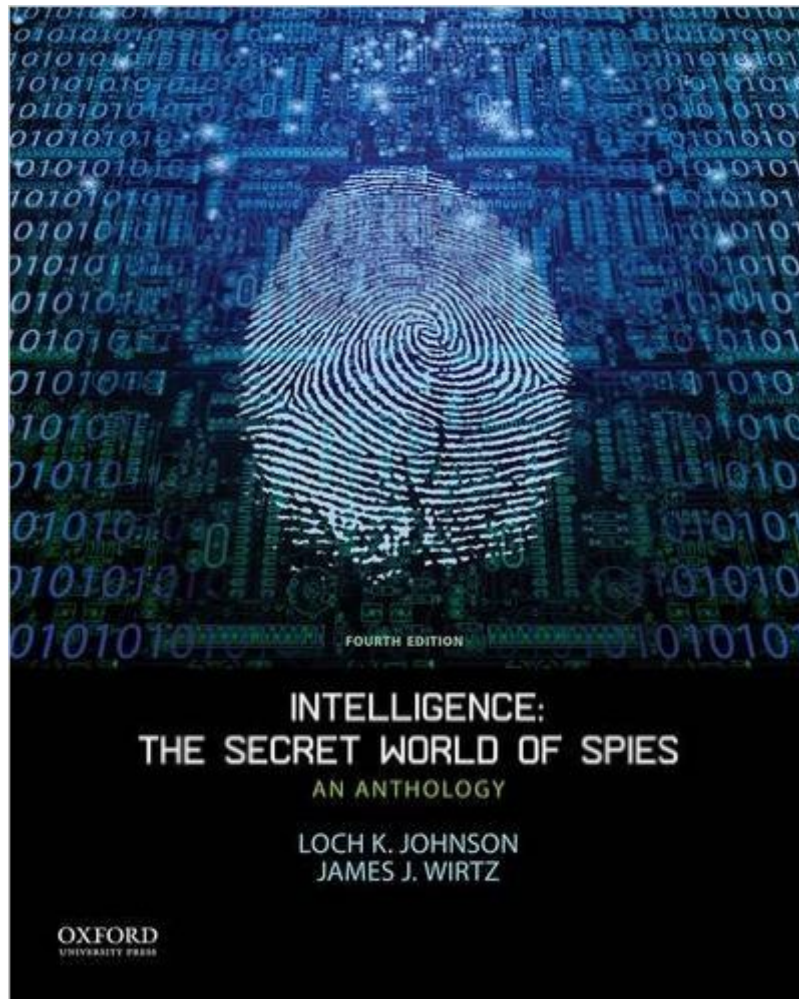


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Intelligence: The Secret World Of Spies: An Anthology



Synopsis

Intelligence: The Secret World of Spies--An Anthology, Fourth Edition, is the most up-to-date reader in intelligence studies. Editors Loch K. Johnson and James J. Wirtz present a diverse, comprehensive, and highly accessible set of forty readings by leading experts in the field. This unique volume features comprehensive coverage of many hot topics including methods of intelligence collection, intelligence analysis, the danger of intelligence politicization, relationships between intelligence officers and the policymakers they serve, covert action, counterintelligence, accountability and civil liberties, the implications of major intelligence failures in 2001 and 2002, and recent controversies over highly classified documents leaked by insiders.

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Customer Reviews

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI for 50 years, wasted a whole lot of time. He devoted millions of dollars in money, man hours, and equipment just to spy on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Now what was the end result? They had tapes of Dr. King cavorting with his female admirers! It was all part of a scheme by Hoover to discredit Dr. King, and it didn't work. The tapes didn't turn anyone against King, and it didn't drive him to take his own life. As for Hoover, the FBI made few gains during his tenure, with no major targeting of drug cartels nor organized crime. Hoover was interested only in bank robbers and subversives. According to this book, the US intelligence services had a problem with direction. When they were headed by one man (in this case Hoover) they were completely subordinate to him and his ridiculous policies. Each chapter in this book is

written by a different expert in the field of intelligence, both in the USA and abroad. In the chapter Intelligence Since 9/11, the two authors, Gerald Hughes and Kristan Stoddart, discuss how 9/11 and the 1945 Soviet threat had similar outcomes, but different origins. 9/11 may definitely be an example of a government "caught napping," but the Soviet paranoia was greatly exaggerated. While the book is generally open minded and examines all sides fairly, I would have like to see more case studies and comparison. There have been many unique spying efforts in the Cold War and in the 25 years since, so it would be great to learn about them and how the CIA has developed in the years since the USSR crumbled. I would also like to have seen someone compare the differences in the CIA and the Department of Homeland Security. Maybe compare the CIA, MI6, and the Israeli intelligence service.

Johnson comes by his material through his employment as a member of the Church Committee. The Church Committee wrecked havoc on the intelligence community for the sake of its chairman, Frank Church, who was hoping to step off into a presidential run.

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