



The Imperial Cruise: A Secret History of Empire and War (Chinese Edition)

By James Bradley

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On the success of his two bestselling books about World War II, James Bradley began to wonder what the real catalyst was for the Pacific War. What he discovered shocked him. In 1905 President Teddy Roosevelt dispatched Secretary of War William Taft, his daughter Alice, and a gaggle of congressmen on a mission to Japan, the Philippines, China, and Korea with the intent of forging an agreement to divide up Asia. This clandestine pact lit the fuse that would-decades later-result in a number of devastating wars: WWII, the Korean War, and the communist revolution in China. In 2005, James Bradley retraced that epic voyage and discovered the remarkable truth about America's vast imperial past. Full of fascinating characters brought brilliantly to life, *The Imperial Cruise* will powerfully revise the way we understand U.S. history.

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Bibliography

- Published on: 2016-02-01
- Binding: Paperback
- 308 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Theodore Roosevelt steers America onto the shoals of imperialism in this stridently disapproving study of early 20th-century U.S. policy in Asia. Bestselling author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, Bradley traces a 1905 voyage to Asia by Roosevelt's emissary William Howard Taft, who negotiated a secret agreement in which America and Japan recognized each other's conquests of the Philippines and Korea. (Roosevelt's flamboyant, pistol-packing daughter Alice went along to generate publicity, and Bradley highlights her antics.) Each port of call prompts a case study of American misdeeds: the brutal counterinsurgency in the Philippines; the takeover of Hawaii by American sugar barons; Roosevelt's betrayal of promises to protect Korea, which greenlighted Japanese expansionism and thus makes him responsible for Pearl Harbor. Bradley explores the racist underpinnings of Roosevelt's policies and paradoxical embrace of the Japanese as Honorary Aryans. Bradley's critique of Rooseveltian imperialism is compelling but unbalanced. He doesn't explain how Roosevelt could have evicted the Japanese from Korea, and insinuates that the Japanese imperial project was the brainstorm of American advisers. Ironically, his view of Asian history, like Roosevelt's, denies agency to the Asians themselves. Photos, maps. *One-day laydown.* (Nov. 24)

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From [Booklist](#)

Bradley's first books, *Flags of Our Fathers* (2000) and *Flyboys* (2003), were sensationally popular World War II combat stories. His new one, about U.S.-Japanese diplomacy in 1905, represents a departure. Asserting a causal connection between diplomatic understandings reached then and war 36 years later, Bradley dramatizes his case with a delegation Theodore Roosevelt dispatched to Japan in the summer of 1905. Led by Secretary of War William Taft and ornamented by the president's quotable daughter Alice, it sailed while TR hosted the peace conference between victorious Japan and defeated Russia. As he recounts the itinerary of Taft's cruise, Bradley discusses attitudes of social Darwinism and white superiority that were then prevalent and expressed by TR and Taft. They modified their instincts, Bradley argues, in dealing with nonwhite Japan, and secretly conceded it possession of Korea. This is what Bradley asserts was a prerequisite to Pearl Harbor in 1941, a dubious thesis when the tensions of the 1930s stemmed from general Japanese aggressiveness, not its control of Korea per se. Bradley does fine on 1905 but falters when predicting the future. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

TERRIFIC PRAISE FOR *THE IMPERIAL CRUISE*:

"James Bradley's incendiary new book...is startling enough to reshape conventional wisdom about Roosevelt's presidency...In *Flags of Our Fathers* he wrote about how his father helped plant the American flag on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. In *The Imperial Cruise* he asks why American servicemen like his father had to be fighting in the Pacific at all."?Janet Maslin, *New York Times*

"A provocative study...What is fascinating about Bradley's reconstruction of a largely neglected aspect of Roosevelt's legacy is the impact that his racial theories and his obsession with personal and national virility had on his diplomacy. Engrossing and revelatory, *The Imperial Cruise* is revisionist history at its best."?Ronald Steel, *New York Times Book Review*

"[Bradley's] ingenious narrative thread is to track an across-the-pacific 1905 goodwill voyage by Roosevelt's

emissaries....[his indictment of Roosevelt] raises tantalizing questions."?Gene Santoro, *American History*

"For readers under the impression that history is the story of good guys and bad guys, and that Americans are always the former, this book could be useful medicine."?Rick Hampson, *USA Today*

"A page-turner with solidly attributed eye-opening passages."?Mike Householder, *Associated Press*

"Engaging...this is a book to admire and, it must be said, to enjoy."?David M. Shribman, *The Boston Globe*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ricky Hayes:

Precisely why? Because this The Imperial Cruise: A Secret History of Empire and War (Chinese Edition) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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Danna Bullock:

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