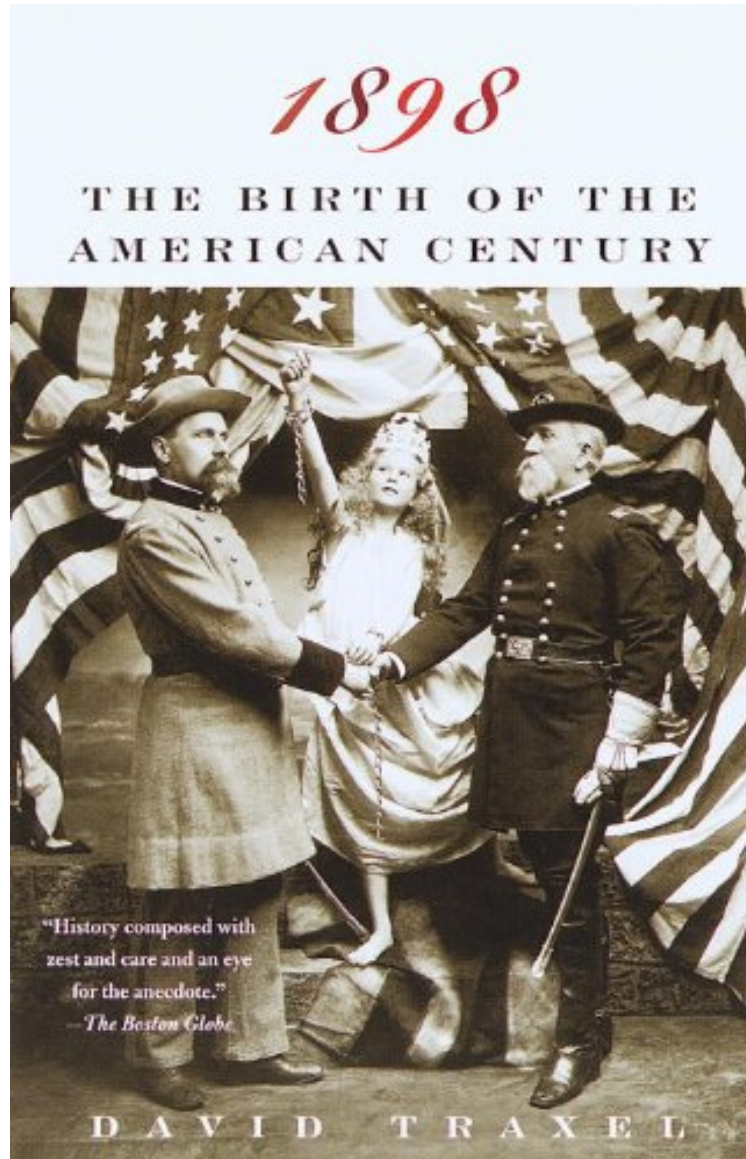


[FREE] 1898: The Birth of the American Century

1898: The Birth of the American Century

David Traxel

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David Traxel : 1898: The Birth of the American Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1898: The Birth of the American Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good sort of lightBy Erich MopsmeisterGood sort of light, easy read if you want to know more about the turn of the 20th century and The Spanish American War.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. America Emerges on the World StageBy Eric MayforthDavid Traxel's "1898" examines the year that the author felt that America really began to make its presence felt on the world stage. As you might expect,

much of the book recounts the Spanish-American War. The author's account of the war and its effects is a good one, detailing the experience of the soldiers who fought the war in addition to the experience of the military officers and politicians who led the war effort. Traxel also looks at the ways in which American society was rapidly changing just prior to the turn of the twentieth century. Inventions such as automobiles and motion pictures are mentioned. Issues such as race relations, political machines, and labor issues were salient at the time, and are discussed. America was becoming a mass society, as evidenced by the fact that manufacturers were using more sophisticated advertising techniques to sell their products to a continental nation. Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Edison, and William McKinley are only a few of the colorful characters examined in this absorbing look at the year 1898.³ of 4 people found the following review helpful. At the threshold of the American Century By Jim Lester This book provides an enjoyable snapshot of America on the eve of the 20th century and unlike a lot of history books, it focuses, not on politics, but rather on social and cultural history. Consequently the reader gets interesting digressions on things like the story of L. Frank Baum, the creator of the WIZARD OF OZ, a detailed history of American department stores and the background of the World's Fair event in Nebraska. But Troxel also includes more standard fare and has a lively discussion of William Randolph Hearst, Theodore Roosevelt and the Spanish-American War. The book is pitched to the average reader and, as a professional historian, I would recommend 1898 to anyone who enjoys reading about our nation's history.

In 1898: The Birth of the American Century, David Traxel tells the story of a watershed year, a year of foreign conflict, extravagant adventure, and breakneck social change that forged a new American dash; a sudden empire with many far-flung possessions, a dynamic new player upon the global stage. At the heart of this vivid, anecdotal history is a masterly account of the Spanish-American War, the "splendid little war" that garnered the nation Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. From the sinking of the Maine in waters off Havana to Teddy Roosevelt's rough riders and the triumph of Admiral Dewey, here is the lightning-swift military episode that transformed America into a world power. Here too are many stories not so often told dash; the bloody first successes of the new United Mine Workers, the tentative beginnings of the Ford Motor Company, the million-dollar launch of the Uneeda Biscuit dash; each in its way as important as the harbinger of the American century. Compulsively readable, frequently humorous, utterly fascinating in its every detail, 1898 is popular history at its finest. From the Trade Paperback edition.

.com The 20th century may have begun in the year 1901, but the "American Century" actually began three years earlier, according to historian David Traxel, who pinpoints 1898 as the pivotal year for America's new found presence on the world stage. In his book 1898: The Birth of the American Century, Traxel combines scholarly knowledge with eloquent storytelling to chronicle the events of this crucial year that set in train the transformation of the United States from a 19th-century isolated agrarian society, into a leading world power both economically and politically. Traxel views the Spanish-American War as the epicenter of events in 1898--a war which the States won in a matter of months, though the Europeans never quite managed to defeat Spain even after several centuries of warfare. With this victory, the U.S. was now firmly established as a major military player. Economically the United States was also getting richer due to increased trade with foreign markets and because of a new generation of innovative industrialists like Ford and Westinghouse. The word "marketing" also entered the American business vocabulary, and 1898 saw the first million-dollar advertising campaign--to launch a well-known biscuit! Traxel goes on to detail how America's workforce was changing--unions fought for the rights of workers, and women pursued jobs and the right to vote. Although the United States didn't suddenly metamorphose overnight, 1898 was certainly a crucial year in its development, and Traxel recounts these events in meticulous detail. --Naomi Gesinger From Publishers Weekly The year 1898 is remembered in the U.S. as "one of those rare years [that] changed the course of American history." Traxel (An American Saga: The Life and Times of Rockwell Kent) has a flair for the good story and the telling anecdote that he puts to skillful use as he reviews the year's high points. They include the creation of the five-borough City of New York; the Great Blizzard; the sinking of the Maine during the Spanish-American War; the triumph of Teddy Roosevelt (the prototype of the modern politician); the creation of the National Biscuit Company (the prototype of the modern marketing empire); the great newspaper circulation wars between Hearst and Pulitzer; a cruel coal miners' strike; one of the last Indian battles; the emergence of John Muir and the conservation movement; and the beginnings of an overseas American empire in Hawaii and the Philippines. Traxel's footnotes indicate that his sources are rarely firsthand, but he is as proficient a name-dropper as he is a storyteller, and we hear about Edison, Ford, Frank Baum, Gifford Pinchot, Frederick Taylor, Clara Barton, Stephen Crane, Dewey (both the admiral and the educator) and William Jennings Bryan. And 1898 is presented as the year that marked the end of the old WASP America and the beginnings of a new America full of Catholics, Jews, blacks and all the social and ethical issues faced by a country that has suddenly become an international power. The year may not have been as tidy a turning point as Traxel portrays it, but his account of it is certainly entertaining to read. Photos. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The year 1898 stands out as one pivotal to American history and, to a lesser extent, world history. Each of these books by two independent scholars emphasizes the ways in which that year's events set the stage

for the 20th century. Corry's overview of domestic and international politics draws clear connections between European imperial rivalries and the Spanish-American War but merely glances at equally important events in Asia that do not quite fit into the chronological framework. George Dewey's triumph at Manila Bay was part of a larger American push across the Pacific toward Asia: the events of 1898 had global ramifications. Culling stories, testimony, and documents from a wide range of printed sources and existing studies, Corry's narrative occasionally takes on the appearance of a scrapbook but offers a useful point of departure. Somewhat more engrossing is Traxel's lively account of American society and politics during these same 12 months. The Spanish-American War and its heroes, including Teddy Roosevelt, take center stage, but Traxel offers an insightful glimpse into the making of modern America, complete with the growth of large corporations, advancements in technology, and labor strife. Those taking a bow include Admiral Peary, Clara Barton, W.E.B. DuBois, and Geronimo. Traxel leaves the reader to draw comparisons with today's end-of-century challenges and dilemmas, suggesting that 100 years may not be all that long ago. In any case, there is more than the Maine for us to remember about the year that, Traxel claims, gave birth to the American century. ?Brooks D. Simpson, Arizona State Univ., Tempe Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.