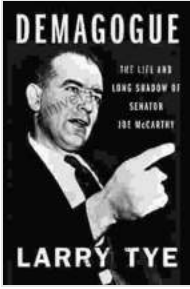# The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy: A Journey of Fear and Paranoia



**Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy** by Larry Tye

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

## The Early Years

Joseph Raymond McCarthy was born on November 14, 1908, in Grand Chute, Wisconsin. He was the son of Irish immigrants and grew up in a devout Catholic family. McCarthy was a bright but troubled child who often got into fights. He attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, where he studied law and political science. After graduating in 1935, McCarthy worked as a lawyer in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He also served as a district attorney and a judge.

## McCarthy's Political Career

McCarthy entered politics in 1946 when he was elected to the United States Senate. He quickly made a name for himself as a conservative Republican who was willing to challenge the status quo. McCarthy was a strong critic of President Truman's foreign policy and the United Nations. He also opposed the New Deal and other liberal programs.

In 1950, McCarthy gave a speech in which he claimed that there were 205 communists working in the State Department. This sparked a wave of hysteria and fear across the country. McCarthy's accusations were largely

unsubstantiated, but they nevertheless led to the firing of many government employees.

## The Red Scare

McCarthy's allegations of communist infiltration in the government became known as McCarthyism. The Red Scare, as it was called, was a time of great fear and paranoia. People were afraid to speak out for fear of being labeled a communist. Many innocent people were blacklisted and lost their jobs.

The Red Scare reached its peak in the early 1950s. McCarthy was at the center of the storm, and he used his power to intimidate and bully his opponents. He even accused some of his fellow senators of being communists.

## The Decline of McCarthy

In 1954, McCarthy's luck began to run out. He was censured by the Senate for his conduct during the Army-McCarthy hearings. The hearings, which were televised live, revealed McCarthy's bullying tactics and his lack of evidence to support his accusations.

After the censure, McCarthy's career quickly declined. He was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1958 and died of liver failure in 1957.
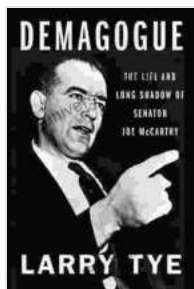
## The Legacy of McCarthy

McCarthy's legacy is a complex one. He was a demagogue who used fear and paranoia to gain political power. He is also responsible for many innocent people losing their jobs and reputations.

However, McCarthy's legacy is not all negative. He did raise legitimate concerns about communist infiltration in the United States. He also helped to bring about the downfall of the Soviet Union.

McCarthyism is a reminder of the dangers of fear and paranoia. It is also a reminder that it is important to speak out against injustice, even when it is unpopular.

Joseph McCarthy was a controversial figure in American history. His Red Scare left a long shadow over the nation. However, McCarthy's legacy is not all negative. He did raise legitimate concerns about communist infiltration in the United States. He also helped to bring about the downfall of the Soviet Union.

McCarthy's life and career are a reminder of the dangers of fear and paranoia. It is also a reminder that it is important to speak out against injustice, even when it is unpopular.

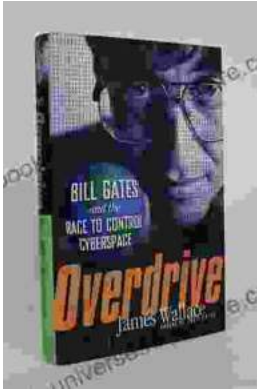### Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy by Larry Tye

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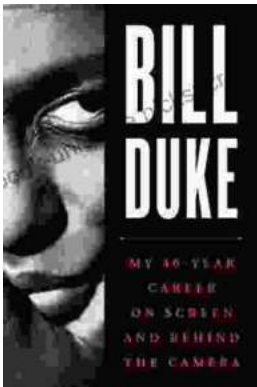| | |
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