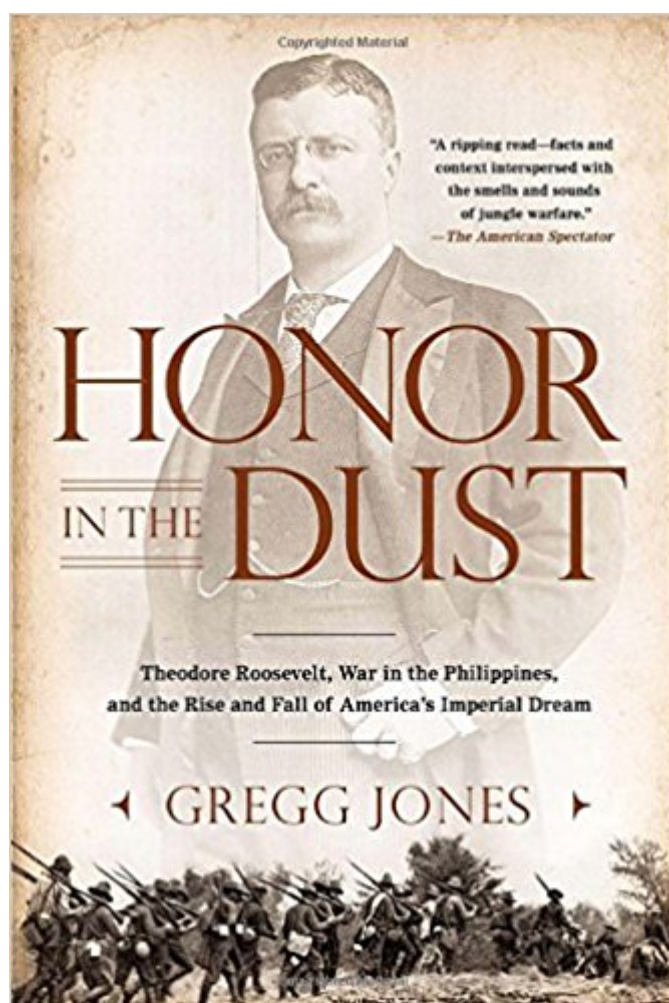


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# Honor In The Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War In The Philippines, And The Rise And Fall Of America's Imperial Dream



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This work reflects Jones's 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's 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's account effectively introduces this controversial war in its contemporary context. --Gilbert Taylor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"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*

Every part of the past has a history worth revisiting as a result of interesting moments that may not have been completely emphasized upon. Journalist and historian Gregg Jones takes a historic event that may have already been written numerous times. However, he delves much closer to the major individuals and pivotal events such as the aftermath of the Spanish American War and the beginning and end of the Philippine American War. *Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines and the Rise of America's Imperial Dream* examines a portion of the grander scales of both wars and how one continued after the other and the role of President Theodore Roosevelt and key officials and military generals that were responsible to the rebuilding of the Philippines after Spanish rule, but within the cracks the memory of the war may have been forgotten within the historic past as global expansionism steered forward by 1900. And the Philippine islands became a crux to that movement of advancement and transition but not without a cost that during the time caused controversy within foreign affairs and the United States military. *Honor in the Dust* is twofold and elaborates upon the period from 1898 to 1902, which begins with President William McKinley's presidency after the Spanish American War and the preliminary events leading to the Philippine American War a year later and the complexities that ensued that proceeded during Roosevelt's first term. But as one

narrows the lens of the past to a particular segment that had not been retold with greater emphasis, Jones focuses on Roosevelt and the debacle that occurred between US soldiers and Filipino guerilla soldiers that eventually led to misconceptions and misconduct. Based on Jones's travels as reporter to the Philippines in 1984 covering the Marcos presidency and political events surrounding that activity, he experienced another part of the islands to the south of Luzon and Manila, Visayan islands and the region of Samar, a jungle forest of rigid terrain; a place of historic significance that directly relates to American and Philippine history and with the campaign at Samar, which has been compared to the battle at Little Bighorn. It was a campaign that showed after Filipino guerilla general Emilio Aguinaldo's retreat and capture in 1901, one of two second in command general Vicente Lukban continued the fight well into 1902. Indeed, historic in comparison and one of several campaigns of the war that set a precedence and left a legacy shared with other histories of brutality and political and social repercussions that would later parallel with wars of the twentieth and twenty-first century from Vietnam to Iraq. However, readers may determine their own perceptions. And if readers are familiar with the works of Brian McAllister Linn, Stanley Karnow, or John M. Gates that have thoroughly examined the initial history of the Philippine American War and the involvement of the US, this book complements each as well as the PBS documentary *Crucible Empire: The Spanish-American War*. Also, the concluding pages contains much detail of the primary and secondary sources that Jones researched and used to write the book. After reading *Honor in Dust*, one may have another after thought, especially a historic one of Theodore Roosevelt's presidency during its infancy and circumstances that emerged of controversy and conduct of the people that he led. But with the assistance of the political and social climate and how events were communicated during the period, they, too, played an essential role in terms of interpretations.

The first book I read by American journalist Gregg Jones was *"Last Stand at Khe Sanh"*. I was absolutely enthralled with that effort and was unable to put it down. It was one of the most riveting and compelling works about that most horrific battle conveyed by the brave men who participated. Well written and informative, it is the most accurate depiction of personal events and descriptive moments of war that I have read about that battle, placing the reader in the trench line, sharing the fears, doubts, horrors and bravery of the men involved. That book led me to Mr. Jones magnificently written *"Honor in the Dust"*. A detailed account of a then imperialist America involved in defeating and exiling Spain from Cuba and the Philippines and then occupying the Philippines as essentially a colony. This book too

follows the bloody trail of battle, politics behind imperialistic decisions, hardships of the soldiers, denial of atrocities by superiors and substantial suffering by the local populace. 464 Pages which makes it a rather long vacation read but a compelling read non-the less, about the war in the Philippines 1899-1902. Another scholarly masterpiece by Mr. Jones.

This is one of those 'wish there was a 4.5 option' reviews. Overall this book is very accurate, moves into aspects of the battles I had not previously found in such vivid detail, took us through the jungles and the streets of foreign lands with ease, and simply put the facts of these early wars into a very good perspective for people to consider. He did seem to give a pass to McKinley which Politics of War was not so kind to do. There were also a few other minor political areas he was more inline with standard teachings on but it is very minor compared to the many facts he brings to the table with a clarity necessary to overcome the rewritten history that helped lead TR to be placed on Mt. Rushmore. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to open their eyes to real history. Follow this with Politics of War for a very good insight into the period of 1890-1920, a period that sealed the fate of our lost republic.

An excellent overview encompassing the politics and the military operations in the Philippines. This is a detailed work in some ways tracing the progress of " Empire politics " and the reality of the war against the fragmented Philippine Republic ( as proclaimed by Aguinaldo ). The ferocity of the military response to the insurgency of the various Philippine groups is well covered as is the make up and operations of the Philippine Republic. This was an excellent read and well organized. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in this phase of American growth of the late 19th century and the early 20th. century.

Having read several books over the last couple years on TR, I have come to realize the power of one determined individual to move this nation in directions that the majority may not truly desire to go. His strong willed tactics are comparable to our present president as is his bull headed attitude. Having spent thirteen years in the military I believe the military descriptions are spot on when discussing the military attitude. The scandals very similar to the water boarding in recent history seem to show a pattern of sweeping problems under the carpet and then side stepping them instead of holding anyone accountable. Just as is the case in this day and age. It was a pleasure to read and historically enlightening.

Tremendous insights into the conflict in the Philippines following the Spanish-American war. Very ugly on the American side of things, both with political infighting and what happens to troops carrying out 'total war'. I had a great uncle who died of his wounds in this war, so that was my initial interest, but was captivated by the intensity of the struggle in the Philippines. Pretty terrible stuff.

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