

# PROFILES IN SERVICE

Peace Corps Roots  
in American Diplomacy



BEN EAST

FOREWORD BY  
GLENN BLUMHORST

## Profiles in Service: Peace Corps Roots in American Diplomacy

**By:** Ben East

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*Precisely the book America needs now.*

— LAURENCE LEAMER, *New York Times* bestselling author of Kennedy family trilogy.

*Here is an author in full command of his craft. There's the vividness of a travel writer, the immediacy of a war reporter, and the narrative drive of a thriller writer.*

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**For media and other inquiries, contact Ben at [www.beneastbooks.com](http://www.beneastbooks.com)**

## For Immediate Release

Ben East's nonfiction debut recounts how JFK's bold experiment shaped diplomatic careers and influenced modern American diplomacy.

### About the Book

From the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961 to yesterday's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, *Profiles in Service* traces how the volunteer experience contributed to the successful careers of leading U.S. diplomats.

Drawing on interviews and oral histories, the book follows future ambassadors from rustic village settings to negotiating tables in capital cities—through war, revolution, and post-conflict reconstruction—revealing how early service forged resilience, judgment, and cross-cultural fluency.

These figures tracked looted antiquities in Iraq, built relations in Kabul after 9/11, and secured village infrastructure as war raged in Vietnam. As hostages in Iran, they maintained diplomatic discipline to bridge a volatile cultural divide. Individuals of deep courage and conviction, they integrated a southern U.S. high school & found comfort in African village beliefs to cope with great personal loss.

As the U.S. marks 250 years and the Peace Corps 65, *Profiles* offers a timely reflection on how citizen diplomacy contributed to U.S. foreign policy—and why those roots still matter.

### About the Author

Ben East is a retired State Department official and educator who's led communications and crisis operations in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. His writing has been recognized by Peace Corps Worldwide and the Virginia Writers Club. He serves on the *Foreign Service Journal* editorial board.

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