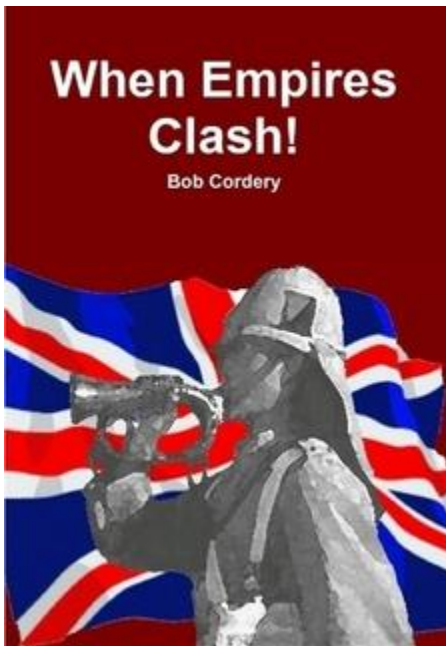


# WHEN EMPIRES CLASH!

## By Bob Cordery

### Review by Mike Crane

This book was written by Bob Cordery to provide battle rules for the time during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century British Colonial Period -- the Zulu War in Africa, the Gordon Relief Expedition to the Sudan in Africa, the Wars on the North-West Frontier in India, etc.



Unlike many rulebooks, this book is very well written and easy to understand due to the inclusion of many pertinent diagrams and photographs explaining the rules. Since Bob tests out many of his ideas by playing alone, useful solo war gaming information abounds.

The battle rules use the basic combat mechanism found in "Table Top Battles." However, since TTB does not deal with the Colonial period, Cordery can be credited with most of the ideas presented. For example, he considers three kinds of tactical "square" formations -- large open, large, and small.

The size of the playing board and the number figures are limited in order to speed up the game. The playing board is made of 50mm (2") squares to eliminate time-consuming measurements and the

15mm figures and models are based on stands to facilitate movement. Movement and firing are done orthogonally, which is explained well through the use of diagrams.

Although no battle reports are in the book, a list of 15 wars is included under "Army Lists." Each war has a small army for each side listed, with an equal amount of points allotted for each army. (Rules are provided for generating unequal armies, too). And the wars are not just the British Colonial conflicts. They include "the Great Sioux War (1876-77), the Mahdist War with Ethiopia (1889), the Cuban Rebellion (1895-98), the First Italo-Ethiopian War (1895-96), the Spanish-American War (1898), and the Boxer War (1900-01) also.

The book used for this review was a second edition paperback of 72 pages. It was written by Bob Cordery and published by Lulu.com. The dimensions of the book are 5.8 x 0.2 x 8.3 inches. The paperback is ISBN 978-1-326-02369-0. A new book can be purchased on Amazon for as little as \$7.98 plus shipping.

To sum it up, this book is well written, contains helpful illustrations, and has useful war

gaming ideas for the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The price is right, so if you are into Colonial war gaming, this book is for you.