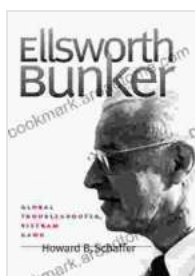


Ellsworth Bunker: The Global Troubleshooter and Vietnam Hawk



Ellsworth Bunker: Global Troubleshooter, Vietnam

Hawk by Howard B. Schaffer

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3170 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Ellsworth Bunker, a prominent American diplomat, had a remarkable career spanning over four decades. He served as the United States Ambassador to several countries, including Italy, India, Argentina, and South Vietnam, and played a crucial role in shaping global affairs during the Cold War era. This article explores the life and legacy of Ellsworth Bunker, focusing on his involvement in the Vietnam War and its lasting impact on his career and reputation.

Early Life and Diplomatic Career

Ellsworth Bunker was born in Yonkers, New York, on May 11, 1894. After graduating from Yale University, he joined the family business, Bunker International, a leading supplier of heating oil and diesel fuel. Bunker's business acumen and connections within the oil industry eventually led to his involvement in government affairs.

In 1951, Bunker was appointed by President Truman as a special representative to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, where he oversaw the distribution of humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees. This marked the beginning of his distinguished diplomatic career. In 1952, President Eisenhower appointed Bunker as Ambassador to Argentina, where he successfully mediated a trade dispute between the US and Argentina.

Involvement in the Vietnam War

Ellsworth Bunker is perhaps best known for his involvement in the Vietnam War. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Bunker as US

Ambassador to South Vietnam, a position he held until 1973. Bunker's tenure in Saigon coincided with the Tet Offensive and the subsequent period of escalating US involvement in the war.

Bunker was a staunch supporter of the US war effort in Vietnam. He believed that the US had a moral and strategic obligation to support South Vietnam against communist aggression. Bunker also played a key role in the negotiations that led to the Paris Peace Accords in 1973, which ended US combat operations in Vietnam.

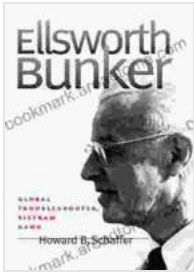
Legacy and Controversies

Ellsworth Bunker's legacy as a diplomat is complex and controversial. He was widely respected for his diplomatic skills and his ability to negotiate complex agreements in challenging situations. However, his support for the Vietnam War has been a source of criticism from those who believe he was overly hawkish and that his actions prolonged the conflict.

Despite the controversies surrounding his involvement in Vietnam, Bunker's contributions to American diplomacy cannot be denied. He served his country with distinction for over four decades, playing a pivotal role in shaping global affairs during the Cold War era. His legacy as a global troubleshooter and Vietnam hawk will continue to be debated for generations to come.

Ellsworth Bunker's life and career provide a fascinating glimpse into the world of diplomacy and global affairs during the Cold War era. As a skilled negotiator and a staunch supporter of US foreign policy, Bunker left an enduring mark on the course of history. His legacy as a global

troubleshooter and Vietnam hawk will continue to be studied and debated by historians and political scientists for years to come.

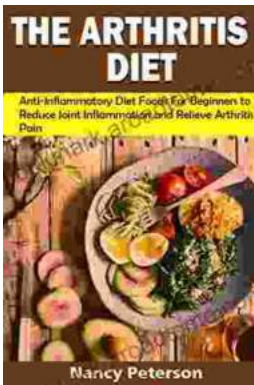


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