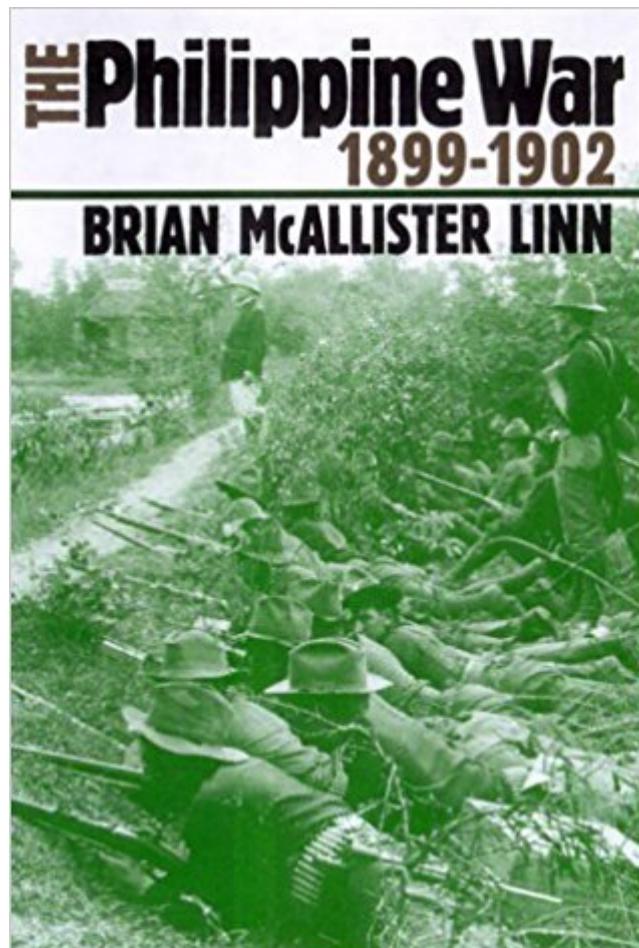


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# The Philippine War, 1899-1902



## Synopsis

Focusing purely on the military aspects of the war, Linn (history, Texas A&M U.) argues that previous studies of the war have mischaracterized it as having qualities which can only be ascribed to the final few campaigns (i.e. concentration camps, American brutality and torture, and one officer's threat to turn the Philippines into a "howling wilderness"). Reviewing the fighting in every Filipino province, he finds that the American victory was due more to rebel mistakes and American "social reform" than to overwhelming American military force.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Linn, a professor of military history at the U.S. Army War College, enhances his position as the leading authority on America's military presence in the Pacific before Pearl Harbor in this well-written, comprehensively researched monograph. Without justifying the annexation itself, Linn demonstrates that the Filipino nationalists enjoyed at best limited popular support and did as much as the U.S. commanders in the islands to provoke a shooting war as an alternative to negotiation. Operationally, U.S. forces were well led, fought hard, and took advantage of repeated Filipino mistakes in both conventional and unconventional warfare. None of insurgent leader Emilio Aguinaldo's lieutenants were able to combine regular and partisan warfare effectively or to build on local successes. Linn's demonstration of the fighting power of regular troops and the short-service national volunteers who succeeded them does much to correct the bias in favor of the regulars that dominates the literature. As Linn shows, however, military success was only half of the war. Civic

action was the other element of victory. The Americans built hospitals, opened schools and restored order. When necessary, they sustained that order with punitive measures, including torture. Without whitewashing individual incidents, Linn shows that both the general customs of warfare and U.S. civil and military law allowed for exponentially higher levels of physical coercion than their present-day counterparts. If the U.S. annexation of the Philippines was an exercise in imperialism, Linn makes a convincing case that by 1902 the U.S. government of the island was nevertheless legitimate both *de jure* and *de facto*. For an increasing majority of Filipinos, the Americans had become preferable to the insurgents. Illus. not seen by PW. (Feb.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Will appeal to serious military historians and military professionals, as well as to the general reader.

•Robert A. Doughty in the History Book Club News "Brian Linn, who has the rare ability to craft a readable text without abandoning the scholar's penchant for accuracy, has written another fine book. Meticulously researched and impressively documented, his study draws upon the literature from all sides of a number of controversies. The result is a book of unusual balance, making Linn's accomplishment without equal among the many works on the war."

•John M. Gates, author of *Schoolbooks and Krags: The United States Army in the Philippines, 1898-1902* "An impressively researched and well written narrative history that brings reasoned analysis to topics previously fraught with partisanship and polemics."

•Timothy K. Nenninger, author of *The Leavenworth Schools and the Old Army, 1881-1918* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A very interesting book on a much debated topic among some people. It handles it fairly on both sides, and points out realities that affected the situation. It does not give much information on the purely military aspects such as unit organization and order of battle in the normal sense, some of that type of information is available if one searches for it. What it does do is give details of the situation on both sides politically, which is quite interesting.

Along with the Malayan Emergency, the Philippine war is the most often cited successful counter insurgencies. Again like the Malayan Emergency there is little written on this war and even less that can be called sound scholarly work. Dr. Linn is the exception and has written a detailed, well documented and easily accessible book. Dr. Linn breaks down all the major players on both sides of this conflict and traces them through the war. He breaks down the strategies and tactics that all the

different factions. He also shows his research skills by showing what the tactics the U.S. Army actually employed and that there has been an over inflation of atrocities that were committed. This is good book for someone interested in the war, and it is an excellent resource for the student doing research. Either way the book is a must have for one's own personnel library.

I found this to be highly interesting. A lot of books about American involvement in any war tends to be very "white" washed. Brian McAllister Linn does a very good job in presenting the war neutrally from both sides. He does not fall victim to othering or making America the "great white hope". I highly recommend it.

It is an excellently detailed account of the war. The author has made an indept study of the military tactics used by both sides. I would have liked more details about the composition of the various American military units and their attitudes toward serving in the Philippines. Other wise Dr. Linn wrote a book worth reading given our current state of affairs as regards fighting wars of choice and the divisive influence they have on the American people.

An excellent history of the Philippine War, well detailed and thorough. Told from a slightly different perspective than other books on the subject such as *A War of Frontier and Empire: The Philippine-American War 1899-1902* it is an excellent companion offering detail not expanded on in companion volumes. Another good read on a little known subject.

Impressive research and the definitive book on the subject. I met the author and he signed my copy!

Thought it was a really good background as to how we got our first real "colony".

Fascination. The book is very well written. I had no idea about the Philippine War. It's like a lost bit of history.

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