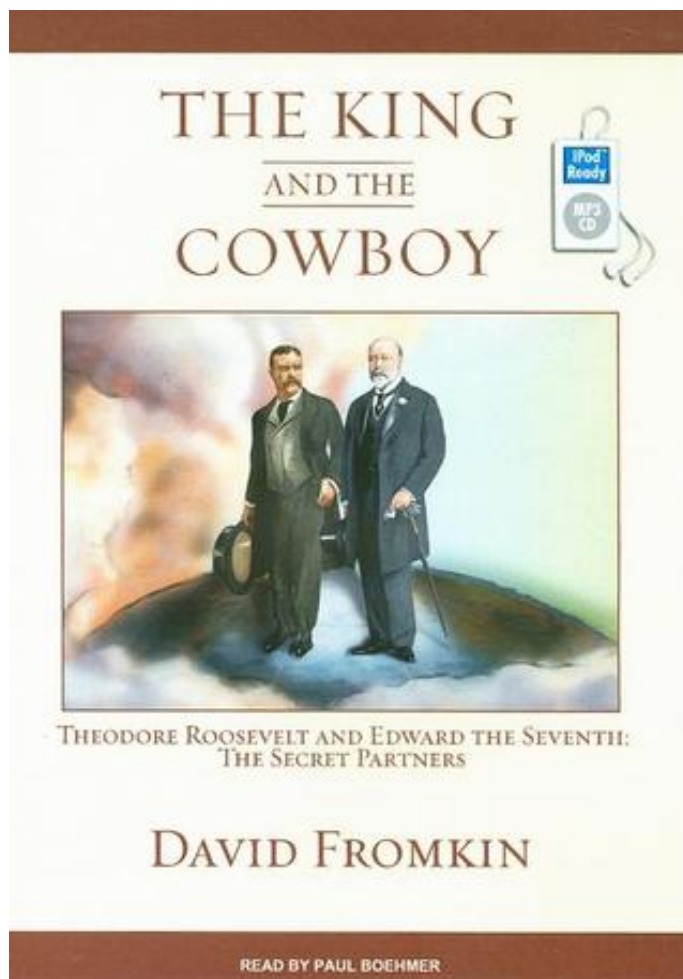

David Fromkin

The King and the Cowboy: Theodore Roosevelt and Edward the Seventh: The Secret Partners



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Description

In *The King and the Cowboy*, renowned historian David Fromkin reveals how two unlikely world leaders—Edward the Seventh of England and Theodore Roosevelt—recast themselves as respected political players and established a friendship that would shape the course of the twentieth century in ways never anticipated.

In 1901, these two colorful public figures inherited the leadership of the English-speaking countries. Following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria, Edward ascended the throne. A lover of fine food, drink, beautiful women, and the pleasure-seeking culture of Paris, Edward had previously been regarded as a bon vivant. The public—even Queen Victoria herself—doubted Edward's ability to rule the British Empire. Yet Edward would surprise the world with his leadership and his canny understanding of the fragility of the British Empire at the apex of its global power.

Across the Atlantic, Vice President Roosevelt—the aristocrat from Manhattan who fashioned his own legend by going west to become a cowboy—succeeded to the presidency after President McKinley's assassination in 1901. Rising above criticism, Roosevelt became one of the nation's most beloved presidents.

The King and the Cowboy provides new perspective on both Edward and Roosevelt, revealing how, at the oft-forgotten Algeciras conference of 1906, they worked together to dispel the shadow cast over world affairs by Edward's ill-tempered, power-hungry nephew, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. At Algeciras, the United States and major European powers allied with Britain in protest of Germany's bid for Moroccan independence. In an unlikely turn of events, the conference served to isolate Germany and set the groundwork for the forging of the Allied forces.

The King and the Cowboy is an intimate study of two extraordinary statesmen who—in part because of their alliance at Algeciras—would become lauded international figures. Focusing in particular on Edward the Seventh's and Theodore Roosevelt's influence on twentieth-century foreign affairs, Fromkin's character-driven history sheds new light on the early events that determined the course of the century.

Insightful reviews

Laura: Good reading and adds a lot to understanding how America's role changed at the beginning of the 20th century. I also learned a lot about Edward VII, the British Monarchy and Teddy Roosevelt (one of my favorite presidents).

Rich: Interesting--but a bit on the heavy side for me. The European and English monarchs of the late 1800's and early 1900's were a privileged bunch and clearly held great influence and power often achieved through strategic marriages to those of equal stature across country boundaries.

Susan: I've read three others by Fromkin but this one is a really lightweight. Interesting but it's full of places where you expect more detail. For example he notes that in the post-Civil War period the US government was completely corrupt. No examples. No details. Perhaps it's that Fromkin was trying to write a lighter-weight book but didn't do so consistently. The relationship between the Edward VII and Theodore Roosevelt (who never actually met!) does not come off as all that significant.

Barbara: there have been a few goods of curiosity yet overall, this story of King Edward the 7th and Teddy Roosevelt promised much more than it delivered. The connections have been tenuous and there has been loads of repetition.

Gary: it is a very light-weight publication giving superfluous bios of either TR & Edward VII. there's very little, if any, documentation in their dating but Fromkin asserts that their own courting had a lot to do with shaping the advanced net of alliances that spawned WWI. Fromkin can be correct, yet he did not current the backup during this book.

Lisa: I learn Fromkin's ebook concerning the 'creation' of the trendy heart East, A Peace to finish All Peace, and was once completely impressed, so I had excessive hopes for this small book. i used to be very disappointed. the fashion was once stilted, similar to he began and stopped and began again, and it sounds as if his editors did an analogous while examining it! I pressured myself to complete it since it used to be short, and that i hoped to discover a few perception by way of the end. I discovered the basis - that those global leaders have been shut allies - was once now not proved. there have been no letters or any correspondence included, if there has been any to publish. The implication that Edward used to be by any means calling the pictures used to be now not borne out, either. there has been no released proof within the book. Clearly, there has been a few contract among the 2 governments on a number of concerns best as much as WWI, yet used to be there whatever mystery approximately it? the 1st a part of the publication focused, I thought, gratuitously, at the sexual perversities of the Prince, for much too long, with no genuine purpose. the second one half used to be a skinny biographical define of Roosevelt, leaning towards the negative. i assume the writer was once attempting to point out that neither guy used to be outstanding in any respect, till they got here to power. If so, the comparability fell flat for me, and extremely shallow. The final section, best as much as WW1, whilst the 2 males ultimately stumble upon one another at the international stage, held extra interest, yet was once finally unsatisfying. The NYT e-book assessment acknowledged "thrilling and unexpected" - Bull! (to paraphrase our former President). It was once suddenly disappointing.

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