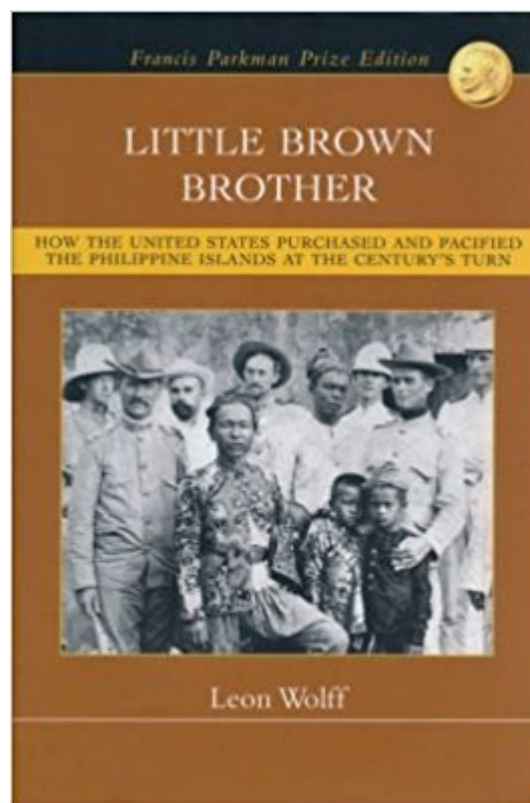




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Little Brown Brother: How The United States Purchased And Pacified The Philippine Islands At The Century's Turn



Synopsis

From the front flap of this 383 page book: "Although nearly forgotten today, the U.S. annexation of the Philippines came at the end of a bloody and highly controversial war that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, cost six hundred million dollars, and set America firmly on the path of imperial expansion. In [this book], Leon Wolff tells the full story, revealing how and why the U.S. went from aiding Filipino independence to forcefully annexing the islands for themselves. Combining rich historical knowledge with a compelling narrative style, Wolff offers a masterful portrait of the insurrection, including revealing sketches of key figures such as U.S. governor-general William H. Taft and Filipino leader Emilio Aquinaldo. In addition, he provides a memorable look at the fierce debate raging back home. On the side of the empire were the nation's leading Republicans, including President William McKinley, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, and New York's famously pugnacious governor, Theodore Roosevelt, who declared that 'the clamor of the peace faction has convinced me that the country needs a war.' On the opposing side stood an equally influential group, including labor leader Samuel Gompers, industrialist Andrew Carnegie, and celebrated author Mark Twain, all of whom joined the Anti-Imperialist League. How it all came about and how the U.S. subdued his 'little brown brother' are mordantly told in this landmark work that presents an unforgettable portrait of America at the dawn of her global empire."

Book Information

Hardcover: 383 pages

Publisher: History Book Club (2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582882096

ISBN-13: 978-1582882093

Package Dimensions: 9 x 6.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #185,306 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > History > Asia > Philippines #181 in Books > History > Asia > Southeast Asia #341 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading

Customer Reviews

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Splendid book, exactly what I was looking for. This book captivated me from the first sentences. I loved the sardonic style of the prose---as if to turn a doubting, cynical eye toward everything the US did. It was subtle enough though that the book couldn't be accused of overt bias against the war (or "pacification", as Americans saw it). The author built the drama from chapter to chapter, as we the reader anticipated the war breaking-out and covenants to the poor Filipino insurgents being broken and ignored (and war doesn't break-out until beyond the half-way point in the book). My only complaint (a slight one) is that the last 6 months or year of the "war" are covered very quickly, with far less focus and detail than the first few years of the "war." I found myself hungering for more details as to how things deteriorated for the poor Filipinos. But I suppose that is a testament to how well the first 3/4ths of the book was written---that I was wanting more, and didn't want it to end. I suppose I had something in common with those poor Filipinos, fighting for independence, and such silly ideas as consent of the governed...they didn't want it to end as soon as it did either.

i really liked the style the book was written; however, if you aren't into serious historical detail you may find this dryly written. Also, if you are unfamiliar with the geography of the islands or surrounding bodies of water, you may be looking to a map as you read. i am filipino myself and was happy to discover a well-written history of the war and the country itself. Even though this was purchased as a father's day gift, i ended up reading it myself first!

very interesting to read

[My review for another edition of this book (I own both; text appears to be the same)] ___ A Classic Book. I'm patriotic, but in the Philippines, we invaded a nation of generally civilized, Christian people. Though many were native farmers, they were not tribal nor primitive. Many common villagers went to some level of school and were Christian. When we arrived, pretending to help them rebel against Spain, they had been a Spanish colony for 350 years. They were civilized and Catholic, and we killed 20,000 of their soldiers who resisted our invasion and at least 250,000 civilian non-fighters. Once free from Spain (largely achieved on their own) the Filipinos needed our protection from invading nations who wanted their land, resources, and labor. What they got was America as an occupying, somewhat racist invader. I have lived there and written two novels about those historical times.

Great addition to my Philippine book collection.

Received it in excellent condition as per your description. I am highly satisfied!!!

Good

I recommend this book to American's who are interested in learning the history of America and its failed manifest destiny policy. It is disheartening to know how the U.S. (in the guise of "helping free" the Philippine people from Spain) killed and tortured hundreds of thousands of Philippine Citizens. The title comes from a reference to the Filipino people made by President Taft. It is sad that in the year 2010 this superiority complex is present in the U.S. when dealing with third world people.

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