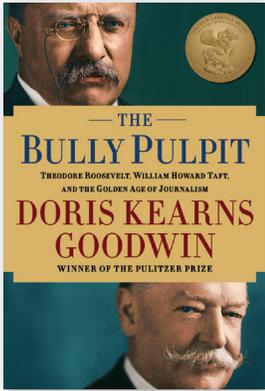


# Andrew Carnegie

## Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction



### 2014 NONFICTION WINNER

*The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*  
by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
published by Simon & Schuster

"In this hyperpartisan era, it is well to remember that a belief in an activist federal government that promoted both social and economic progress crossed party lines, as it did during the Progressive movement of the early twentieth century. Goodwin, the acclaimed historian, repeatedly emphasizes that fact in her massive and masterful study of the friendship, and then the enmity, of two presidents who played major roles in that movement."—*Booklist*

To read the full review, visit [Booklistonline.com](http://Booklistonline.com).

### BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Name several comparisons between the Progressive Era and today. Would you rather be a member of the working class then or now? Who is a contemporary robber baron in your opinion?
2. What was the role of the press then? What is it now? How do they compare? Who is doing the muckraking (reform minded journalism) of today?
3. Talk about the women in this book. What roles did they take on and play at home and in politics?
4. How has your view of Theodore Roosevelt changed since reading this book? Could a modern president do what he did while in office?
5. This is a story of friendship and rivalry. Which other US presidents have experienced both friendship and rivalry?
6. Goodwin could not have written such an intimate portrait of the two men without their letters to each other and to their wives. How will history be recorded for historians in the next 100 years?

*Cont. on next page*

Co-sponsored by *Booklist* and RUSA (Reference and User Services Association), these awards were established to recognize the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. To learn more about the awards, books, and authors, visit [ala.org/carnegieadult](http://ala.org/carnegieadult).

Interested in starting a book group? The American Library Association offers resources on how to get started, how to structure a meeting, how to select books and how to facilitate a meaningful literary discussion. For more information visit [ala.org/tools/atoz/book-discussion-grps](http://ala.org/tools/atoz/book-discussion-grps).

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## BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE CONT.

7. Doris Kearns Goodwin has noted that Ida Tarbell knew how to make people come to life on the page. How does Goodwin manage to do the same?
8. Steven Spielberg and Dreamworks, the makers of the movie *Lincoln*, based in part on Goodwin's *Team of Rivals*, have acquired the rights to make a film based on *The Bully Pulpit*. How different would this movie be from *Lincoln*? Whom would you cast for the parts of Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Alice Hathaway Lee Roosevelt, Edith Roosevelt, Nellie Herron Taft (she sneaks cigarettes!), Ida Tarbell, Sam McClure? What scenes from *Bully Pulpit* stick out in your mind as particularly cinematic?
9. The role of government in dealing with the economic and social issues was a central issue during to the Progressive Era as it is today. What do you think Roosevelt would say about the social and economic issue of today?
10. The text of this book is 750 pages. Did the detail incorporated into this volume advance or detract from the story? If you could edit, what would you cut? Is there an untold story here, something you would have liked more of?
11. Doris Kearns Goodwin has confessed that the Progressive Era was her favorite time in history. If she were to write another biography, whom would you like it to be about?