

Sidney Rittenberg arrived in China as a GI Chinese language expert at the end of World War II. Discharged there, he joined the Chinese Communist Party, and was an active participant and eye-witness in the Chinese communist revolution and its aftermath, including the Cultural Revolution, the Great Leap Forward and The Hundred Flowers Campaign.

An intimate of the Party's leadership, including Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, he gained prominence at the Broadcast Administration, one of the most important agencies of government. But in the convulsions of a giant country constantly reinventing itself, he twice ran afoul of the leadership, and served a total of 16 years in solitary confinement. He returned to the United States in 1980.

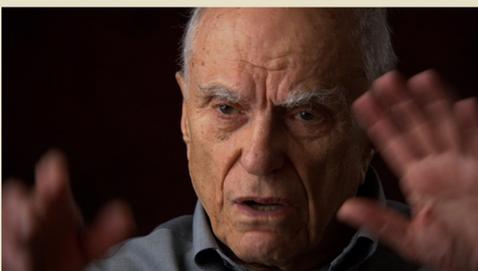
Rittenberg's story would be just a footnote to history, except for his exceptional intellect, uncompromising honesty, and engaging personality. Over a five-year period, award-winning former-CBS journalist and China specialist, Irv Drasin, interviewed Rittenberg to produce a compelling, complex and unique understanding of the 20th century's biggest revolution. From Sid first meeting Mao in the caves of Yan'an, to his becoming famous and powerful during the Cultural Revolution, to his battling insanity in solitary, his journey and his profound insight illuminate a much greater history—a history few Chinese are aware of, let alone many Americans, told by an American who was there.



Sidney Rittenberg giving a speech in Mao-era China



Speaking with Chairman Mao



Sidney Rittenberg, aged 90, recalls a life spent as a Communist Party member.



A 1 x 92' Documentary
from Irv Drasin,
Lucy Ostrander &
Don Sellers



The

REVOLUTIONARY

MAO'S CALL FOR A CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS ANSWERED BY TENS OF MILLIONS OF CHINESE...AND ONE AMERICAN

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