

Chronology

1893

January

U.S. Marines assist American businessmen in overthrowing Hawaii's queen

March

President Cleveland withdraws the treaty, submitted by his predecessor, which would have annexed Hawaii.

Spring

An economic depression hits the United States.

1894

July

Congress imposes tariffs on imported Cuban sugar, contributing to an economic depression in Cuba.

1895

February

A new revolt against Spanish rule breaks out in Cuba.

July

The United States forces Britain to back down in a dispute with Venezuela. U.S. leaders declare that their country is "practically sovereign" in the Western Hemisphere.

1896

February

Spanish General Weyler establishes "reconcentration" camps in Cuba in an attempt to put down the Cuban revolt.

May

Spain rejects an American offer to help end the conflict in Cuba.

August

A revolt against Spanish rule breaks out in the Philippines.

November

Republicans win control of Congress and the White House.

1897

June

President McKinley submits a new treaty to the Senate to annex Hawaii.

November

The Spanish government recalls General Weyler and eases its harsh measures against Cuban civilians.

1898

February

A private letter from the Spanish ambassador to Washington criticizing McKinley is printed in American newspapers.

The U.S.S. Maine is blown up in Havana harbor.

March

Congress approves McKinley's request for \$50 million to begin preparations for war.

April

Spain proposes a truce in Cuba but rejects U.S. offers to mediate the Cuban revolt.

Congress proclaims Cuba independent and authorizes McKinley to use force.

Spain declares war on the United States.

May

U.S. warships destroy the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor.

June

Guam is occupied by the U.S. Navy.

An American invasion force lands in Cuba.

July

U.S. forces overcome Spanish defenses guarding Santiago, Cuba.

U.S. warships destroy Spain's Caribbean fleet.

Spanish forces in Puerto Rico surrender.

Congress approves the annexation of Hawaii.

The Spanish government requests peace negotiations.

August

The United States and Spain sign a preliminary peace treaty.

U.S. and Filipino forces capture Manila.

October

McKinley sends a negotiating team to Paris to finalize a peace treaty with Spain.

The Anti-Imperialist League is organized in the United States.

November

U.S. negotiators demand that the United States be given full control of the Philippines.

December

Spain agrees to U.S. demands, signing the Treaty of Paris of 1898.

1899

February

Fighting breaks out between Filipino nationalists and U.S. forces occupying the Philippines.

The Senate ratifies the Treaty of Paris of 1898.

September

The United States reaffirms the "open door" policy toward China.

1901

March

Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Filipino nationalists, is captured by U.S. forces. Aguinaldo pledges his allegiance to the United States.

1917

March

Puerto Ricans gain U.S. citizenship status in the Jones-Shafroth Act.

1934

March

U.S. statute providing for Philippine independence after a ten-year transitional period of Commonwealth government signed by President Roosevelt.

1935

November

Philippine Commonwealth is established. The United States promises to grant the Philippines independence within ten years.

1941

December

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, prompting the United States to enter World War II.

Japan invades the island of Guam.

1942

May

Japan captures the Philippines from U.S. forces.

1944

July

The United States recaptures Guam from Japan.

October

The United States recaptures the Philippines from Japan.

1946

July

The United States grants the Philippines complete independence.

1950

August

The Guam Organic Act establishes Guam as an unincorporated organized territory of the United States. Guam natives gain U.S. citizenship.

1952

July

Puerto Ricans pass a constitution which names the island as an Associated Commonwealth of the United States.