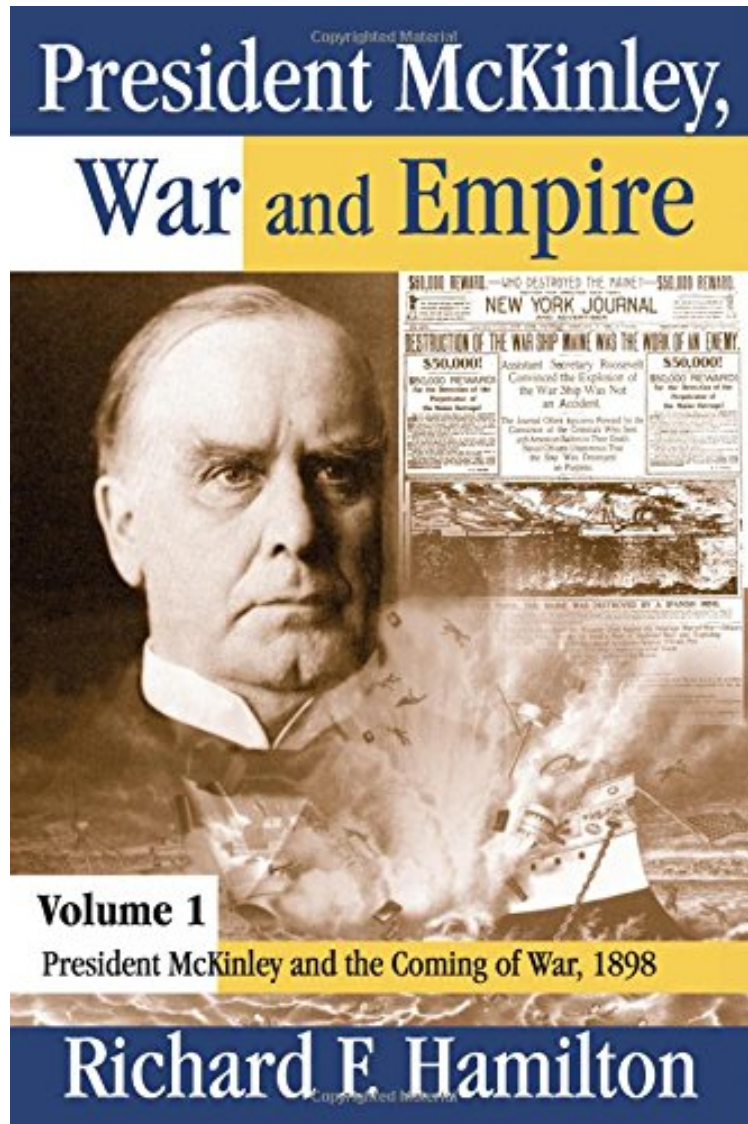


(Ebook pdf) President McKinley, War and Empire: President McKinley and the Coming of War, 1898
(American Presidents (Transaction Hardcover))

President McKinley, War and Empire: President McKinley and the Coming of War, 1898 (American Presidents (Transaction Hardcover))

Richard F. Hamilton

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Richard F. Hamilton : President McKinley, War and Empire: President McKinley and the Coming of War, 1898 (American Presidents (Transaction Hardcover)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised President McKinley, War and Empire: President McKinley and the Coming of War,

1898 (American Presidents (Transaction Hardcover)):

2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An inconsistency needs to be pointed out By Raymond Jensen Rather than review this text in its entirety, I will focus on a claim made by the author, in the inside front cover no less, and show how it conflicts with some documentation provided later in the text. In the inside front cover, the author accuses William Jennings Bryan of being "an inflationist." Moreover, he groups Bryan (albeit correctly) with the "people" who are at odds with "Wall Street" who include most notably "conservatives" such as banking magnate J. P. Morgan. Now, is it correct to label Bryan as an "inflationist?" The argument that Bryan was an "inflationist" is not unique to this book, and this argument essentially operates as follows: Bryan wanted to remove the gold backing from US currency in exchange for a silver backing. This somehow would "inflate prices" for farm goods which would benefit farmers (hence the Bryan's popularity among farmers). Without getting into how the prices are supposed to "inflate" let me first point out that it is incorrect to use the verb "inflate" in connection with prices. Prices do not inflate. The currency itself; that is--money can only inflate. Meaning, that the act of "inflating" money means an entity, governmental or private is simply creating money. This means simply printing it, or in today's digital age, going into your computerized banking account and simply increasing your balance, without having made any deposit. Now earlier, I wrote Bryan wanted to change the "backing" of US currency from gold to silver. What does that mean? It is simple: a "backing" is a standard. When currency is backed by gold or silver or some other commodity with "intrinsic" value, it means that the government cannot simply print as many dollars as it wants; it can only print as many as it can without failing to redeem the dollar-holders with the aforementioned commodity. That is, in the old days, you could go to the bank, and trade in your dollars for gold; you had that right. Try doing that nowadays. So in the past the government could not print too many dollars, otherwise it would not have enough gold to give back to the money-holders, should all of them want to get rid of their dollars. Now keep in mind that although Bryan, the "radical" (as the author labels him) wanted to change the backing from gold to silver, at least he wanted to retain a backing. Now on the other hand, let's take a look at the "conservative Wall Street banker" J. P. Morgan. On p. 56 of the text, the author writes: "[McKinley supporter Myron] Herrick reports that Mr. Morgan 'was rather violent in expressing his views. The monetary repudiation which the adoption of the "free silver" standard involved was nauseating to him.... Any Republican who comes out now...for either gold or silver will not get the nomination. Let McKinley stay where he is.... once he is nominated we can take care of gold in the platform.'" What can we glean from Morgan's statements concerning gold or silver? Well, it should be obvious from anyone who is acquainted with the man that he did not support *any* backing to the US currency be it gold silver or whatever. This is clearly evident from Morgan's hand in the "1913 revolution" which orchestrated the establishment of the banking cartel known as the "Federal Reserve." The Federal Reserve is not federal, it is a private consortium of banks which has the power to "inflate" or "deflate" the US monetary supply. That means that the banks can create money at whim. And Congress has given the Federal Reserve that power, although unconstitutionally, since the US Constitution requires that Congress (and only Congress) coin money and regulate its value. This is where what is commonly referred to as "inflation" comes from. It isn't some random force of nature. Rising prices are the result of there being no backing on our paper currency, enabling the Fed banking cartel to print as much money as it likes--the more money they print, the more worthless it becomes. But what do the private shareholders of the Fed banking cartel and politicians in DC stand to benefit from the power to simply print money at their leisure? Well, if you can't figure it out on your own then perhaps you should not bother purchasing this book--"Curious George" or the "Cat in the Hat" is more appropriate for you. So in conclusion we see that it is in fact Mr. Morgan who is the "inflationist" relative to Mr. Bryan. You lose two stars for that Mr. Hamilton.

The "progressive" reading of history focuses on two major antecedents for the origins of the United States' 1898 war with Spain: the 1896 presidential election and the Hearst-Pulitzer press war that, reportedly, generated an irresistible clamor from an "aroused public." Underlying those narratives are two very different theoretical frameworks: a class-dominance view and that of the mass society. Volume 1 of President McKinley, War and Empire assesses the adequacy of those readings. In the 1896 election the Republicans, led by William McKinley, were challenged by William Jennings Bryan, a radical and an inflationist, who had defeated the conservative leaders of the Democratic Party. The Bryanites portrayed the 1896 election as a struggle between "Wall Street" and "the people." McKinley was portrayed as a docile, pliable figure whose campaign was directed by an adept Ohio business magnate, Mark Hanna. The McKinley victory meant that "big business" was now "in control." The Cuban insurgency, begun in 1895, gained attention and support from the American newspapers. This began with a circulation war in New York City, with Hearst and Pulitzer publishing "sensational" reports about the struggle in Cuba. The resulting public clamor, it is said, overwhelmed the members of the legislative and executive branches. McKinley and his advisors fended off those demands as best they could but, following the sinking of the Maine, he conceded and asked Congress to authorize intervention. This work provides an original assessment of those long-standing claims, the basic elements of the progressive history. It reviews McKinley's biography, principally the events leading up to his election victory, including discussion of Hanna's role. It then examines the events leading up to the war. Studies of press content are

reviewed and new material is introduced. The work also argues that two other factors were decisive: the efforts of an adept Cuban pressure group and partisan politics. The theoretical implications are explored and an alternative framework, elitism, is argued. The result is a different, a more complex view of the origins of the war.

"Using his well-honed psephological and sociological skills, Hamilton makes a strong argument against many popular explanations of the American decision for war against Spain in 1898 (business interests, capitalist ideology, the yellow press, or mass war fever), proposing instead an elitist-pluralist model of explanation emphasizing partisan politics. His conclusions and methodological prescriptions are important and timely for history and current politics alike." —Paul W. Schroeder, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign "Richard Hamilton's searching examination cast much new light on the origins of the Spanish-American War and deftly demolishes a number of myths about its causes propagated by historians." —Charles J. Stille, Yale University "President McKinley, War and Empire demonstrates why historical accounts of events must be periodically reexamined and, when necessary, rewritten. School textbooks have long embraced the Beards' account on the causes of the Spanish-American War. Hamilton's careful research not only smashes the Beards' version as a myth without empirical foundation; he explains why they got it wrong. Hamilton's masterly account has a fast-moving pace. Once into it, I could not put it down. I eagerly look forward to the second volume and I recommend it highly for scholars and history buffs." —William Form, The Ohio State University "Richard Hamilton's searching examination cast much new light on the origins of the Spanish-American War and deftly demolishes a number of myths about its causes propagated by historians." —H.A. Turner "Proponents of the suspect interpretations will have to do a lot of explaining, unless they choose to ignore this intriguing study, a brilliant exhibition of analytical prowess." —David Trask

About the Author Richard F. Hamilton is emeritus professor of sociology and political science at The Ohio State University. He has written twelve books and seventy articles, mostly dealing with elite and mass politics and their interconnections.