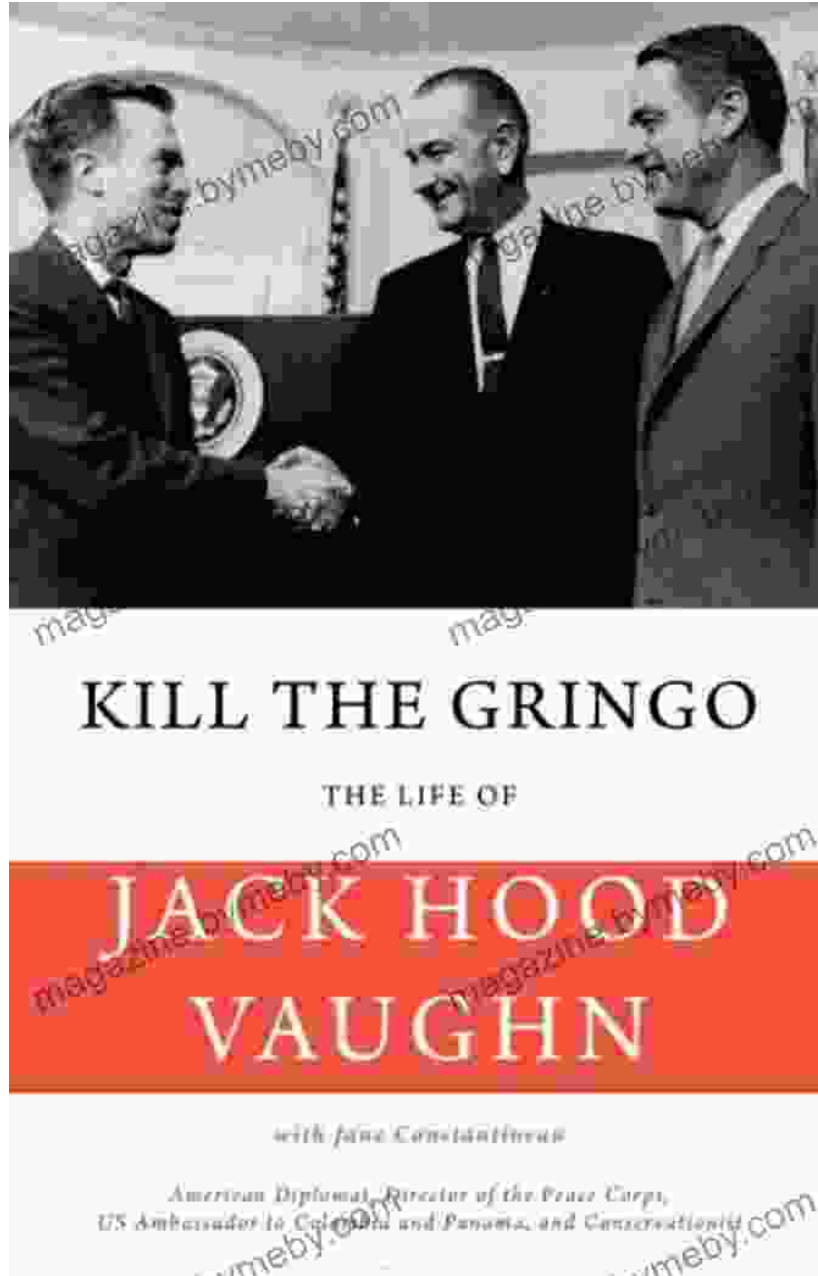
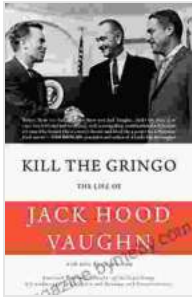


# The Extraordinary Life of Jack Vaughn: American Diplomat and Visionary Leader



**Kill the Gringo: The Life of Jack Vaughn—American diplomat, Director of the Peace Corps, US ambassador**



## to Colombia and Panama, and conservationist

by Jonathan Alter

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4595 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 392 pages



In the annals of American diplomacy, the name Jack Vaughn stands tall as a beacon of integrity, vision, and unwavering commitment to peace and progress. As the first director of the United States Peace Corps, Vaughn played a pivotal role in shaping the organization's mission and legacy. His transformative ideas and unwavering passion for empowering communities worldwide left an indelible mark on global affairs and forever altered the landscape of international development.

### Early Life and Education

John Francis "Jack" Vaughn was born on October 12, 1920, in the humble town of Wichita Falls, Texas. From a young age, Vaughn displayed an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a deep compassion for those less fortunate. After graduating from Wichita Falls High School, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin and later a master's degree in international relations from Columbia University.

### Early Career

Vaughn began his diplomatic career in the United States Foreign Service in 1948. His early assignments took him to posts in Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands, where he honed his diplomatic skills and developed a deep understanding of European affairs. In 1956, he was appointed as the first secretary of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, a challenging but pivotal role during the height of the Cold War.

## **The Birth of the Peace Corps**

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, a volunteer service program that sent young Americans to developing countries to promote peace, friendship, and understanding. Vaughn was handpicked by Kennedy to lead this ambitious initiative as its first director.

Vaughn approached this task with his characteristic energy and visionary leadership. He recognized the transformative potential of empowering local communities and fostering cross-cultural exchange. Under his guidance, the Peace Corps quickly expanded its reach, sending volunteers to over 50 countries worldwide.

## **Legacy of the Peace Corps**

The Peace Corps became a resounding success under Vaughn's stewardship. Volunteers worked side-by-side with local communities, sharing their knowledge and skills in areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and infrastructure development. The program fostered understanding and goodwill between the United States and developing countries, while simultaneously empowering local populations and laying the groundwork for sustainable development.

Vaughn's legacy extended far beyond his tenure as director. He helped establish the Peace Corps as a permanent institution within the U.S. government and played a key role in shaping its mission and values. To this day, the Peace Corps continues to embody Vaughn's vision of empowering communities and promoting global peace and progress.

## **Later Career and Retirement**

After leaving the Peace Corps in 1966, Vaughn continued to serve in various diplomatic roles, including as U.S. ambassador to Panama and Colombia. He also taught at Georgetown University and the University of Notre Dame, sharing his vast experience with future generations of diplomats and international development professionals.

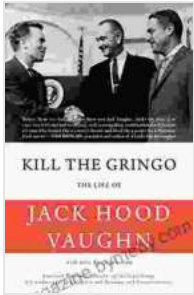
Vaughn retired from the Foreign Service in 1986 but remained active in public service. He served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations dedicated to peace, education, and international development. In 2004, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his outstanding contributions to American diplomacy.

## **Personal Life**

Jack Vaughn married Ann Christine Palmer in 1948, and together they had six children. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Vaughn passed away on April 13, 2014, at the age of 93, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of service and a lasting impact on the world.

Jack Vaughn was an extraordinary American diplomat and visionary leader whose unwavering commitment to peace and progress left an indelible mark on global affairs. As the first director of the Peace Corps, he played a

pivotal role in shaping the organization's mission and legacy, empowering communities worldwide and fostering understanding between nations. His life and work stand as a testament to the transformative power of diplomacy and the enduring spirit of service.



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