
Media Reviewed in 2025

Studies in Intelligence

Contemporary Issues

The Academic-Practitioner Divide in Intelligence Studies, edited by Rubén Arcos, Nicole K. Drumhiller, and Mark Phythian (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by Hayden Peake (Hereafter, unless otherwise noted, all reviews listed in “IO Bookshelf” were written by Hayden Peake.)

Authoritarianism: A Very Short Introduction, by James Loxton (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

The Dictators’ Club: How Regional Organizations Sustain Authoritarian Rule, by Maria J. Debre (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by Tony Sutton

Homeland-Security Intelligence: Where We Are, How We Got Here, What Lies Ahead, editors Wesley R. Moy and Kacper T. Gradón (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by Michael J. Ard

General

Backroom Deals in Our Backyard: How Government Secrecy Harms Our Communities and the Local Heroes Fighting Back, by Miranda S. Spivack (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by Joseph Gartin

Contemporary Intelligence Warning Cases: Learning from Successes and Failures, by Bjørn E. M. Grønning and Stig Stenslie (eds.) (*Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by Johnathan Proctor

Creating Mission Impact: Essential Tradecraft for Innovators at CIA and Beyond, by Joe Keogh, Joe Ball, and Greg Moore (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

Problematising Intelligence Studies: Towards a New Research Agenda, edited by Hager Ben Jaffel and Sebastian Larsson (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

Treason, Terrorism, and Betrayal: Why Individuals Cross the Line, by William Costanza (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by Joseph Gartin

US Intelligence Failure and Knowledge Creation: Improving Intelligence Analysis, by Carl W. Ford, Jr. and Kathleen M. Vogel (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

History

Admiral Canaris: How Hitler’s Chief of Intelligence Betrayed the Nazis, by David Alan Johnson (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

Anti-American Terrorism: From Eisenhower to Trump—A Chronicle of the Threat and Response, Volume III The Clinton Administration, by Dennis A. Pluchinsky (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II, by Elyse Graham (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

Border of Water and Ice: The Yalu River and Japan's Empire in Korea and Manchuria, by Joseph A. Seeley (*Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025]), reviewed by Yong Suk Lee

The CIA Book Club: The Secret Mission to Win the Cold War with Forbidden Literature, Charlie English (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by Dr. David Robarge

Defining the Mission: The Development of US Strategic Military Intelligence up to the Cold War, by Dr. Scott A. Moseman (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by David Welker

The federal Bureau of Investigation Before Hoover: Volume II, the fBI and American Neutrality, 1914–1917, by Heribert von Feilitzsch and Charles H. Harris III (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025]).

Four Shots in the Night: A True Story of Espionage, Murder, and Justice in Northern Ireland, by Henry Hemming (*Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025]), reviewed by Aaron Edwards, PhD.

The Hidden Cost of Freedom: The Untold Story of the CIA's Secret Funding System, 1941–1962, by Brad L. Fisher (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025])

The Invisible Spy: Churchill's Rockefeller Center Spy Ring and America's First Secret Agent of World War II, by Thomas Maier (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

King of Kings: The Iranian Revolution: A Story of Hubris, Delusion and Catastrophic Miscalculation, by Scott Anderson (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by William Samii and Brent Geary)

Lincoln's Lady Spymaster: The Untold Story of the Abolitionist Southern Belle Who Helped Win the Civil War, by Gerri Willis (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

An O.S.S. Secret Agent Behind Enemy Lines: The Second World War Exploits of Lieutenant Leif Bangsbøll, by Brook G. Bangsbøll (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

Policing Show Business: J. Edgar Hoover, the Hollywood Blacklist, and Cold War Movies, by Francis MacDonnell (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025]), reviewed by John Ehrman

Roots of Counterterrorism: Contemporary Wisdom from Dutch Intelligence, by Constant Willem Hijzen (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025])

Soviet and Nazi Defectors: Counter-Intelligence in WW2, The Cold War, by Nigel West (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025])

The Spy Archive: Hidden Lives, Secret Missions, and the History of Espionage, by Dexter Ingram (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

The Spy Who Helped the Soviets Win Stalingrad and Kursk: Alexander Foote and the Lucy Spy Ring, by Chris Jones (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

Spying in South Asia: Britain, the United States, and India's Secret Cold War, by Paul McGarr (*Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025]), reviewed by Charles Heard

The Traitor of Arnhem WWII's Greatest Betrayal and the Moment That Changed History Forever, by Robert Verkaik (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by Kevin McCall

The Umbrella Murder: The Hunt for the Cold War's Most Notorious Killer, by Ulrik Skotte (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

Vigilance is Not Enough: A History of United States Intelligence, by Mark Lowenthal (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by Charles Heard and (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]) reviewed by William D. Murray

Women of Espionage: Inspiring True Stories of Four SOE Agents Instrumental in Altering the Outcome of WWII and Their Harrowing Capture by the Nazis, by Camille Fox (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

Memoir/Biography

America's Cold Warrior: Paul Nitze and National Security from Roosevelt to Reagan, by James Graham Wilson (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by J. Daniel Moore

The Conscience of the Party: Hu Yaobang, China's Communist Reformer, by Robert Suettinger (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by Dr. Emily Matson

The Determined Spy: The Turbulent Life and Times of CIA Pioneer Frank Wisner, by Douglas Waller (*Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by JR Seeger and Ian B. Ericson

Diplomats at War: Friendship and Betrayal on the Brink of the Vietnam Conflict, by Charles Trueheart (*Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by J. Daniel Moore

The Party's Interests Come First: The Life of Xi Zhongxun, Father of Xi Jinping, by Joseph Torigian (*Studies* 69, 4 [December, 2025]), reviewed by Dr. Emily Matson

Superspy: Hans Tofte: Intelligence Officer for SOE, OSS, and CIA, by David Foy (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

Zbig: The Life of Zbigniew Brzezinski, America's Great Power Prophet, by Edward Luce (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by Morgan Voeltz Swanson

Non-US Intelligence

Contemporary Intelligence in Africa, edited by Tshepo Gwatiwa (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025])

Death is Our Business: Russian Mercenaries and the New Era of Private Warfare, by John Lechner (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), review essay by Yong Lee

Decolonizing Global Intelligence: Emerging Intelligence Trends and the Practice of Inclusive Statecraft, by Pak Nung Wong (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025])

The Illegals: Russia's Most Audacious Spies and Their Century-Long Mission to Infiltrate the West, by Shaun Walker (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]) reviewed by Kathy G.

India's Intelligence Culture and Strategic Surprises: Spying for South Block, by Dheeraj Paramesha Caya (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025])

Intelligence Practices in High-Trust Societies: Scandinavian Exceptionalism, edited by Kira Vrist Rønn, et al. (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025])

Intelligence Services in South Asia: Colonial Past and Post-Colonial Realities, edited by Ryan Shaffer and ASM Ali Ashraf (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025])

Iran's Ministry of Intelligence: A Concise History, by Steven R. Ward (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025])

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Pakistan's ISI: A Concise History of the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, by Julian Richards (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025])

To Catch a Spy: How the Spycatcher Affair Brought MI5 in from the Cold, by Tim Tate (*Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by David Robarge

Razvedchik, *Russia's Intelligence Journal*, published by the SVR, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), review essay by Mel Miller

Spetsnaz: A History of the Soviet and Russian Special Forces, by Torr Bukkvoll (*Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), review essay by Yong Lee

The Spy in the Archive: How One Man Tried to Kill the KGB, by Gordon Corera (*Studies* 69, 3 [September 2025]), reviewed by Ian B. Ericson

Rediscovered

The Great Game: Memoirs of the Spy Hitler Couldn't Silence, by Leopold Trepper (1977) (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by John Ehrman

Fiction

Counterfeit Spies: How World War II Intelligence Operations Shape Cold War Spy Fiction, by Oliver Buckton (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025])

The Granddaughter: A Novel, by Bernhard Schlink (*Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by Graham Alexander

Karla's Choice (A Novel), by Nick Harkaway (*Studies* 69, 1 [March 2025]), reviewed by David Robarge

The Snares: A Novel, by Rav Grewal-Kök (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by John Ehrman

The Spy Coast, by Tess Gerritsen (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 2 [June 2025]), reviewed by Resolute Lee

A Sting in Her Tale, by Mark Ezra (IO Bookshelf, *Studies* 69, 4 [December 2025]), reviewed by John Ehrman

