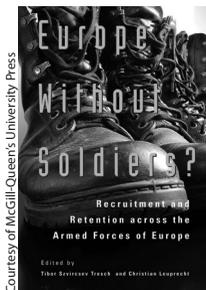


on the US Army's role in protecting America's national parks during the period 1886-1918, to include defense against poaching, trespassing, timber harvesting, mineral extraction, and the defacing of natural wonders. Brinkley's study is generally balanced in its analysis of Theodore Roosevelt. While clearly favorable to the president, Brinkley points out the apparent contradictions in his character (for example, Roosevelt's hatred of animal cruelty and his obsession with hunting) as well as his less-than-noble, "white man's burden" view of western expansion and American imperialism. Brinkley also ably describes Roosevelt's motivations for forest preservation as not simply environmental, but also based in personal animosity: "In a sadistic way that no historian, no journalist, and no political commentator can overstate, Roosevelt *enjoyed* making the timber companies suffer."

The book does, however, have some significant weaknesses. It is plagued by an excessive amount of detail. While every author wants his study to be comprehensive, Brinkley takes it too far and includes too much minutiae, particularly concerning Roosevelt's ornithological observations, camping trips, and hunting expeditions. The excessive detail inevitably leads to tangents of limited relevance. A more serious weakness is the book's conclusion. Brinkley ends abruptly with the inauguration of Roosevelt's hand-picked successor, William Howard Taft. While this was the culmination of Roosevelt's presidency, it was by no means the end of Roosevelt's environmental crusade. Several post-presidential events of significance are omitted, including Roosevelt's famous African safari, his quarrel with Taft (which was in part because of their differences concerning environmental policy), and his 1912 Progressive Party presidential campaign. Although the inclusion of these events would lengthen an already hefty volume, more rigorous editing earlier in the book would have made space for an examination of Roosevelt's later years.



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## ***Europe Without Soldiers? Recruitment and Retention across the Armed Forces of Europe***

edited by Tibor Szvircsev Tresch and Christian Leuprecht

**Reviewed by Matthew D. Morton, LTC, USA**, Regional Fellow, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

This book is a collection of papers presented at the Tenth Biennial Conference of the European Research Group on Military and Society (ERGOMAS) at the Swedish National Defense College in Stockholm in June 2009. In total, the fifteen chapters and introduction cover a wide variety of issues in a host of European countries focused on the subjects of recruitment and retention. Chapter authors represent a diverse field of academics, researchers, military sociologists, historians, and political scientists. The collection of narrowly focused chapters are loosely organized into four topics: demographic aspects and

minorities in the armed forces; conscript-based armed forces and recruitment; the professionalization of armed forces; and the recruitment and retention of professional soldiers in the armed forces. Fortunately, the editors have prepared an overarching introduction that distills the independent findings into broad conclusions while highlighting the notable offerings contained in each chapter.

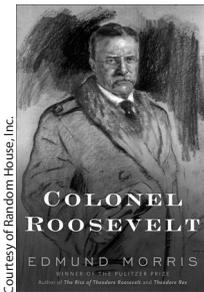
Having abandoned conscription as a national policy nearly forty years ago, an American might ask what could possibly be gained by wading through a book solely focused on Europe's growing pains with the same transition. Those calling for a return to conscription as a means to reconnect the United States' people to the United States' armed forces will be equally disappointed to learn that two of the three countries featured in the conscription section have subsequently abandoned the practice, most notably Germany. For all the differences between the United States and Europe, common themes do emerge such as the influence of demography, education, personal values, health, and the effect of expeditionary operations.

As it turns out, the United States is not as unique as we often think it is, at least when it comes to gathering the raw material to build an army and retaining those who have been trained. Tradeoffs associated with quality versus quantity are present on the Continent and in the United Kingdom. The volatility of the labor market precludes long-term planning as well. And perhaps the most interesting term to emerge from the book, "post materialist," captures the idea that European youth is just not that interested in national service. Post materialism, when combined with obesity, alcohol abuse, and a demographically shrinking pool of available youth, poses increasing challenges in Europe. Free access to higher education in much of Europe further complicates the equation. At the other end of the spectrum, retaining the best among those who have been trained, especially women and minorities, is an increasing challenge in Europe where professional military service continues to be perceived as being the domain of white males. This challenge is further complicated by the more recent emphasis on expeditionary operations, which come with the associated costs of social disconnection and potential risks to life and limb.

Perhaps the most important, even if unintended, message to emerge from this collection of essays is that in the post-Iraq era of increasingly restricted defense budgets and decreasing manpower, the United States can little expect its European allies to do any more than they have over the last ten years. A renewed focus on capacity building will require American servicemembers with the maturity and intelligence to adapt to the nuances of the new tasks presented. The authors of these essays, in many cases, have recognized the same need, but point to the challenges they are currently experiencing in recruiting and retaining the kinds of people needed for the tasks so different than those the conscript armies once fielded. No doubt the current worldwide economic crisis will help maintain a steady flow of talented young people to the offices of recruiters in Europe and North America looking for challenges, but this too shall pass. Europe will never be without soldiers, nor will the United States, but

attracting the right kinds of people to perform the missions anticipated in the post-industrial age will present increasing challenges.

At a cost of \$85.00, and given the ephemeral nature of the statistical studies at the heart of what started out as working group findings presented at a conference in 2009, this is an unlikely candidate for an individual's bookshelf. If it is available at one's local library, it would be worth the time to peruse those chapters that are of particular interest. The current Euro Zone crisis will certainly drive new studies with updated findings that will be readily available in military and academic journals.



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766 pages

\$35.00

## **Colonel Roosevelt**

by Edmund Morris

**Reviewed by Leonard J. Fullenkamp, COL (USA Retired)**, Professor of Military History, US Army War College

**C**olonel *Roosevelt*, the final installment in Edmund Morris's three-volume biography of our 26th president, covers the last decade of Theodore Roosevelt's (T.R.'s) life, spanning the events between 1909, when he left the White House, and his death in 1919. Had T. R., Harvard graduate, New York State Assemblyman, rancher, big-game hunter, explorer, author of more than 20 books,

Civil Service Commissioner, New York City Police Commissioner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Spanish American War hero, Governor of New York, Vice President and President of the United States, to mention only some of his achievements, lived the life of a recluse for the first 50 years of his life, it would be no exaggeration to observe that he had packed a lifetime's worth of living into 10 years.

In *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, which won a Pulitzer Prize, Morris examined T. R.'s early life, his rise to political and military prominence, and concluded with his ascendancy to the Presidency following the assassination of William McKinley. Volume two, *Theodore Rex*, published in 2002, covered the White House years. The long hiatus between the first and second books on T. R. can in part be explained by Morris's work on his biography of another president, *Dutch: A Memoir of Ronald Reagan*. One need not have a familiarity with T. R.'s life before and during his years as President in order to enjoy *Colonel Roosevelt*. Morris, an accomplished biographer, is careful to provide context, and, where necessary, biographical details on the various friends, acquaintances, antagonists, protagonists, and others who figure prominently in the narrative.

*Colonel Roosevelt* (the title by which he preferred to be addressed after leaving the White House) begins with a chapter-length prologue that chronicles T. R.'s six-month Africa Expedition. His epic journey began in British East Africa (modern-day Kenya), progressed into the heart of Africa, across Lake