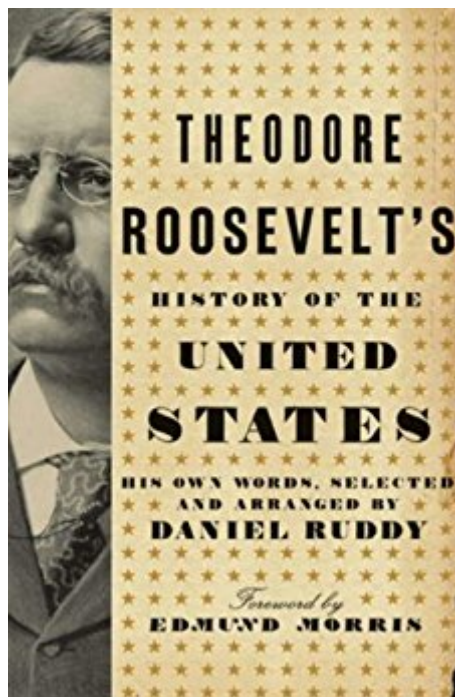


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Theodore Roosevelt's History Of The United States: His Own Words, Selected And Arranged By Daniel Ruddy



Synopsis

“A splendid piece of work.” — Edmund Morris In a unique project, author Daniel Ruddy has carefully extracted Teddy Roosevelt’s most relevant and telling comments “from letters, books, speeches, and other sources” and organized them to form a fairly full, always colorful, and highly opinionated history of the United States up to 1919 (the year TR died). With a preface by Theodore Rex author Edmund Morris.

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Customer Reviews

Teddy Roosevelt, much like Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, was a man of giant intellect, a man whose viewpoints confound contemporary thinkers because they’re impossible to categorize into one cohesive ideology (at least by today’s standards). Both Roosevelt and Holmes have the great distinction of being both championed and simultaneously maligned from both sides of the political spectrum-no small feat. But Teddy Roosevelt didn’t earn his place on Mt. Rushmore by happenstance. Love him or hate him, he was a President who changed the course of US History. And that is why this book is so important. We grew up being told that those who didn’t know history

would be bound to repeat it. Roosevelt shows time and again in this book that he was one of the keenest intellects and most studied minds to ever occupy the Executive branch. What's great about this book is that it is all from the mind of Roosevelt himself. There is no getting hamstrung by sloppy commentary or ideological preening (see Evan Thomas's new tome on Roosevelt for a fine example of fantastic history meeting idiotic commentary). So often do writers and historians make the fatal flaw of trying to interpret the thoughts and actions of historical figures as looked at through a contemporary prism. It's poor scholarship and leads to conclusions that do more harm than good. But here, Ruddy lets Roosevelt speak for himself. The pieces are more than long enough so that the reader isn't left wondering about the true context or whether we were just catching the President on a bad day. And the pieces are put together in such a way that it is easy to see the bigger picture crystallize before one's very eyes. Everything about this book feels objective. There is a sense that we are getting to see the man for who he is, not who we (or the author) would like him to be. Make no mistake, this is not just a collection of writings from Teddy Roosevelt on various topics. Those can be found anywhere. What we have here is one of the most unique pieces of history I've seen. This book is basically a distillation of Roosevelt's thoughts and feelings on the history of this country up through the early 1900's. And the man pulls no punches. Teddy's viewpoints of some of the founding fathers are quite harsh. But like any good student of history, he backs it up with valid and lucid points. Never does one get the impression that he's speaking wildly, accusingly pointing fingers and randomly drawing conclusions to fit a worldview. What we see is that the man has done his homework (and probably some of the other kids homework based on his breadth of knowledge). What makes this even more fascinating is that he comes from a time much closer to the founding of this country than any living person today. His first years of life were spent watching the country try to tear itself in two. He knew men that had actually spent time with some of the founding fathers. He was much closer to living the things we can only read about. His perspective comes from first and secondhand accounts. Combine that with his incredible mind and the unique position he held in this country, and you've got yourself the makings of a gem. Anyone interested in US history or Teddy Roosevelt must read this. I've read so many books on Roosevelt that I've lost count, and this one brought new things to the table I had not seen before. Even better, I think it gave me a better sense of the man himself than any biography I've ever read. Being able to view our history through the eyes and mind of one of the most influential men in our history is a rare treat, and Daniel Ruddy is to be commended for putting the pieces together in a brilliant way and then simply stepping back to let Teddy speak once more to us all.

Theodore Roosevelt's History of the United States is not an objective, balanced portrayal of American history, and readers shouldn't expect it to be. Teddy was a strong man with strong opinions, and he wasn't afraid to give voice to them. In his view, William McKinley had "the backbone of a chocolate éclair," Martin van Buren "faithfully served the mammon of unrighteousness," and "Few criminals have worked as much harm to their country" as John C. Calhoun did. On the flip side, George Washington was "the greatest of all Americans" and Abraham Lincoln was "perhaps the only genius in our political history." It is those strong opinions that make this book such a fun read, even when readers disagree with what T.R. says - and they will. There's something to offend everyone in this book, but in a society accustomed to political and social leaders who waffle and equivocate lest they offend this group or that, it is refreshing to read words that take a strong stand, even if you think that stand is dead wrong. Roosevelt's love for his country ran as deep as the Mississippi, and that comes through on almost every page. At times his patriotism crosses into jingoism, but the unshakable admiration and optimism he had for his country is uplifting. Those readers who are capable of appreciating directness and strong writing even if they disagree with some of the author's conclusions will find this book a fast and enjoyable read.

Theodore Roosevelt's History of the United States: His Own Words, Selected and Arranged by Daniel Ruddy

Theodore Roosevelt's History of the United States, arranged by Daniel Ruddy, is an easy read. If you are a fan of TR, you will love this book. Here in one volume is TR's views on everything from Thomas Jefferson to Woodrow Wilson. I am very interested in the life and times of Theodore Roosevelt. I find him to be America's most unique president. I probably wouldn't have liked him personally or agreed with his views on many subjects, but that is beside the point. In this book, the reader will be given an overview of U.S. History up until World War I in the actual words of Theodore Roosevelt. If you are interested in the thoughts of TR on about any subject in early U.S. History, you will find it in this easy to read, well put together volume. I highly recommend this book, especially to those who are intrigued by Theodore Roosevelt.

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