

# The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt

By Edmund Morris

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**The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt** By Edmund Morris

**Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time**

Thirty years ago, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. A collector's item in its original edition, it has never been out of print as a paperback. This classic book is now reissued in hardcover, along with *Theodore Rex*, to coincide with the publication of *Colonel Roosevelt*, the third and concluding volume of Edmund Morris's definitive trilogy on the life of the twenty-sixth President.

Although *Theodore Rex* fully recounts TR's years in the White House (1901–1909), *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* begins with a brilliant Prologue describing the President at the apex of his international prestige. That was on New Year's Day, 1907, when TR, who had just won the Nobel Peace Prize, threw open the doors of the White House to the American people and shook 8,150 hands, more than any man before him. Morris re-creates the reception with such authentic detail that the reader gets almost as vivid an impression of TR as those who attended. One visitor remarked afterward, "You go to the White House, you shake hands with Roosevelt and hear him talk—and then you go home to wring the personality out of your clothes."

The rest of this book tells the story of TR's irresistible rise to power. (He himself compared his trajectory to that of a rocket.) It is, in effect, the biography of seven men—a naturalist, a writer, a lover, a hunter, a ranchman, a soldier, and a politician—who merged at age forty-two to become the youngest President in our history. Rarely has any public figure exercised such a charismatic hold on the popular imagination. Edith Wharton likened TR's vitality to radium. H. G. Wells said that he was "a very symbol of the creative will in man." Walter Lippmann characterized him simply as our only "lovable" chief executive.

During the years 1858–1901, Theodore Roosevelt, the son of a wealthy Yankee father and a plantation-bred southern belle, transformed himself from a frail, asthmatic boy into a full-blooded man. Fresh out of Harvard, he simultaneously published a distinguished work of naval history and became the fist-swinging leader of a Republican insurgency in the New York State Assembly. He had a youthful romance as lyrical—and tragic—as any in Victorian fiction. He chased

thieves across the Badlands of North Dakota with a copy of *Anna Karenina* in one hand and a Winchester rifle in the other. Married to his childhood sweetheart in 1886, he became the country squire of Sagamore Hill on Long Island, a flamboyant civil service reformer in Washington, D.C., and a night-stalking police commissioner in New York City. As assistant secretary of the navy under President McKinley, he almost single-handedly brought about the Spanish-American War. After leading “Roosevelt’s Rough Riders” in the famous charge up San Juan Hill, Cuba, he returned home a military hero, and was rewarded with the governorship of New York. In what he called his “spare hours” he fathered six children and wrote fourteen books. By 1901, the man Senator Mark Hanna called “that damned cowboy” was vice president of the United States. Seven months later, an assassin’s bullet gave TR the national leadership he had always craved.

His is a story so prodigal in its variety, so surprising in its turns of fate, that previous biographers have treated it as a series of haphazard episodes. This book, the only full study of TR’s pre-presidential years, shows that he was an inevitable chief executive, and recognized as such in his early teens. His apparently random adventures were precipitated and linked by various aspects of his character, not least an overwhelming will. “It was as if he were subconsciously aware that he was a man of many selves,” the author writes, “and set about developing each one in turn, knowing that one day he would be President of all the people.”

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## Editorial Review

Review

### Praise for *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*

“Magnificent . . . one of those rare works that is both definitive for the period it covers and fascinating to read for sheer entertainment.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A towering biography . . . a brilliant chronicle.”—*Time*

“Theodore Roosevelt, in this meticulously researched and beautifully written biography, has a claim on being the most interesting man ever to be President of this country.”—*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Spectacles glittering, teeth and temper flashing, high-pitched voice rasping and crackling, Roosevelt surges out of these pages with the force of a physical presence.”—*The Atlantic Monthly*

“[Morris’s] prose is elegant and at the same time hard and lucid, and his sense of narrative flow is nearly flawless. . . . The author re-creates a sense of the scene and an immediacy of the situation that any skilled writer should envy and the most jaded reader should find a joy.”—*The Miami Herald*

“A monumental work in every sense of the word . . . a book of pulsating and well-written narrative.”—*The Christian Science Monitor*

From the Inside Flap

Described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “a classic,” **The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt** stands as one of the greatest biographies of our time. The publication of **The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt** on September 14th, 2001 marks the 100th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt becoming president.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

From the Back Cover

Praise for the rise of Theodore Roosevelt

“Magnificent . . . a sweeping narrative of the outward man and a shrewd examination of his character. . . . It is one of those rare works that is both definitive for the period it covers and fascinating to read for sheer entertainment. There should be a queue awaiting the next volume.”

—W. A. Swanberg, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Theodore Roosevelt, in this meticulously researched and beautifully written biography, has a claim on being the most interesting man ever to be President of this country.”

—Robert Kirsch, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Spectacles glittering, teeth and temper flashing, high-pitched voice rasping and crackling, Roosevelt surges out of these pages with the force of a physical presence.”

—*The Atlantic Monthly*

“Morris’s book is beautifully written as well as thoroughly scholarly—clearly a masterpiece of American

biography. . . . Hundreds of thousands will soon be reading this book . . . and will look forward, as I do, to Morris's second volume."

-Kenneth S. Davis, *Worcester Sunday Telegram*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Dewey Newkirk:**

The book *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the great thing like a book *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*? A few of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim in which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you are able to give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* has simple shape however you know: it has great and big function for you. You can seem the enormous world by open and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

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#### **Melvin Hayes:**

Precisely why? Because this *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

#### **Mike Hart:**

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, you

are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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