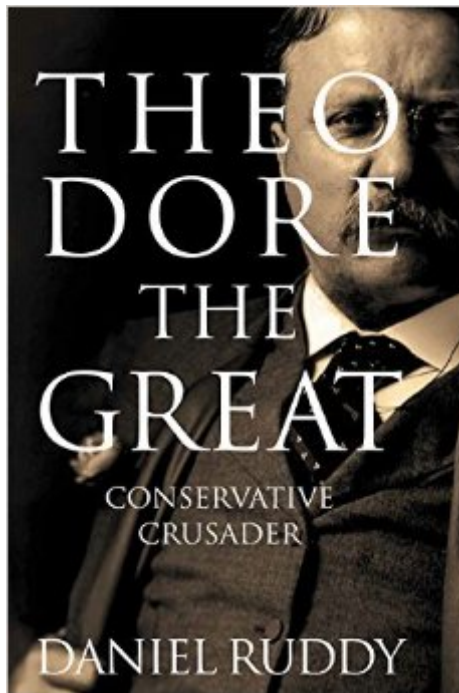


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Theodore The Great: Conservative Crusader



Synopsis

Theodore Roosevelt has a complicated legacy. To some, he was the quintessential American patriot and hero, a valiant soldier and hawkish leader. Others remember him as the Progressive cultural icon, the trust-buster who split from the Republican Party. So who was the real Teddy Roosevelt? Daniel Ruddy's new biography cuts through the impenetrable tangle of misconceptions and contradictions that have grown up over the last century and obscured our view of a man who remains one of the most controversial and misunderstood presidents in U.S. history. Weighing Roosevelt's lifetime of actions against his sometimes-contradictory Progressive rhetoric, Ruddy paints a portrait of a man who led by undeniably conservative principles, but who obfuscated his own legacy with populist speeches. By focusing on Roosevelt's actions and his effect on American history, Ruddy clears the cobwebs and presents a real and convincing case for remembering Theodore Roosevelt as a great conservative leader.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy reading books that try to revise our understanding of figures. History always needs to be revising in order to not perpetuate myths. However sometimes those attempts don't always succeed. Ruddy's book is one of those. His attempt to make TR into a conservative who believed in limited government is on the same level as Barton's attempt to make Jefferson out to be a Christian. I love Regnery books because they are some of the best. However this isn't one of them. Basically the author's argument is of the type "well ok TR did expand government but at least

it was efficient and not too expensive." On page 35 he actually admits that TR did expand the of government (he actually put the word power in italics) but he just didn't expand the size of government. So he's still conservative. It's this kind of sleight of hand I suppose that the author believes gives TR a plausible out. It's this very area, namely the power of government that many of the framers feared the most. He is right that TR was at heart a Hamiltonian and despised Jefferson. As a conservative what tradition should we defend? The debt loving Hamilton who clearly wanted to consolidate the central government and who would have abolished the states if he could or Jefferson who with the passion in which he wrote the Declaration warned loudly of the overreaching power of the federal government? He mentions libertarian critics of TR and I have no doubt he is quite aware of Jim Powell's book *Bully Boy* but oddly enough does not reference him or his book directly. It would have been good to see him cite Powell and interact with his work and point out where he feels he has strayed. Instead there are just references to generic libertarian criticisms.

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