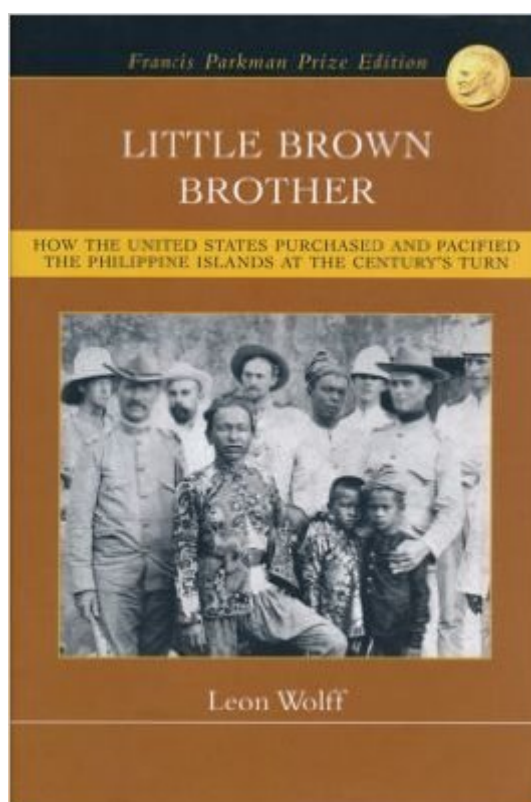


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# Little Brown Brother: How The United States Purchased And Pacified The Philippine Islands At The Century's Turn



## Synopsis

From the front flap of this 383 page book: "Although nearly forgotten today, the U.S. annexation of the Philippines came at the end of a bloody and highly controversial war that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, cost six hundred million dollars, and set America firmly on the path of imperial expansion. In [this book], Leon Wolff tells the full story, revealing how and why the U.S. went from aiding Filipino independence to forcefully annexing the islands for themselves. Combining rich historical knowledge with a compelling narrative style, Wolff offers a masterful portrait of the insurrection, including revealing sketches of key figures such as U.S. governor-general William H. Taft and Filipino leader Emilio Aquinaldo. In addition, he provides a memorable look at the fierce debate raging back home. On the side of the empire were the nation's leading Republicans, including President William McKinley, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, and New York's famously pugnacious governor, Theodore Roosevelt, who declared that 'the clamor of the peace faction has convinced me that the country needs a war.' On the opposing side stood an equally influential group, including labor leader Samuel Gompers, industrialist Andrew Carnegie, and celebrated author Mark Twain, all of whom joined the Anti-Imperialist League. How it all came about and how the U.S. subdued his 'little brown brother' are mordantly told in this landmark work that presents an unforgettable portrait of America at the dawn of her global empire."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Leon Wolff graduated from Northwestern University, served in the US Air Force during WW II, then turned to writing. This 1961 book earned a Parkman Prize as the best book of the year. The US went from aiding Filipino independence from Spain to forcibly suppressing their attempt at

independence. This story has been diminished in the schoolbooks to avoid the topic of imperialism. There was controversy in the US and Washington, perhaps more than during the Vietnam War or other military actions of the 20th century. This book has the missing chapter of US history. Wolff also wrote about military campaigns which sacrificed troops in ill-conceived and illogical adventures (p.xiii). US officials offered to help Philippine revolutionaries, kept them out of the Treaty of Paris, claimed the Philippines, then started an imperialist war to suppress the Filipino patriots. Paul Kramer is wrong to criticize this 1961 book as not meeting 2005 customs (p.xvii). Wolff makes an error in the beginning. The breech-loading .45 Springfield was not a Civil War .58 muzzle-loading rifle (p.9). The Philippine embroilment marked an end to the policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. The increase in US manufacturing sought new markets (p.13). The great depression of the 1890s led to an end of isolationism. A tariff on Cuban sugar wrecked their economy (p.15). Spanish colonialism and its high taxes, low wages, and harsh laws led to rebellion in the Philippines (pp.16-17). Corporations (monastic orders) owned the best lands and operated by share-cropping (p.18). Dr. JosÃ© Rizal formed the Liga Filipina. He was arrested for treason and shot, so too were hundreds of others (p.24). A revolutionary army was formed (p.25). Chapter 1 has the background to the insurrection.

(click the author's name for several other editions of this book) From: Philippine Daily Inquirer May 26, 2003 SECTION: 8 "LITTLE BROWN BROTHER" is the title of the book Leon Wolff wrote in 1961. It was an eye-opener not just for Filipinos but for Americans as well, most of whom had grown up believing the American seizure of the Philippines, along with Cuba and Puerto Rico, before the turn of the last century was done with the noblest of intentions and wrought through the most benign of intrusions. The original title of the book was "Little Brown Brother: The Forgotten American Bid For Empire Which Cost 250,000 Lives," which was eventually shortened. The subtitle pretty much sums up what the book is about. The 250,000 lives were of course the Filipinos', the American occupation force, as in Iraq more than a century later, suffering few casualties. Wolff's book told not just of the way a good portion of the new colony's population was wiped out but of the way the entire population's memory was wiped out. The first claimed only 250,000 lives, the latter the souls of nearly every inhabitant of the island. Superimposed on the horrific reality was the general patronage movie version of the occupation, not unlike Fernando Poe's, which told of the making of the "little brown brother," the sidekick, with the face of Dencio Padilla, who would forever be at the hero's side. It was to become the cornerstone of "special relations," relations which have proven especially comfortable for the United States and especially excruciating to the Philippines.

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