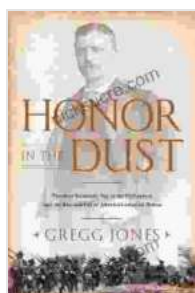


# Theodore Roosevelt's War in the Philippines: The Rise and Fall of American Empire

Theodore Roosevelt's presidency marked a turning point in American history, as the country emerged from isolationism and embarked on a path of imperial expansion. The Spanish-American War of 1898 had given the United States control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, and Roosevelt was determined to make the Philippines a showcase of American power and influence in the Pacific. However, the Philippine-American War that followed was a bloody and costly conflict that would have a lasting impact on both countries.

## The Outbreak of the Philippine-American War

Following the Spanish-American War, the United States and the First Philippine Republic, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, clashed over the future of the Philippines. Aguinaldo had declared the Philippines' independence in 1898, but the United States refused to recognize the new republic. In February 1899, the two sides engaged in a battle outside Manila, and the Philippine-American War began.



## Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America's Imperial

**Dream** by Gregg Jones

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6953 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 443 pages



The war was fought primarily in the Philippines' northern and central provinces. The American forces, led by General Arthur MacArthur, employed a scorched-earth policy to quell civilian support for the Filipino insurgents. This policy involved burning entire villages, killing civilians, and cutting off food supplies to areas under rebel control. The brutality of the American tactics resulted in the deaths of an estimated 100,000 Filipinos, or about 10% of the country's population.



## Roosevelt's Contribution to the War

Roosevelt's presidency played a major role in shaping the course of the Philippine-American War. As Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Roosevelt had been one of the architects of the U.S. victory in the Spanish-American War. He was also a staunch supporter of American imperialism and believed that the United States had a duty to spread its values and institutions around the world.

Upon becoming president in 1901, Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to implement a more aggressive strategy in the Philippines. He also increased the number of American troops in the country and authorized the use of torture to extract information from Filipino prisoners. Roosevelt's policies helped to break the back of the Filipino resistance, and the war finally ended in 1902 with the surrender of Aguinaldo.

### **The Aftermath of the War**

The Philippine-American War had a profound impact on both the United States and the Philippines. The war was a costly and bloody affair, and it left a legacy of bitterness and resentment in the Philippines. The United States established a colonial government in the Philippines, but it faced continuing resistance from Filipino nationalists. The Philippines eventually gained its independence in 1946, but the war had a lasting impact on the country's political and economic development.

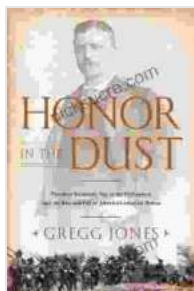


Ruins of Manila after the Philippine-American War

## **The Legacy of Theodore Roosevelt**

Theodore Roosevelt's legacy is a complex one. He was a charismatic and popular leader, but he also pursued a policy of aggressive expansionism that led to the deaths of many Filipinos. Roosevelt's war in the Philippines was a dark chapter in American history, but it also marked the beginning of the country's rise to great power status.

Roosevelt's belief in American exceptionalism and his willingness to use military force to achieve his goals had a profound impact on the United States' foreign policy in the 20th century. His policies helped to shape the world in which we live today, and his legacy continues to be debated by historians and policymakers.

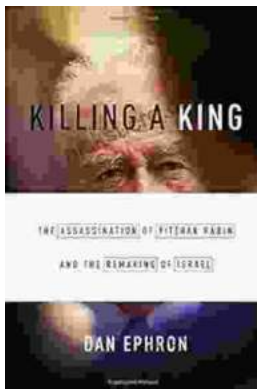


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