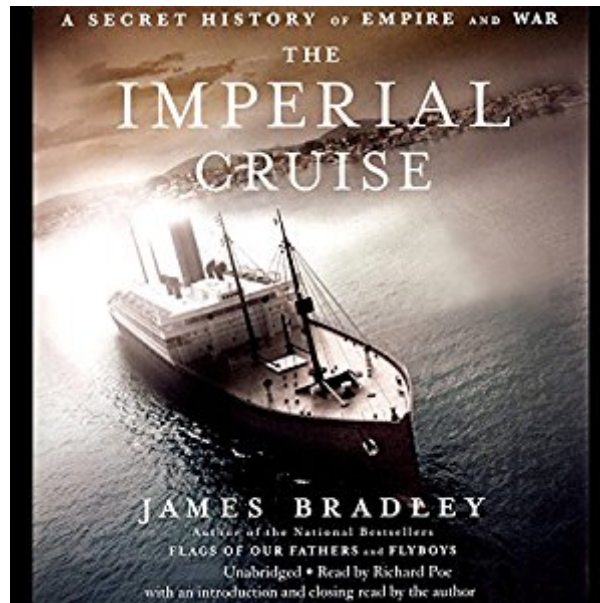




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The Imperial Cruise: A Secret History Of Empire And War



Synopsis

In 1905 President Teddy Roosevelt dispatched Secretary of War William Taft, his gun-toting daughter Alice and a gaggle of congressmen on a mission to Japan, the Philippines, China, and Korea. There, they would quietly forge a series of agreements that divided up Asia. At the time, Roosevelt was bully-confident about America's future on the continent. But these secret pacts lit the fuse that would-decades later-result in a number of devastating wars: WWII, the Korean War, the communist revolution in China. One hundred years later, James Bradley retraces that epic voyage and discovers the remarkable truth about America's vast imperial past-and its world-shaking consequences. Full of fascinating characters and brilliantly told, THE IMPERIAL CRUISE will forever reshape the way we understand U.S. history --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

This book is ostensibly a history of a cruise that Taft and other American VIPs made prior to WWI, in which secret assurances were given to Japan that it could invade Korea. But it is also an indictment of how Teddy Roosevelt's racism and PR tactics changed the course of history in the Pacific, causing the inevitability of WWII, the rise of communism in China, and the Vietnam War. You can't put this book down. It reads almost like a novel, although a few things are repeated several times (like Teddy Roosevelt's career as a best-selling writer). I was shocked to learn about the massacres

that the US did in the Philippines, the water boarding torture that we practiced on a widespread basis, our deposing of the Hawaiian queen. History books have certainly whitewashed our behavior. It makes me ashamed; I no longer can feel anger towards the Turks for their treatment of Armenians when my own country indulged in wholesale slaughter in the Philippines, for no justifiable cause. What impressed me most, however, was the way that this book showcased how our thinking has changed since the turn of the 19th century, when whites assumed that it was impossible for non-whites to attain civilization or achieve democracy. The arrogance is almost unbelievable -- until one remembers how unquestioned this worldview was. What similar arrogances do we currently indulge in, which will seem equally reprehensible a few generations from now? As soon as I finished this book, I bought copies for numerous people, and signed up to give a summary of it to a book group. That's how important the message is.

I gave it 5 stars for the information it contained. The writing itself was just average. Few know what we did to the Filipino people and that we destroyed a functioning democratic government and that we mercilessly waterboarded thousands to their death to install a dictator who would do our bidding. Great reading just for that and how we sold out the Koreans to Japan.

The Imperial Cruise, by James Bradley, was very well-written and consistently interesting, but it conveys a very one-sided view of a very complex issue, that issue being American conduct with relation to the Philippines and Japan during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. It was interesting to read an alternative view after reading the works of people like Edmund Morris who regard Roosevelt with something approaching reverence. I was not entirely convinced by Mr. Bradley, but I did not feel I had wasted my time either.

This book covers Teddy Roosevelt and his daughter "Princess" Alice. The author took a totally different approach on the foreign affairs of USA than I expected. There were times I hated the book and wanted to throw it away..but I kept coming back to read more of it. It was upsetting to me to read how bigoted and prejudice white diplomats and politicians were. But I guess the truth is the truth...

James Bradley's books are always great and full of good research that most of us do not know! I have read many books about Theodore Roosevelt but this was a chapter of his life I did realize. The teaching that was done to the wealthier class at Harvard and others about the supremacy of the

white race was astounding and caused much harm to the world through colonialism and war. I have enjoyed several of the books Bradley has written, Fly Boys and The Sands of Iwo Jima. I hope he keeps writing.

Never knew the history of how the USA "acquired" the Philippines-very thought provoking-It is hard to believe that we could inflict such pain when "CIVILIZING NON ARYANS"-General Smith's actions are in Wikipedia and in History books.-The book provides many foot notes enabling independent research. Mitchner's "HAWAII" and Bradley are on the same track. Bradley, by including Roosevelt's daughter, in his narrative prevented the book to be a very dull factual book. It was a very fascinating book. He (BRADLEY) provided insight of the political thinking of the day. The way that we subdued our native Indians gives credence to this history.

The title cruise was by Sec of War Taft, Alice Roosevelt, several senators and congressmen, to Hawaii, Japan, Philippines, and elsewhere. The actual cruise is only about 10% of the book, the rest taken up by our imperial misdeeds, atrocities, international politics. TR was even worse than I had concluded earlier; a real racist and monster. The 1-star critics strike me as "U.S. can do no wrong" jingoists. They will believe that Bradley had me fooled. Maybe he did, but he certainly did a workmanlike job of it.

A very revealing look at an unsettling period in American history, which was passed over when I was in school. It sheds new light on later history - the Pacific phase of World War II might have been avoided if the U.S. had kept its hands off the Philippines and some of the other Pacific islands. I do think the book is a little hard on Teddy Roosevelt, who did a lot of good for the country, although not in this respect.

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