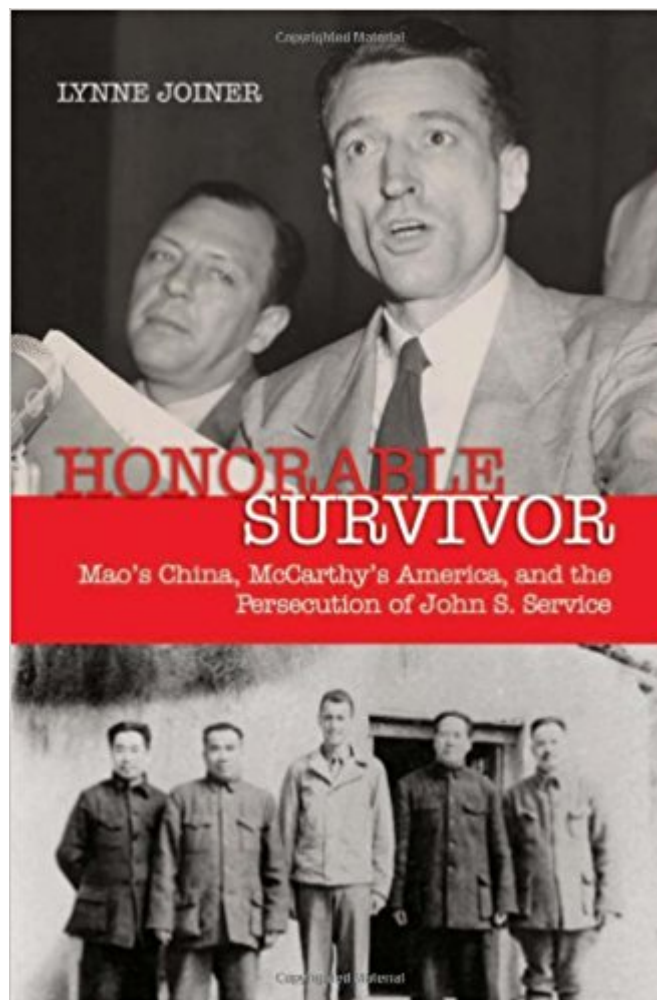




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Honorable Survivor: Mao's China, McCarthy's America, And The Persecution Of John S. Service



Synopsis

Honorable Survivor weaves John S. Service's extraordinary story into the fabric of a watershed moment in our history when World War II was ending, the Cold War was dawning, and the McCarthy era witch-hunters were stirring. The book reveals how people, policy, and politics mix to create the circumstances of our lives--and the experiences of one man who came to be at the center of a series of extraordinary events involving the fate of nations. A true story of intrigue, adventure, persecution, and redemption--and the love of a loyal American wife and a Chinese lover, this biography chronicles the experiences of John S. Service. Emmy award-winning journalist Lynne Joiner tells the tale of Service, an idealistic U.S. Foreign Service officer in wartime China who had the misfortune of often being right although U.S. policymakers refused to heed his prescient reporting. He predicted Mao Tse-tung's successful revolution long before anyone else even knew the Chinese Communists were a potent force, and, subsequently, he became Sen. Joseph McCarthy's first victim. The author describes how Service was fired for "doubtful loyalty"--but won his job back in the U.S. Supreme Court, only to have his career "neutralized" by the FBI, anti-Communist politicians, the China lobby, and Chiang Kai-shek's secret police. Born and raised in China by YMCA missionaries, Service became America's key liaison with the Communist Chinese when Gen. Joseph Stilwell wanted their help against the Japanese. Later, he became a target of revenge for Nationalist Chinese, a convenient scapegoat for American politicians eager to advance their careers, and a "person of interest" to J. Edgar Hoover for more than a quarter century. Joiner was given special access to Service's private papers and photographs with Mao and Chou En-lai, among others, and gained access to FBI, CIA, and State Department security records as well as confidential transcripts of congressional hearings and federal loyalty review boards. Although newly released Soviet and U.S. documents demonstrate that some of his wartime associates were in fact identified as Communist spies or fellow travelers, Joiner shows that Service was an honorable survivor who was innocent of McCarthy's charges.

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Customer Reviews

a remarkable story...also offers breathtaking insights for diplomats and students of history alike, into the realities of the process of national policymaking, including the terrible toll exacted by egotism, miscommunication, prejudice, turf warfare and plain ignorance. As such, the book is full of timely lessons--not the least being the critical value of quality Foreign Service political reporting. --Susan Brady Maitra, Foreign Service Journal

Lynne Joiner is an award-winning broadcast journalist, news anchor, and documentary filmmaker. Her work has included assignments for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, NPR, Christian Science Monitor Radio, Newsweek, and L.A. Times Magazine. She is currently a news consultant for Shanghai International Television. She lives in San Francisco, CA.

Seldom does the reader have an opportunity to enjoy a rousing good spy caper, a haunting story of forbidden love and learn important lessons in modern history under the same book cover.

HONORABLE SURVIVOR: MAO'S CHINA, McCARTHY'S AMERICA AND THE PERSECUTION OF JOHN S. SERVICE delivers on all three counts and then some, as author Lynne Joiner takes us down the road of intrigue, betrayal and abused political power. It's an informative journey for anyone the least bit concerned about U.S. foreign policy as it exists today and great reading entertainment for everyone else. Which only raises the question of who they're going to get to play the title role in the movie. Hank Schoepp, Las Vegas, NV.

This book has been outstandingly researched and reads like a novel. It is more than a biography of John S. Service, it also a story of China during World War II, of the United States after the war, of the first person to be the victim of the cold war and McCarthyism, of his personal life and loves. It reminds us of the choices made by American administrations after WWII which led to our fighting

two wars on the continent of Asia which might well have been unnecessary had we shown less panic and more wisdom in the period 1945-1954. It is good to be reminded of these times, as we may well be entering a time where many of the mistakes of that period are may be repeated with equally dire consequences. John S. Service was accused of having 'lost' China: who will be equally foolishly accused of having 'lost' Afghanistan or Pakistan or Iraq in the months and years to come.

Robert E. Gomperts, Glen Allen, Virginia

I greatly enjoyed and highly recommend Honorable Survivor. The last time I lost this much sleep over a book it was Red October. Lynne Joiner wrote a great novel. Except it's history. When I took history in high school it was boredom incarnate. I guess Lynne didn't take that class. I have spent time in China and was immediately able to connect with the story she tells. I knew pieces of it but have never had the opportunity to see it all come together - and she does a great job of bringing all the pieces together. The only problem with making a movie out of John Service's life would be trying to fit this story into so short a time. Last thought: there are few novelists who could create so complex a plot. This book should solve about a third of your Christmas gift list. Disclosure: I met Lynne Joiner in Shanghai when I was running a business there in the 90's. I think I am on her friends list. I know she spent much of the past decade on this book. It was worth the wait.

I enjoyed Honorable Survivor tremendously. The story of Jack Service touches on some of the most significant historical themes of the last 60 years--World War II, the roots of the Cold War, McCarthyism, the roots of modern China--and this book provides a personal and novel angle on the events, focusing on a protagonist who repeatedly crossed paths with the bold-letter names of history (from Mao and Madame Chiang to Hoover and Truman). Lynne Joiner does the compelling material justice, telling the story in a style that is thorough yet concise, nuanced yet clear, and sympathetic to its protagonist without being blind to his flaws.

Honorable Survivor is one of the best books I have ever read. In following the dramatic story of Jack Service, indeed one of the most honorable and insightful diplomats of his time, one learns much about the sweep of tremendous change in China during the 20th century and how myopic concern with anti-communism kept American leaders from acting in the best interests of the U.S., both in China and at home. Packed with fascinating details and people, the book reads like the best of historical novels. I found it hard to put down.

John Service was a U.S. Foreign Service officer who traveled through China on dangerous missions during and after WW 11. Unlike armchair decision makers he was in the field to observe conditions and to interview the important people whose actions would change events. He believed that Chiang Kai-shek did not have the support of the Chinese people whereas Mao Zedong did have their support. He predicted that Mao would win. This prediction and many other evaluations did not agree with the fantasy world that was inhabited by Senator McCarthy and his fellow travelers. For some reason the McCarthy group decided that they would blame Mr. Service and other diplomats for the "loss of China". This gained traction with the public and was used as a way for the Republican Party to try to blame the Democratic party for the rise of communism. The demagogues were successful in preventing decisions from being based on reality. The results have been tragic. Ms. Joiner reviews many of the "what ifs?" a rational approach with China could have done. The book covers a complex and amazingly interesting time and presents it in a clear, concise way. The demagogues will be back and they will be successful if the public does not have reliable information. You cannot have a healthy democracy if people are misinformed, and there are many cable channels, radio stations, web sites and newspapers that are avid providers of misinformation.

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Reminders

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