

Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America's I mperial Dream

By Gregg Jones

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On the eve of a new century, an up-and-coming Theodore Roosevelt set out to transform the U.S. into a major world power. The Spanish-American War would forever change America's standing in global affairs, and drive the young nation into its own imperial showdown in the Philippines.

From Admiral George Dewey's legendary naval victory in Manila Bay to the Rough Riders' heroic charge up San Juan Hill, from Roosevelt's rise to the presidency to charges of U.S. military misconduct in the Philippines, *Honor in the Dust* brilliantly captures an era brimming with American optimism and confidence as the nation expanded its influence abroad.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
This work reflects Jones' deep immersion in the American counterinsurgency war of 1899–1902 in the Philippines, where he once was a foreign correspondent. Fitting his research of primary military documents into a wider narrative of the war's effect on domestic American politics, Jones' attentiveness to the latter importantly reminds readers of the popular backing the war had—confirmed by its Republican Party advocates' victory in the 1900 election—which should ameliorate the general disrepute of the war and America's colonial episode among current historical commentators. Jones shows himself a quite evenhanded presenter of contemporary anti- and pro-imperial exponents, Theodore Roosevelt most prominent among the latter. Opponents of overseas expansion, however, strengthened their stance on allegations of abuses of Filipinos by American forces in Luzon, Samar, and Panay, in particular, the on-the-ground details of which Jones sorts out and sets forth as they entered venues such as the U.S. Senate, courts-martial, and the press. Informative as to sources and fluidly readable, Jones' account effectively introduces this controversial war in its contemporary context. --Gilbert Taylor

Review
"Fascinating… In the end, *Honor in the Dust* is less about the freedom of the Philippines than the soul of the United States. This is the story of what happened when a powerful young country and its zealous young president were forced to face the high cost of their ambitions."**—Candice Millard, *New York Times Book Review***

"A deeply researched, well-written addition to the crowded shelves of books about the Spanish-American War and the William McKinley-Theodore Roosevelt era in international affairs. *Honor in the Dust* combines a fast-moving narrative of the military campaigns in Cuba and the Philippines with an examination of the political disputes behind American actions."***—The Boston Globe***

"[*Honor in the Dust*] should attract a wide general readership among those interested in U.S. military history, U.S. foreign policy, and international law…. Highly recommended."***—Library Journal***

"Extraordinary… *Honor in the Dust* is a work of monumental consequence, and its important historical lessons, though they've been frequently unheeded by subsequent administrations, are in any case most worthy of remembrance."***—The Christian Science Monitor***

"A ripping read—facts and context interspersed with the smells and sounds of jungle warfare."***—The American Spectator***

"History teaches us how to act, or how to not act as the case may be. *Honor in the Dust* is both good history and good teaching...Contributes significantly to an ignored and marginalized period of American history...concise and compelling."***—Marine Corps Gazette***

"*Honor in the Dust* is a dramatic page-turner, told with marvelous reporting, crackling writing, and original insights. Gregg Jones presents a fascinating cast of characters and gripping battle scenes in a story that moves with the speed and power of a battleship. Utterly absorbing."**—Jonathan Eig, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *Get Capone***

“America's brutal war of conquest in the Philippines is amazingly little-known, largely ignored in our schoolbooks and history museums. Yet its imperial hubris and its torture scandal eerily foreshadow events of the last decade. In his much-needed, highly readable book on this forgotten war, Gregg Jones has written both a compelling page-turner and a work of careful scholarship.”**—Adam Hochschild, National Book Award Finalist and Author of *King Leopold's Ghost* and*To End All Wars***

“Gregg Jones has produced a masterful and fast-paced book. *Honor in the Dust* may be classified as a work of history, but it reads like a thriller. Jones wisely stays focused and does not project events immediately following 1898 into the future, but the reader does. Foreshadowed are the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan-and on. This book is the vital prequel to understanding the state of American empire today.”**—Dale Maharidge, Pulitzer Prize-winning Author of*Bringing Mulligan Home***

“*Honor in the Dust* is an absolutely riveting page-turner, a terrific read. Gregg Jones resurrects a long forgotten, but very important slice of American history, in which the country's imperialistic dreams clashed with its sense of honor and justice, severely testing Theodore Roosevelt's young presidency and forcing Americans to confront the horrors of war. Anyone interested in how America uses and abuses its power during times of war should read this book.”**—Eric Jay Dolin, Author of *Leviathan***

“The Philippines Occupation was the first of the United States' quagmires, yet its lessons have been willfully ignored by later generations. *Honor in the Dust* recovers this essential history, the bombast of Washington's jingoism to the terror of the lost patrol in Samar. Gregg Jones does an admirable job of bringing this extraordinary period and its remarkable characters to life.”**—Anne Nelson, Author of *Savages***

About the Author
Gregg Jones was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the Gerald Loeb Award. His work has appeared in *The Dallas Morning News, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian*, and *The Observer* (London). He lives in Dallas, TX.

Users Review

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