The United States in the Philippines
1898-1915

February 15
The battleship U.S.S. Maine explodes in Havana Harbor.

April
Filipinos resume their independence struggle against Spain.

May 1
Admiral Dewey destroys the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.

June 15
Hundreds of citizens assemble in Boston to oppose the annexation of the Philippines and organize the Anti-Imperialist movement.

September 15
The Congress of the First Philippine Republic creates the first republican constitution in Asia.

February 4-5
U.S. troops fire the first shots of the war, killing three Filipino soldiers triggering fighting between U.S. troops and Filipino independence forces.

November 13
Filipinos switch from conventional to guerilla war.

January 31 to June 28
Senate Committee on the Philippines chaired by imperialist Republican Henry Cabot Lodge conducts hearings on the war.

April
Filipinos resume their independence struggle against Spain.

May 19
Congress by a vote of 311 to 6 in the House, and 42 to 35 in the Senate, adopts a joint resolution for war with Spain. President McKinley signs it the next day and calls for 125,000 volunteers for 1 year of active duty.

May 25
The first U.S. volunteer troops leave San Francisco for the Philippines.

December 10
In the Treaty of Paris, Spain frees Cuba, cedes Porto Rico and Guam to the U.S., and sells the Philippines to the U.S. for $20 million.

February
There were over 1,000 engagements between U.S. and Filipino forces in the first year of war.

February
Mark Twain publishes “To the Person Sitting in Darkness”, his satire on U.S. imperialism in the Philippines, in the North American Review.

July 4
President Theodore Roosevelt declares victory in the Philippines but a guerrilla war continues until 1915.