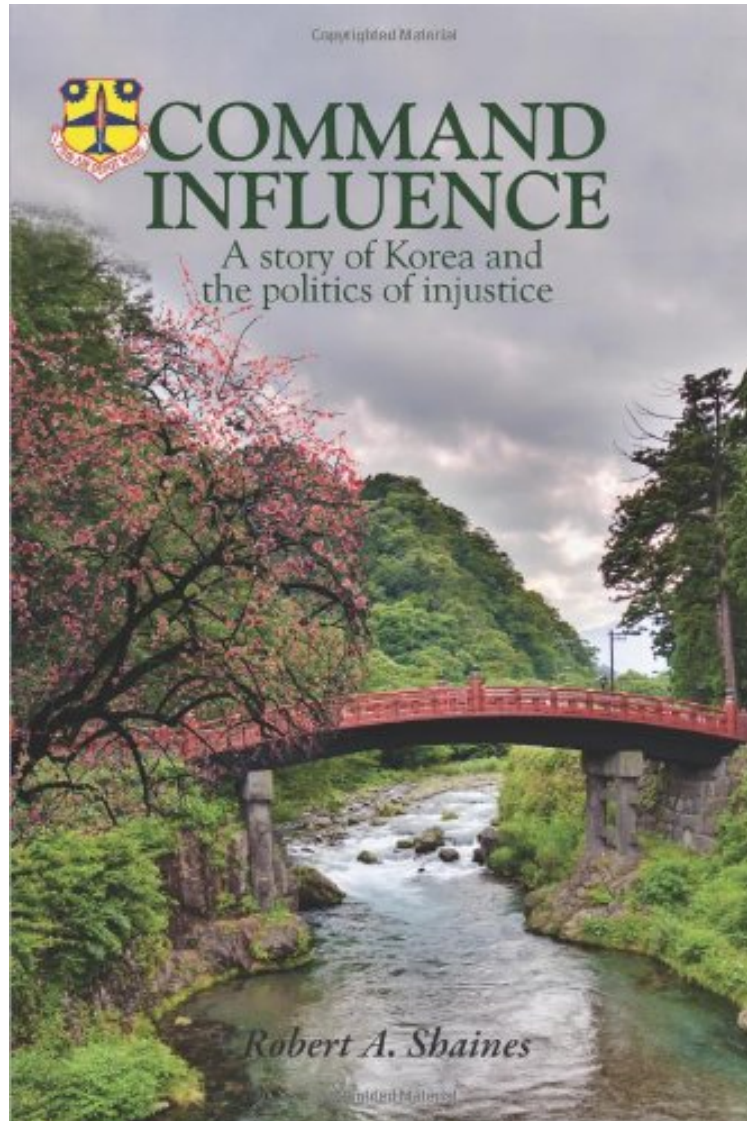


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Command Influence: A Story of Korea and the Politics of Injustice

Robert A. Shaines

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Robert A. Shaines : Command Influence: A Story of Korea and the Politics of Injustice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Command Influence: A Story of Korea and the Politics of Injustice:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Justice Unserved - A Korean War MemoirBy George McQuilkenThis riveting personal memoir tells how a young military lawyer persistently attempted to secure justice for his client under the code of military justice during the Korean War. In Jan, 1953, Robert Shaines, a recently trained JAG Officer, arrived with his unit in sub-zero Korea outfitted in only summer uniforms. This was the first of many

bureaucratic mishaps Shaines experienced. Only five months later he was assigned as defense counsel in a capital murder case. At the time, the Korean press and government was charging the US military with abusing Korean citizens in a brutal way. From appearances, The US Army hoped to clear these claims with a designated human sacrifice. George C. Schreiber, a twenty-five year old second lieutenant, was accused of ordering the execution of a still unidentified man apprehended for looting. "Both Schreiber and I were really pawns in a power game among ambitious and vindictive men, eager to please those whom they felt could advance their military careers," writes Shaines. Schreiber was convicted, but the uproar over the injustice ultimately involved the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Governor of Illinois, and the President of the United States. A Supreme Court decision in this case has been cited in recent lawsuits limiting the president's power to try Guantanamo Bay detainees by military commission. Shaines augments his excellent memory of these events with recently released documents and interviews with participants and their survivors, providing a dramatic chronology of otherwise all but forgotten events. (A tip--I originally purchased the Kindle edition. The volume contains both photographs and reproduced documents which are more easily viewed in the print edition.)

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Truth must be told

By Gruumpstu

What does it take to write a story that captivates the mind ? Essential traits must show through the pages. Truth is so much stronger when couched in the unlikely scenario of wartime. Bob, my younger brother and I lived mirror lives. Both commissioned from Air Force ROTC, he as a Legal Officer, JAG, who served with troops. I as a Contracting Officer with career civilian trades. While Bob was in Korea, we exchanged letters, tapes, photos during his tour. The torment to write his book was spoken about but easily put aside. Now it is done and truth has been told. The folly, the bungling, the humor, the hardships, tell a vivid side of Command Influence and how the lives of those became a story within stories.

Stuart Shaines

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unforgettable experience of author Robert Shaines

By jlew46

This book details the authors experiences during the Korean War as a lawyer with the JAG Corps. While the book is mainly about a specific incident and resulting general courts-martial trial, there are also interesting glimpses into the living conditions of the soldiers in Korea, relationships with the indigenous population, and the high stress environment that combat support troops lived in. The main thrust of the book is the description of the difficulty that a criminal defendant and his defense attorneys encountered in the military justice system then in place particularly with respect to the intentional and undue influence on the proceedings by the superior officers in the chain of command.

A true story that reads like a novel set in war torn South Korea. This book reflects the best and the worst of our military and shows how political motives can impact those in command of the military. It exemplifies the expendability of the rank and file to advance the careers of the powerful.

A well-told tale of ego and politics subverting justice and a military with a conspicuous lack of honor, set against the misery of wartime Korea.