

**AMERICAN IDEALS AND  
OTHER  
ESSAYS, SOCIAL AND  
POLITICAL; VOLUME I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649180684

American ideals and other essays, social and political; Volume I by Theodore Roosevelt

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

**AMERICAN IDEALS AND  
OTHER  
ESSAYS, SOCIAL AND  
POLITICAL; VOLUME I**





*UNIFORM EDITION*

---

AMERICAN IDEALS

AND

OTHER ESSAYS, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL.

By

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

VOLUME I.

PHILADELPHIA

GEBBIE AND COMPANY

1903

Copyright, 1897

Copyright, 1903

by

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

---

This edition of "American Ideals" is issued under special  
arrangement with G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS.

**GIFT**

E660

R8

1903

v.1

TO

HENRY CABOT LODGE

*October, 1897*





## PREFACE

IT is not difficult to be virtuous in a cloistered and negative way. Neither is it difficult to succeed, after a fashion, in active life, if one is content to disregard the considerations which bind honorable and upright men. But it is by no means easy to combine honesty and efficiency; and yet it is absolutely necessary in order to do any work really worth doing. It is not hard, while sitting in one's study, to devise admirable plans for the betterment of politics and of social conditions; but in practice it too often proves very hard to make any such plan work at all, no matter how imperfectly. Yet the effort must continually be made, under penalty of constant retrogression in our political life.

No one quality or one virtue is enough to insure success; vigor, honesty, common sense,—all are needed. The practical man is merely rendered more noxious by his practical ability if he employs it wrongly, whether from ignorance or from lack of morality; while the doctrinaire, the man of theories, whether written or spoken, is useless if he cannot also act.

These essays are written on behalf of the many

men who do take an actual part in trying practically to bring about the conditions for which we somewhat vaguely hope; on behalf of the under-officers in that army which, with much stumbling, halting, and slipping, many mistakes and short-comings, and many painful failures, does, nevertheless, through weary strife, accomplish something toward raising the standard of public life.

We feel that the doer is better than the critic and that the man who strives stands far above the man who stands aloof, whether he thus stands aloof because of pessimism or because of sheer weakness. To borrow a simile from the football field, we believe that men must play fair, but that there must be no shirking, and that success can only come to the player who "hits the line hard."

*Theodore Roosevelt*

SAGAMORE HILL, *October, 1897.*