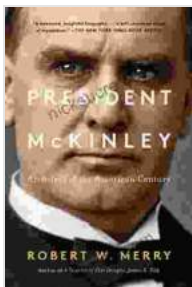


President McKinley: Architect Of The American Century

William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States, is often overlooked in the annals of history, overshadowed by the towering figures of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson who came before and after him. However, McKinley's presidency was a pivotal moment in American history, marking the transition from an isolationist nation to a global superpower. His policies set the course for the United States to become the dominant force in the 20th century.

Early Life and Career

McKinley was born in Niles, Ohio, in 1843. He grew up in a devout Methodist family and was raised on a diet of hard work and moral rectitude. After graduating from Allegheny College, McKinley served as a Union soldier in the Civil War, where he distinguished himself for his bravery and leadership.



President McKinley: Architect of the American Century

by Robert W. Merry

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled



After the war, McKinley entered politics, serving several terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He became known for his tariff policies, which protected American industries from foreign competition. In 1891, he was elected Governor of Ohio.

The Spanish-American War and American Imperialism

McKinley's presidency began in 1897, amidst the escalating tensions between the United States and Spain over the issue of Cuba. In 1898, the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor triggered the Spanish-American War. McKinley reluctantly declared war, but he quickly realized the war's potential to expand America's influence.

The war was a resounding victory for the United States, and it resulted in the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. McKinley's policies of "benevolent assimilation" and "open door" diplomacy reflected a new spirit of American imperialism.

Economic Prosperity and Social Reform

Under McKinley's leadership, the American economy experienced unprecedented growth. The passage of the Dingley Tariff in 1897 protected American industries from foreign competition, leading to a boom in manufacturing and trade. McKinley also oversaw the establishment of the gold standard, which stabilized the value of the U.S. dollar.

In addition to his economic policies, McKinley promoted social reforms, such as the establishment of the National Child Labor Committee and the passage of the Dawes Act, which aimed to assimilate Native Americans into American society.

Assassination and Legacy

McKinley's presidency was cut short by tragedy. On September 6, 1901, he was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist. McKinley's death shocked the nation and plunged it into mourning.

McKinley's legacy is mixed. He is often criticized for his imperialist policies and his lack of concern for social justice. However, he is also credited with leading the United States into the 20th century as a global power and for promoting economic growth and social reforms.

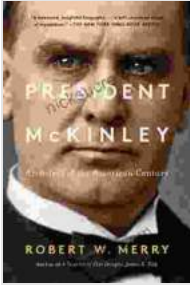
William McKinley was a complex and enigmatic figure, a man of both great ambition and deep contradictions. His presidency marked a turning point in American history, as the United States emerged from isolation to become a dominant force on the world stage. McKinley's policies set the course for the American Century, an era of unprecedented growth, power, and prosperity.

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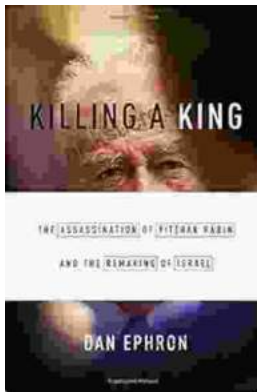
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