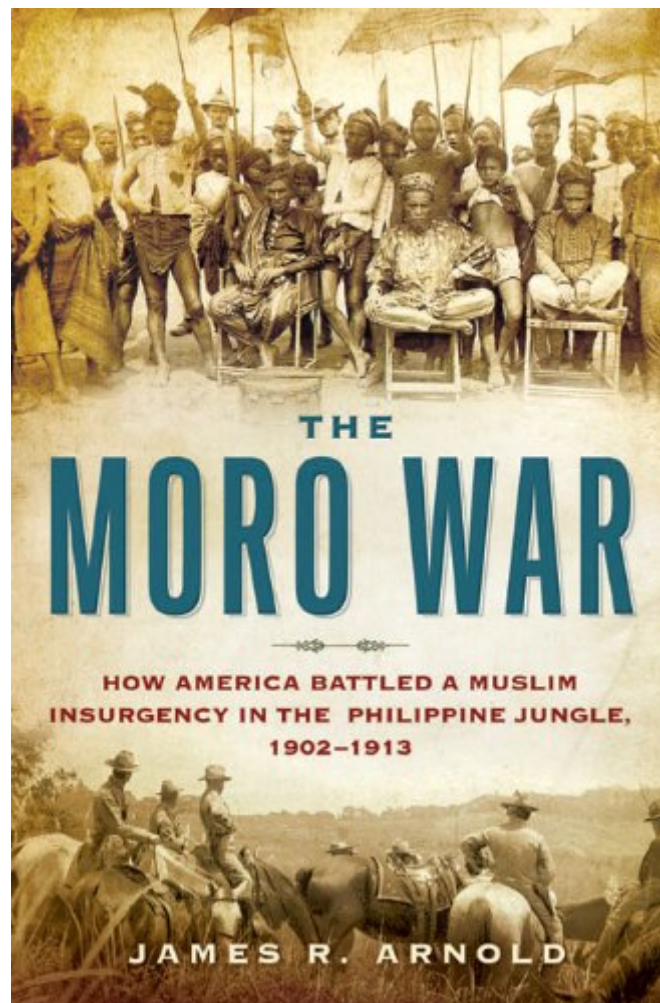


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# The Moro War: How America Battled A Muslim Insurgency In The Philippine Jungle, 1902-1913



## Synopsis

As the global war on terror enters its second decade, the United States military is engaged with militant Islamic insurgents on multiple fronts. But the post-9/11 war against terrorists is not the first time the United States has battled such ferocious foes. The forgotten Moro War, lasting from 1902 to 1913 in the islands of the southern Philippines, was the first confrontation between American soldiers and their allies and a determined Muslim insurgency. The Moro War prefigured American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan more than superficially: It was a bitter, drawn-out conflict in which American policy and aims were fiercely contested between advocates of punitive military measures and proponents of conciliation. As in today's Middle East, American soldiers battled guerrillas in a foreign environment where the enemy knew the terrain and enjoyed local support. The deadliest challenge was distinguishing civilians from suicidal attackers. Moroland became a crucible of leadership for the U.S. Army, bringing the force that had fought the Civil War and the Plains Indian Wars into the twentieth century. The officer corps of the Moro campaign matured into the American generals of World War I. Chief among them was the future general John Pershing—who learned lessons in the island jungles that would guide his leadership in France. Rich with relevance to today's news from the Middle East, and a gripping piece of storytelling, *The Moro War* is a must-read to understand a formative conflict too long overlooked and to anticipate the future of U.S. involvement overseas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Review The Moro WarThe Moro War is both a good exposition of the major battles of the war between the Moros of the South Philippines and the US, 1902 - 1913 and a discussion of the tactics, strategy and leadership by both the US and the Moros. Much is made of the various leaders, especially Pershing and Wood and various Moro datu's with good discussions of their effectiveness and weaknesses. The essential part that US politics and presidential elections played in discusses. The Moro War was actually a counterinsurgency by the US against the inferiorly armed and rather disorganized Moros. That the war took over 10 years is tribute to the Moro People, their customs, and the changing leadership and styles of the US military. The Islamic Moros are still an issue in the Philippines and this book helps to understand their culture and why they are still an issue in the area. As Gen Scott pointed out to President Wilson later, the Philippines are more of a large group of islands with several unrelated and warring tribes scattered over the islands. Both the Spanish and later the US attempted to rule them as a unit instead of separate nationalities. The book is well written, easily read. The battles are well explained with diagrams of the fields of battle. The first half of the book is a discussion of the battles. The second half of the book is a discussion of the leadership, the historical significance, and the current situation. The book is not a pedantic recitation, nor a boring rendition. Recommended for persons interested in early days of counterinsurgency, in early days of General Pershing, and in US military leadership issues.

The most detailed accounts of Military action in the defeat and pacification of the Moros . Arnold masters his subject and writes with energy the history of the Moro war . Once the American forces secured the main Philippine island against the Spanish speaking resistance then they turned their effort on the securing control of the Moro people . Having until that time being allowed to continue with slavery , piracy and the old ways of independent chieftains who oppressed , robbed , murdered and enslaved the general Moro population . Arnold gives a blow by blow , warts and all account of the American action to subdue , secure and make the people safe under a honest code of laws . He does not hide the brutality of the combat of a professional army against brave poorly armed but often deadly Moro force . Like as with the American Indian wars ( which many of the top military leaders were ) . With out the help of Moros themselves the peace never would have been secured

. The history of the Moro scouts is rarely written of but Arnold shows the vital job they did to end the fighting as a war . From then on it was crimes that were investigated and made right .

Military history, American or otherwise, isn't exactly my favorite but I nevertheless enjoyed this particular book greatly. As the title indicates, it's about the Moro War in the Philippines, a country in which I have a keen interest. The time span covered is about 11 years, and the author did a remarkable job weaving the various threads together in a gripping narrative, occasionally pausing to give background on important people. Overall, I felt like I learned a lot about Islamic society in the Philippines as well as American battlefield tactics, among other things. This particular part of history isn't talked about much, but there are some things that could be applied to our current situation in the Middle East, which the author also points out. Highly recommended for people who like military and/or Philippines history.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who seeks to understand the important history of these wars of Pacification. Today we are still waging this kind of war with a wide variety of failed theories as to how we can force others to be like us. The exact same mayhem is going on today as it was over a hundred years ago and in many ways the world is far worse off. Same story no matter where we go. The Author has done a fine job of laying out this near impossible attempt at changing others. I recommend this be made mandatory reading for all elected officials.

I liked very much the way that the author demonstrated the relevance of this 14 year long conflict to today's situation with Muslim insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan. There were similarities and differences - which were thoughtfully explained with good documentation. I was pleased that he gave good overviews of the Philippine activities of Captain, then General Pershing and other senior officers like Harbord and Bliss, but was disappointed that he only showcased Leonard Wood as one who used a more firm approach in dealing with the Moros, ignoring Col Alexander Rogers of the 6th Cavalry who's term as Military Governor of Sulu Island is possibly the underlying source of the mythology regarding Pershing "ordering X-number of Moros to be shot with bullets dipped in pig blood and burying them with pig entrails, etc" - - which, of course, was NOT something that Pershing would have done. I'd like to have seen that myth more firmly put to rest, though the Pershing's more enlightened handling of the Moros was well established. It's a good read on a little-known era of American Military history. Like the Mexican War did for many officers who were to rise to prominence in the War Between the States, the Moro Juramentado Insurrections in the

Philippines became quite important in forming the careers of young officers who would later make their marks on the World Wars.

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