



# Theodore Roosevelt and the Making of American Leadership

*Jon Knokey*

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**Theodore Roosevelt and the Making of American Leadership** Jon Knokey

**This is the story of perhaps the greatest leadership journey in American history.**

President Theodore Roosevelt forever transformed America, ushering the country into the arena of world supremacy. His brand of leadership was entirely American: confident, compassionate, energetic, diverse, visionary.

But Roosevelt was not a born leader; his ascent to the apex of power was not a foregone conclusion. He made himself a leader of consequence, and it is his epic journey to the White House--a road filled with terrific failures, intimate introspection, and self-made luck--that will inspire readers anew. No author has combined his key biographical milestones--the lessons born from the contradictions of his life--with the surviving stories from those who followed and interacted with him in his various attempts to lead.

While a graduate student at Harvard, author Jon Knokey, a Roosevelt historian and business leader, unearthed hundreds of unpublished letters and interview notes from Roosevelt contemporaries. These long-forgotten documents provide a fresh and stunning ringside seat along the twenty-sixth president's journey to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The stories from Harvard chaps, idealistic political reformers from New York, coarse cowboys from the Badlands, and tough-as-rawhide Rough Riders from the nation's interior all combine to illuminate the maturation process of a man learning to lead at every stage of his life.

The story of Theodore Roosevelt's life has been told before. The story of his leadership journey has not--until now. Fast-paced and written as a biographical narrative, *Theodore Roosevelt and the Making of American Leadership* places the reader alongside a young Roosevelt as he shapes events, people, and himself to forever change a country. He created an authentic style of American leadership--a style that has endured for over a century.

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