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# Theodore Roosevelt: Civilization as Ideology

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Theodore Roosevelt was America's first modern president. Still, one may ask, how exactly was his foreign policy modern? If the modernity of his domestic progressivism seems obvious, the same is not true of his diplomacy, for despite pathbreaking achievements in both areas, the two have always seemed out of balance. While moral indignation, crusading zeal, and reformist optimism were prominent features of his domestic reform

leadership, Roosevelt's reputation as the first modern American statesman is based, in contrast, on a macho diplomatic style and an almost indecent enthusiasm for U.S. participation in a world organized by force and power. In Howard K. Beale's classic judgment, Roosevelt “saw world events and policies in terms of power. He was intrigued with power, with the problems of power, and with rivalries of power.” This widely echoed assessment of his legacy has all the...

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