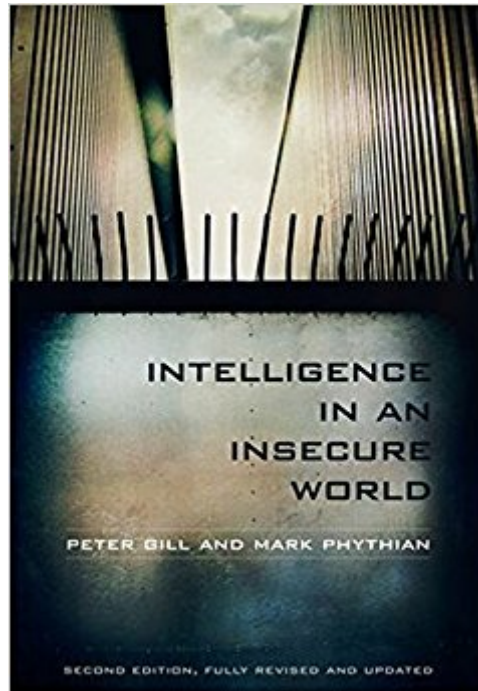




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Intelligence In An Insecure World



Synopsis

Over a decade on from the terrorist attacks of 9/11, intelligence continues to be of central importance to the contemporary world. Today there is a growing awareness of the importance of intelligence, and an increasing investment in it, as individuals, groups, organizations and states all seek timely and actionable information in order to increase their sense of security. But what exactly is intelligence? Who seeks to develop it and how? What happens to intelligence once it is produced, and what dilemmas does this generate? How can liberal democracies seek to mitigate problems of intelligence, and what do we mean by "intelligence failure"? In a fully revised and expanded new edition of their classic guide to the field, Peter Gill and Mark Phythian explore these and other questions. Together they set out a comprehensive framework for the study of intelligence, discussing how intelligence can best be understood, how it is collected, analysed, disseminated and acted upon, how it raises ethical problems, and how and why it fails. Drawing on a range of contemporary examples, *Intelligence in an Insecure World* is an authoritative and accessible guide to a rapidly expanding area of enquiry - one which everyone has an interest in understanding.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Polity; 2 edition (November 5, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0745652794

ISBN-13: 978-0745652795

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.9 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,430 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Espionage #214 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Intelligence & Espionage #226 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > International Relations

Customer Reviews

"Gill and Phythian have done it again: produced a comprehensive, readable, nicely illustrated, and thought-provoking examination of national security intelligence in today's uncertain and dangerous world. Want to know all about espionage, covert action, and counterintelligence? Here's an

excellent place to begin." Loch K. Johnson, University of Georgia "Gill and Phythian provide the best introduction to the study of security and intelligence in democratic societies. They have done so by marrying the rigour of academic analysis with the accessibility of more popular accounts – no mean trick. The new edition is not only updated to include the most contemporary developments, but also expands and deepens the authors' critical reflections on the state of intelligence in the post-9/11 world. This is a must-read for everyone concerned with security in the face of terrorism and for democratic freedoms in the face of the expansion of state security powers." Reg Whitaker, York University, Ontario

Content is good and relevant.

I am a huge fan of Peter Gill's work, and if you are looking for the best possible to reflect on intelligence as it is generally defined today (the province of governments and to a lesser extent the corporate world), this is both the most recent and the best book to get. I also recommend Mark Lowenthal's *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, 5th Edition. Use Look Inside feature above to get a feel for the book. Of all the books I have reviewed, this is the one that comes closest to my own concept for a book I am working on now, and I very much like the manner in which the authors have organized the work, to include their section on "Why Does Intelligence Fail," which happens to be what I have been focusing on since 1988. Where the book fails, as do all books in this genre, is in not acknowledging that intelligence is decision support defined by its outputs, not its inputs. This is a book that is still state-centric, assumes secrecy is a dominant force, and that policy is the intended beneficiary. It does at least make a stab at acknowledging corporate intelligence, but see my list of recommended readings below. More properly understood, decision-support is a craft that can be applied by all eight "tribes" of intelligence (academic, civil society, government, law enforcement, media, military, and non-governmental/non-profit), and our greatest challenge today is the need to move beyond the government-secret-policy view of intelligence, and instead advance toward M4IS2 (see the graphic above with the book cover), Multinational, Multiagency, Multidisciplinary, Multidomain Information-Sharing and Sense-Making. As much as I admire the authors and the book, I really do wish all authors would read more broadly and include a more diverse collection of perspectives. My own master list of books I have reviewed on intelligence (as of a year ago, over 300 books) can be found by searching for the following, with all reviews leading back to their pages: [Worth a Look: Book Reviews on Intelligence \(Most\)](#) Here are nine other books I recommend. *Strategic Intelligence and Statecraft: Selected Essays* (Brassey's Intelligence &

National Security Library)Very Special IntelligenceIntelligence and U.S. Foreign Policy: Iraq, 9/11, and Misguided ReformThe Art and Science of Business Intelligence Analysis (Advances in Applied Business Strategy)Early Warning: Using Competitive Intelligence to Anticipate Market Shifts, Control Risk, and Create Powerful StrategiesBusiness Blindspots: Replacing Your Company's Entrenched and Outdated Myths, Beliefs and Assumptions With the Realities of Today's MarketsBusiness and Competitive Analysis: Effective Application of New and Classic Methods (paperback)The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook: A Guide for the Serious SearcherI hope the above is understood to be a strong recommendation to buy and read. I was not happy with the absence of reviews and one light review. The craft of intelligence is well defined in the forthcoming "A Routledge Companion to Intelligence Studies" that will be in my view the single most useful teaching book in the near term, along with this one.Best wishes to allRobert SteeleINTELLIGENCE FOR EARTH: Clarity, Diversity, Integrity, & Sustainability

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