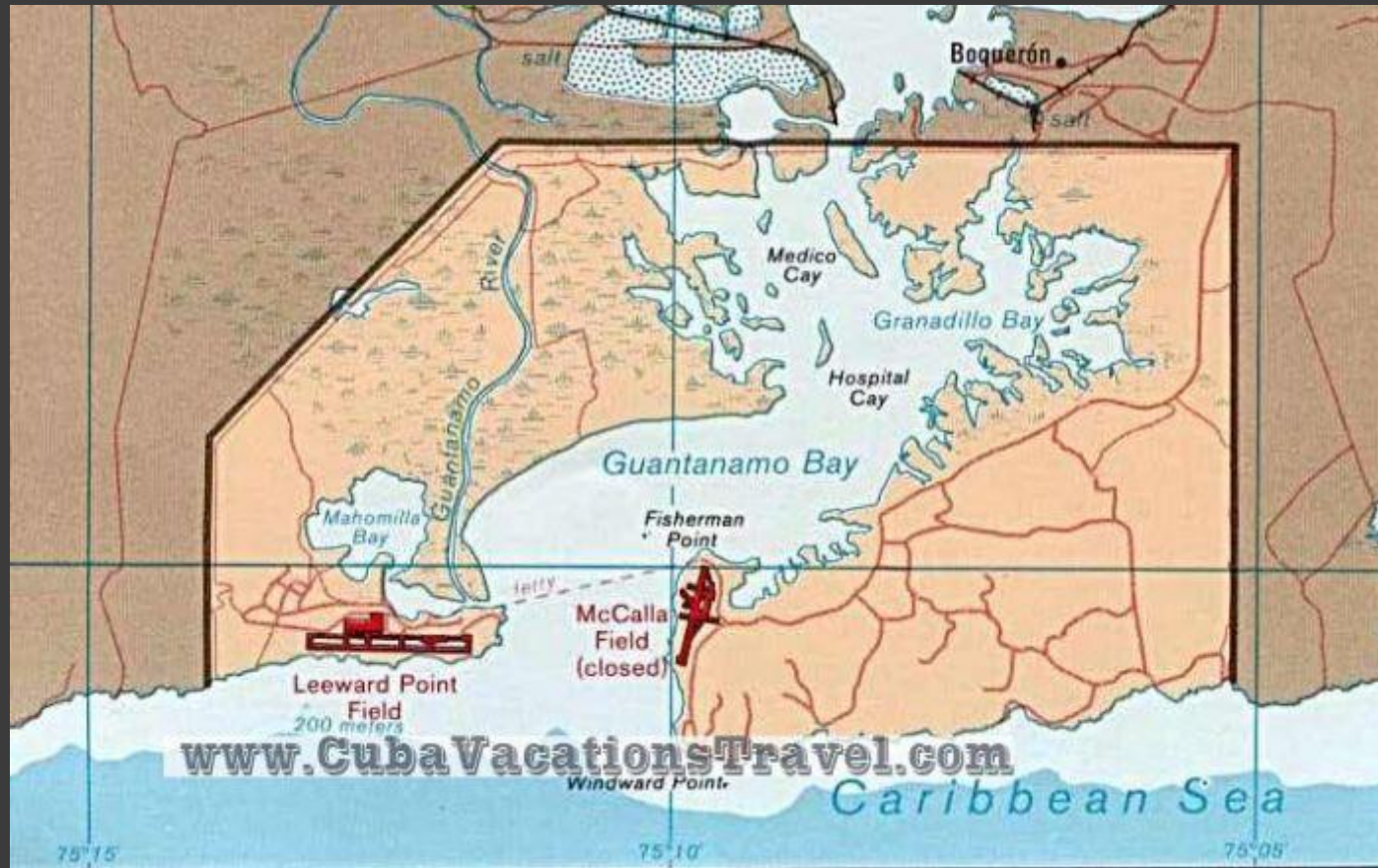


- ◎ It took until 1902 for the United States to take full control and win the war with rebels in the Philippines
- ◎ Puerto Rico
 - How to govern Puerto Rico
 - Foraker Act made Puerto Rico an unincorporated territory in 1900
 - Unincorporated: not US citizens (no constitutional rights)
 - Became US citizens in 1917
- ◎ Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the US today



- Cuba had a military government
- Cuba was a military protectorate until 1934
- Cuba was forced to accept the “Platt Amendment” which allowed the US to intervene to keep order in Cuba

Guantanamo Bay Naval Base





**U.S. Naval Base
Guantanamo Bay**





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No Matter Who Does Them**

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