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As you may know, many of the best ideas from our smartest scholars go unread. The dissertations which our doctoral candidates work so hard to research and write usually find a tiny audience of fellow scholars and then disappear.

In my classroom, these ideas are gold.

What you see on this site is the beginning of a collection of open-access essays from ome of our best scholars. My introductions, author interviews, visuals and lesson plans are intended to give the general reader a useful context for these scholarly essays. Wherever possible, we attach the full text of the original dissertation.

The best source material by the brightest scholars is largely unavailable to us. Even if it is published, a scholarly book can cost \$80 and up, and many journal require a subscription. We provide excerpts and interviews and in many cases the full dissertations of some of the best recent scholarship on all aspects of empire.

Biography

JES Editor and Publisher Tom Durwood teaches English at Valley Forge Military College, where he has been named Teacher of the Year twice in the past three years. He works hard for the cadets, who keep reminding him just how demanding their lives are in the military model. Tom ignores them and forces them to practice writing every class, every day, and constantly throws new critical thinking problems at his students.



Early readers of Tom's forthcoming ebook on Teddy Roosevelt and the 25th Infantry, Teddy's Tantrum, have been favorable. "The debut of a promising new voice in history," writes journalist Tim Pritchard about the Roosevelt manuscript, currently in its third draft. It has also has been called "a compelling human story" by John Milton Cooper, author of The Warrior and the Priest and The Vanity of Power; and "extremely promising ... a case study of investigative journalism and activist scholarship at their respective bests," by Dennis Showalter, former president of the Society for Military History.

As editor and co-publisher of a small press (Ariel Books), Tom collaborated with such authors and artists as Winslow Pels, Russ Shorto, and Gary Gianni. The Ariel Illustrated Classics series, including Michael Hague's The Wind in the Willows and Scott Gustafson's Peter Pan, has sold over a million copies in hardback. Tom has edited a series of Native American biographies (Silver Burdett) with Alvin Josephy, as well as a Great Authors series for Creative Education. Tom has also created illustrated juvenile series for Scholastic, Bantam, and Contemporary Books of Chicago.

His newspaper column "Shelter" appeared in the North County Times for seven years and can be viewed at www.nctimes.com (archives, keyword: "durwood").

Tom earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard, where he studied with David McClelland (Roots of Consciousness) and edited an undergraduate arts journal. Tom is a member of MLA, the International Studies Association, and the Author's Guild. He earned a Masters in English Literature in San Diego, where he also served as Executive Director of San Diego Habitat for Humanity.



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