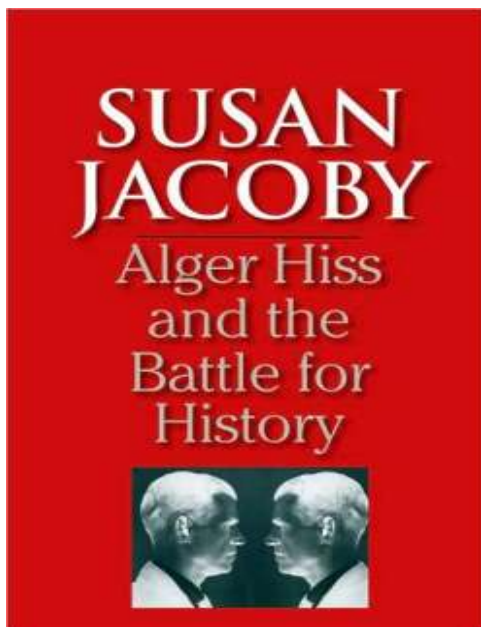


Bestselling author of
THE AGE OF AMERICAN UNREASON



Read by Laural Merlington

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Susan Jacoby is an independent scholar and the bestselling author of eight books, including *The Age of American Unreason* and *Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism*, which was named a Notable Book of 2004 by the *Washington Post* and

the *Times Literary Supplement*. She lives in New York City.

Laural Merlington has recorded over 100 audiobooks, including the *New York Times* Editors' Choice *Dog Man* by Martha Sherrill and works by Margaret Atwood and Alice Hoffman. The recipient of several *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, she teaches college in her home state of Michigan.



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SUSAN JACOBY

ALGER HISS AND THE BATTLE FOR HISTORY

Susan Jacoby, the bestselling author of *The Age of American Unreason*, examines the trial and imprisonment of Alger Hiss and the reactions of commentators on both ends of the political spectrum in the years since.

Books on Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss abound, as countless scholars have labored to uncover the facts behind Chambers's shocking accusation before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in the summer of 1948—that Alger Hiss, a former rising star in the State Department, had been a Communist and engaged in espionage.

In this highly original work, Susan Jacoby turns her attention to the Hiss case, including his trial and imprisonment for perjury, as a mirror of shifting American political views and passions. Unfettered by political ax-grinding, the author examines conflicting responses, from scholars and the media on both the Left and the Right, and the ways in which they have changed from 1948 to our present post-Cold War era. With a brisk, engaging style, Jacoby positions the case in the politics of the post-World War II era and then explores the ways in which generations of liberals and conservatives have put Chambers and Hiss to their own ideological uses. An iconic event of the McCarthy era, the case of Alger Hiss fascinates political intellectuals not only because of its historical significance but because of its timeless relevance to equally fierce debates today about the difficult balance between national security and respect for civil liberties.

KEY POINTS/MARKETING

- *New York Times* bestselling author
- Author has received many grants and awards including: the Guggenheim, Rockefeller, and Ford Foundations

PRAISE FOR ALGER HISS AND THE BATTLE FOR HISTORY

"Fascinating, accessible, and persuasive, Jacoby makes it clear why the Hiss case and the diverse responses to and uses of it matter. She will upset, if not outrage, people on both sides of the political spectrum."

—Harvey J. Kaye, author of *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America*

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