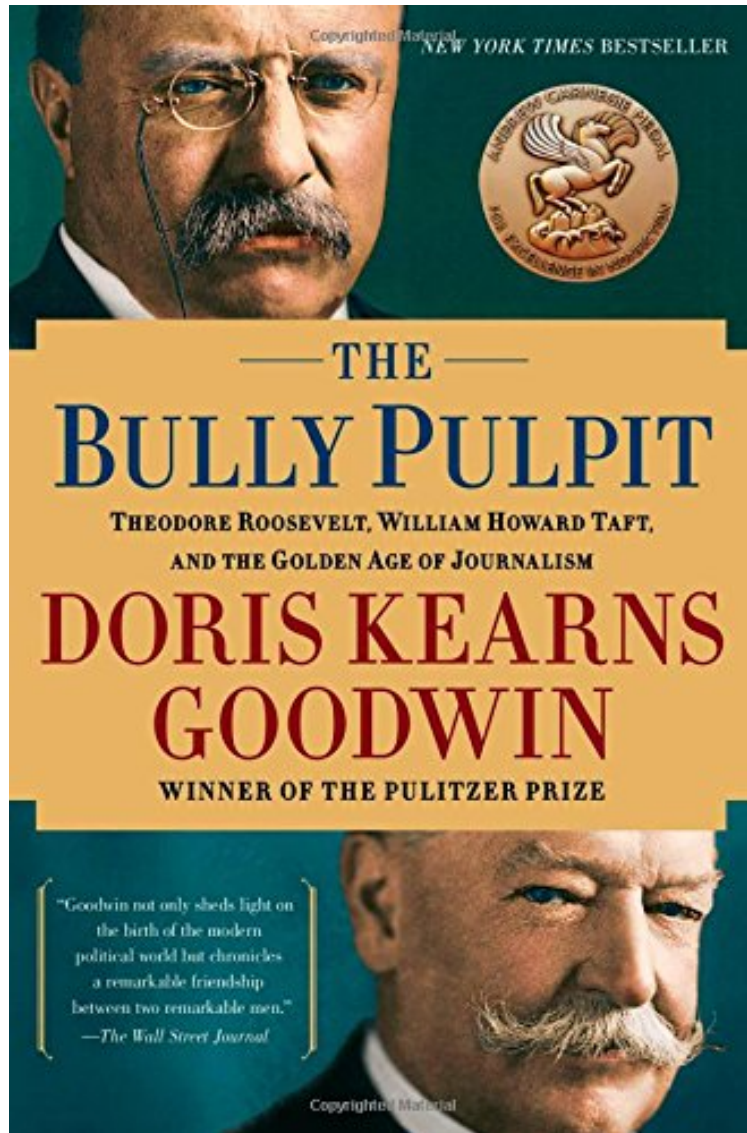


The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt and the Golden Age of Journalism

Doris Kearns Goodwin

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#22211 in Books Doris Kearns Goodwin 2013 2014-09-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.60 x 6.12l, 2.60 #File Name: 1416547878912 pagesThe Bully Pulpit Theodore Roosevelt William Howard Taft and the Golden Age of Journalism | File size: 24.Mb

Doris Kearns Goodwin : The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt and the Golden Age of Journalism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt and the Golden Age of Journalism:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 4 stars by comparisonBy don't look back4 stars by comparison

means compared to her fantastic *Team of Rivals*. While I disagree almost completely with those who claim it was unreadable or lacked focus there is a small kernel of truth to the claim. The editor could have used a little more trimming and possibly helped it run a bit smoother. That being said I really enjoyed reading it and with only a few exceptions moved along quite enjoyably. I disagree with one of the editorial reviews that said she didn't show Taft in the best of light. While I knew a bit of his history her portrayal of his racial views really impressed me. And the idea of coupling Roosevelt, Taft and the journalists in one book interacting was inspired if as already said a touch disjointed. Probably doesn't hurt that the book coincides with my already held view that TR wasn't as wonderful personally as generally portrayed and Taft was ill treated by history. To me the best point on this is instead of getting a free trader, anti monopoly, racially way ahead of his times Taft for a second term, we got an anti semite , racist, eugenicist, liar (he kept our boys out of war) pigheaded (no Republicans at peace treaty oh no League of Nations) Woodrow Wilson. This book probably isn't for everyone but if you're interested in an evenhanded treatment of this period and are willing to push yourself in a couple of places I'd suggest it you'll be better informed for it 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love everything Doris Kearns Goodwin has written By Carl First of all, I love everything Doris Kearns Goodwin has written, and that includes this book. That said, there are some elements that I would change. The virtue of this book is the same as its defect: it's wildly detailed. That fact brings the characters to life when the details matter and slows the narrative when they don't. I don't really care about the voting tallies in the numerous elections Goodwin cites, for example. The trajectory of Roosevelt's life is vivid. He begins as pure energy in search of a cause, rises to genuine American hero, and ends rather tragically, as a slave of his own ego. Goodwin does a wonderful job completing the circle. For me, the biggest surprise is William Howard Taft, a sadly overlooked President, more regarded as a placeholder than a significant historical figure. The sheer goodness of his character is what I like best about Goodwin's portrait. His genuine attempts to do the right thing no matter the political consequences were so refreshing given today's political climate and in contrast with Roosevelt himself. I came out of the book admiring a character I had no sense of before this portrait. What was really new to me was Goodwin's accounting of the press during this period. Once again, ours suffers by comparison, and it's instructive to see exactly how. We've grown so accustomed to shoddy politics and shoddy press that we barely notice any more. I think the most important thing this book does is show how very similar problems were managed far more honorably than they currently are. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. "The Bully Pulpit" looks at the trees but misses the forest By Rev. Ralph Doris Kearns Goodwin's finely detailed account of the Progressive era, with Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft at the center of her story, reinforced by her "inside" narrative of a great time in journalism, exemplified by the outstanding investigative team at McClure's magazine, gives the reader, in great detail, an enormous amount of carefully researched information. Several of the reviews claim that the book is far too long. However, the period of American history known as the dawn of the Industrial Age and with it the advent of a truly Progressive social reform era merit the sort of near-exhaustive treatment Goodwin offers. It was a time when two great forces were being unleashed in American culture: industrial strength and power, and the social, prophetic voices sounding loud and clear, in response to that very earth-changing business and industrial upheaval. The forces were really locked in conflict. To write about all that sweeping revolution requires a lot of words. What Goodwin does not attempt -- perhaps that would be the work of another author -- is a critical appraisal of the vastly disruptive era she characterizes with infinite care. The late Sydney E. Ahlstrom, historian of American religious thought, does provide such a broad interpretation in his magnum opus, "A Religious History of the American People" (1972, Yale University Press; Second Edition, 2004). Prof. Ahlstrom sets the time of Roosevelt and Taft in perspective. It was a time of expansion, glorifying "bigness," and re-awakening America's religious roots as a nation with a "Manifest Destiny." For example, the country loved " the splendid little war" (April 19-August 12, 1898) pursuing Cuban independence. Taking pride in Commodore Dewey in the Philippines, Teddy Roosevelt said, somewhat ruefully, "It was a little war, but it was the only one we had." (Ahlstrom, p. 879) In an era of American imperialism and religious zeal, the country, and its churches, were intent on Christianizing the heathen. The Presidents simply gave political support to the program. It was a time of enormously keen social reform. It really followed in the aftermath of the American Civil War... a time called "The Second Great Awakening," highlighted by the beginnings of such institutions as the YM and YWCA, urban settlement houses, foreign missionary movements, Bible societies, and mental hospital reform. Without that supporting cast, Roosevelt and Taft, as well as the great journalists Ida Tarbell, John Phillips, Ray Baker, and others would simply not have had a responsive audience. So, while Doris Kearns Goodwin gives us a valuable picture of the trees in an extremely significant period of American development, she leaves it to someone else to provide a clear picture of the forest.

One of the Best Books of the Year as chosen by The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, Time, USA TODAY, Christian Science Monitor, and more. A tale so gripping that one questions the need for fiction when real life is so plump with drama and intrigue (Associated Press). Doris Kearns Goodwin's *The Bully Pulpit* is a dynamic history of the first decade of the Progressive era, that tumultuous time when the nation was coming unseamed and reform was in the air. The story is told through the intense friendship of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard

Taft close relationship that strengthens both men before it ruptures in 1912, when they engage in a brutal fight for the presidential nomination that divides their wives, their children, and their closest friends, while crippling the progressive wing of the Republican Party, causing Democrat Woodrow Wilson to be elected, and changing the country's history. The Bully Pulpit is also the story of the muckraking press, which arouses the spirit of reform that helps Roosevelt push the government to shed its laissez-faire attitude toward robber barons, corrupt politicians, and corporate exploiters of our natural resources. The muckrakers are portrayed through the greatest group of journalists ever assembled at one magazine: Ida Tarbell, Ray Stannard Baker, Lincoln Steffens, and William Allen White, teamed under the mercurial genius of publisher S.S. McClure. Goodwin's narrative is founded upon a wealth of primary materials. The correspondence of more than four hundred letters between Roosevelt and Taft begins in their early thirties and ends only months before Roosevelt's death. Edith Roosevelt and Nellie Taft kept diaries. The muckrakers wrote hundreds of letters to one another, kept journals, and wrote their memoirs. The letters of Captain Archie Butt, who served as a personal aide to both Roosevelt and Taft, provide an intimate view of both men. The Bully Pulpit, like Goodwin's brilliant chronicles of the Civil War and World War II, exquisitely demonstrates her distinctive ability to combine scholarly rigor with accessibility. It is a major work of history: an examination of leadership in a rare moment of activism and reform that brought the country closer to its founding ideals.

.com An Best Book of the Month, November 2013: In an era when cooperation between the national media and the US government seems laughable, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's timely 100-year look backward explores the origins of the type of muckraking journalism that helped make America a better country. Focusing on the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt and his successor, William Howard Taft--one-time colleagues and friends who later became sworn foes--Goodwin chronicles the birth of an activist press, which occurred when five of the nation's best-ever journalists converged at McClure's magazine and helped usher in the Progressive era. At times slow and overly meticulous, with a lot of backstory and historical minutiae, this is nonetheless a lush, lively, and surprisingly urgent story--a series of entwined stories, actually, with headstrong and irascible characters who had me pining for journalism's earlier days. It's a big book that cries out for a weekend in a cabin, a book to get fully lost in, to hole up with and ignore the modern world, to experience the days when newsmen and women were our heroes. --Neal Thompson

From Booklist *Starred* In this hyperpartisan era, it is well to remember that a belief in an activist federal government that promoted both social and economic progress crossed party lines, as it did during the Progressive movement of the early twentieth century. Goodwin, the acclaimed historian, repeatedly emphasizes that fact in her massive and masterful study of the friendship, and then the enmity, of two presidents who played major roles in that movement. Roosevelt, unsurprisingly, is portrayed by Goodwin as egotistical, bombastic, and determined to take on powerful special interests. He saw his secretary of war, Taft, as a friend and disciple. When Taft, as president, seemed to abandon the path of reform, Roosevelt saw it as both a political and a personal betrayal. Taft, sadly remembered by many as our fattest president, receives nuanced, sympathetic, but not particularly favorable treatment here. But this is also an examination of some of the great journalists who exposed societal ills and promoted the reforms that aimed to address them. Many of these muckrakers, including Ida Tarbell and Lincoln Steffens, worked for McClure's magazine. This is a superb re-creation of a period when many politicians, journalists, and citizens of differing political affiliations viewed government as a force for public good. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** This author's new book has been greatly anticipated; much prepublication discussion has occurred; and reader interest will be intense. --Jay Freeman

If you find the grubby spectacle of today's Washington cause for shame and despair and really, how could you not? then I suggest you turn off the TV and board Doris Kearns Goodwin's latest time machine. [Goodwin puts] political intrigues and moral dilemmas and daily lives into rich and elegant language. Imagine *The West Wing* scripted by Henry James. (Bill Keller, *The New York Times Book*) "In her beautiful new account of the lives of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin spins a tale so gripping that one questions the need for fiction when real life is so plump with drama and intrigue." (Associated Press) Doris Kearns Goodwin tells this tale with her usual literary skill and deep research. Goodwin not only sheds light on the birth of the modern political world but chronicles a remarkable friendship between two remarkable men. (The Wall Street Journal) This sophisticated, character-driven book tells two big stories. . . . This is a fascinating work, even a timely one. . . . It captures the way a political party can be destroyed by factionalism, and it shows the important role investigative journalists play in political life. (The Economist) Here is where Goodwin's account soars. She captures with masterly precision the depth of the Roosevelt-Taft relationship, the slow dissolution and the growing disillusion, the awkward attempts at rapprochement, and then the final break. . . . It is a story worth telling, and one well told. (The Boston Globe) The interplay between personality and politics, temperament and leadership is one of the key themes animating Doris Kearns Goodwin's telling books. The same is true of her sprawling new book, *The Bully Pulpit*, which gives us revealing portraits of Theodore Roosevelt and his close friend, handpicked successor and eventual bitter rival, William Howard Taft. She also uses her impressive narrative skills to give us a visceral sense of the world in which Roosevelt and Taft came of age. . . . She creates emotionally detailed portraits of the two men's families, provides an informed understanding of the political forces (conservative, moderate and insurgent) arrayed across the country at the time, and

enlivens even highly familiar scenes like Teddy Roosevelt's daring charge up San Juan Hill. (Michiko Kakutani *The New York Times*) Goodwin spent eight years working on *The Bully Pulpit* and the effort shows, much to the readers' benefit and delight. She keeps the story clipping along, chooses enlightening anecdotes and has the narrative and historical acumen to weave her theme through 900 pages. At 70, let's hope she has at least a couple more biographies in mind. For now, savor *The Bully Pulpit*. It is a command performance of popular history." (Christian Science Monitor) Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin has scored again with *The Bully Pulpit*, a thorough and well-written study of two presidents, as well as the journalists who covered them and exposed scandals in government and industry. Her genius in this huge volume (750 pages of text) is to take the three narratives and weave them into a comprehensive, readable study of the time. *The Bully Pulpit* is a remarkable study of a tumultuous period in our history. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) Swiftly moving account of a friendship that turned sour, broke a political party in two and involved an insistent, omnipresent press corps. . . . It's no small achievement to have something new to say on Teddy Roosevelt's presidency, but Goodwin succeeds admirably. A notable, psychologically charged study in leadership. (Kirkus Reviews, Starred) By shining a light on a little-discussed President and a much-discussed one, Goodwin manages to make history very much alive and relevant. Better yet, the party politics are explicitly modern. (Publishers Weekly, Starred) These fascinating times deserve a chronicler as wise and thorough as Goodwin. *The Bully Pulpit* is splendid reading. (Dallas Morning News) Goodwin's evocative examination of the Progressive world is smart and engaging. . . . She presents a highly readable and detailed portrait of an era. *The Bully Pulpit* brings the early 20th century to life and firmly establishes the crucial importance of the press to Progressive politics. (The Washington Post)