



## Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars (Yale Historical Publications Series)

*By Kristin L. Hoganson*

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**Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars (Yale Historical Publications Series)** By Kristin L. Hoganson

This groundbreaking book blends international relations and gender history to provide a new understanding of the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars. Kristin L. Hoganson shows how gendered ideas about citizenship and political leadership influenced jingoist political leaders' desire to wage these conflicts, and she traces how they manipulated ideas about gender to embroil the nation in war.

She argues that racial beliefs were only part of the cultural framework that undergirded U.S. martial policies at the turn of the century. Gender beliefs, also, affected the rise and fall of the nation's imperialist impulse.

Drawing on an extensive range of sources, including congressional debates, campaign speeches, political tracts, newspapers, magazines, political cartoons, and the papers of politicians, soldiers, suffragists, and other political activists, Hoganson discusses how concerns about manhood affected debates over war and empire. She demonstrates that jingoist political leaders, distressed by the passing of the Civil War generation and by women's incursions into electoral politics, embraced war as an opportunity to promote a political vision in which soldiers were venerated as model citizens and women remained on the fringes of political life. These gender concerns not only played an important role in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars, they have echoes in later time periods, says the author, and recognizing their significance has powerful ramifications for the way we view international relations.

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

In 1898, the United States entered a war with Spain to liberate Cuba from the European power's imperialist grasp. A few years later, it waged war against the Philippines. At this time to further its own imperialist agenda. Over the last 100 years, historians have pondered the causes of these conflicts, basing their theories on economics, politics, or culture. Here, Hoganson (history/literature, Harvard) adds a new dimension to the historiography of the wars by examining how gender beliefs may have been motivational factors for leaders in both struggles. This unique work, based on the author's dissertation and relying on a host of primary and secondary sources, might go well with John Tebbel's more popularly written *America's Great Patriotic War with Spain* (LJ 10/15/96) and Ivan Musicant's *Empire by Default* (LJ 12/97), a readable military history. A useful addition to any academic or larger public library. A Theresa McDevitt, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the Inside Flap

Blending gender, political, and foreign policy history, this groundbreaking book offers a new understanding of the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars. The author shows how gender concerns influenced political leaders and how gendered arguments helped shape turn-of-the-century debates over war and empire.

About the Author

**Kristin L. Hoganson** is assistant professor of history and of history and literature at Harvard University.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Charles Duda:**

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