

Troublesome Young Men



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著者:Lynne Olson

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On May 7, 1940, the House of Commons began perhaps the most crucial debate in British parliamentary history. On its outcome hung the future of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's government and also of Britain -- indeed, perhaps, the world.

Troublesome Young Men is Lynne Olson's fascinating account of how a small group of rebellious Tory MPs defied the Chamberlain government's defeatist policies that aimed to appease Europe's tyrants and eventually forced the prime minister's resignation.

Some historians dismiss the "phony war" that preceded this turning point -- from September 1939, when Britain and France declared war on Germany, to May 1940, when Winston Churchill became prime minister -- as a time of waiting and inaction, but Olson makes no such mistake, and describes in dramatic detail the public unrest that spread through Britain then, as people realized how poorly prepared the nation was to confront Hitler, how their basic civil liberties were being jeopardized, and also that there were intrepid politicians willing to risk political suicide to spearhead the opposition to Chamberlain -- Harold Macmillan, Robert Boothby, Leo Amery, Ronald Cartland, and Lord Robert Cranborne among them. The political and personal dramas that played out in Parliament and in the nation as Britain faced the threat of fascism

virtually on its own are extraordinary -- and, in Olson's hands, downright inspiring.

作者介绍:

Lynne Olson has been a reporter and writer since shortly after her graduation from the University of Arizona. In 1971, she went to work for the Associated Press in Salt Lake City, and in 1972, transferred to the AP's San Francisco bureau, where she specialized in feature writing. Later that same year, Olson was named to AP's top feature writing team in New York, which focused on developing and writing stories about the country's rapidly changing social mores. In 1973, she was asked by the AP to become the wire service's first woman correspondent in Moscow, and she moved to the AP's foreign desk to prepare for the assignment. She was based in Moscow from 1974 to 1976, once again concentrating on feature stories but also covering such news events as the Apollo-Soyuz space mission and President Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union. In 1976, Olson was reassigned to Washington, where she was chosen to cover Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.

After Carter became president, Olson joined the Washington bureau of the Baltimore Sun, where she covered national politics and eventually the White House. In 1981, she quit the Sun to become a freelance writer. She has written for such publications as the Washington Post, American Heritage, Smithsonian, Working Woman, Los Angeles Times Magazine, Ms., Elle, Glamour, Washington Journalism Review and Baltimore Magazine. She also taught journalism for five years as an assistant professor at American University in Washington.

Olson and her husband, Stanley Cloud, are co-authors of *The Murrow Boys*, which was named one of the best books in 1996 by Publishers Weekly. *Freedom's Daughters*, Olson's second book, is the first comprehensive history of women in the civil rights movement. Published by Scribner in February 2001, it won a Christopher Award in 2002. Olson joined with Cloud again to write *A Question of Honor: The Kosciuszko Squadron: Forgotten Heroes of World War II*, published by Alfred A. Knopf in September 2003.

Olson's fourth book, *Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in April 2007. Drawing wide critical acclaim, it was named one of the top 10 books of 2007 by New York Times book reviewer William Grimes and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Book Prize in history.

Her latest book, *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour* was be published by Random House in February 2010.

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