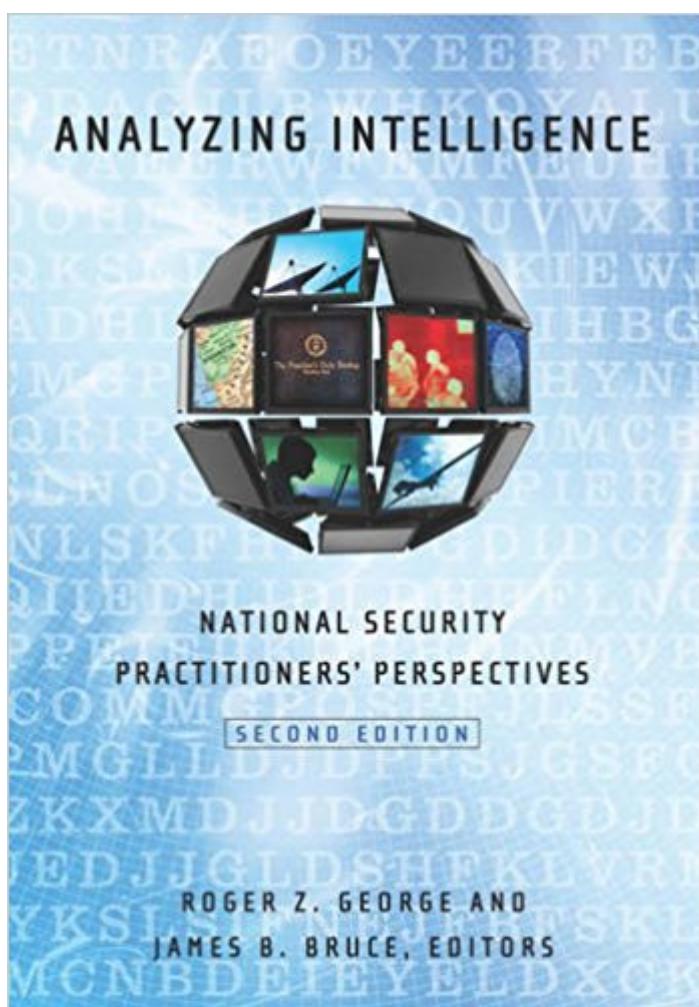


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Analyzing Intelligence: National Security Practitioners' Perspectives



Synopsis

Analyzing Intelligence, now in a revised and extensively updated second edition, assesses the state of the profession of intelligence analysis from the practitioners point of view. The contributors—most of whom have held senior positions in the US intelligence community—review the evolution of the field, the rise of new challenges, pitfalls in analysis, and the lessons from new training and techniques designed to deal with 21st century national security problems. This second edition updates this indispensable book with new chapters that highlight advances in applying more analytic rigor to analysis, along with expertise-building, training, and professional development. New chapters by practitioners broaden the original volume's discussion of the analyst-policymaker relationship by addressing analytic support to the military customer as well as by demonstrating how structured analysis can benefit military commanders on the battlefield. Analyzing Intelligence is written for national security practitioners such as producers and users of intelligence, as well as for scholars and students seeking to understand the nature and role of intelligence analysis, its strengths and weaknesses, and steps that can improve it and lead it to a more recognizable profession. The most comprehensive and up-to-date volume on professional intelligence analysis as practiced in the US Government, Analyzing Intelligence is essential reading for practitioners and users of intelligence analysis, as well as for students and scholars in security studies and related fields.

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Customer Reviews

"Essential for practitioners and users of intelligence analysis, as well as for students and scholars in security studies and related fields." ª The Intelligencer "A 'must' for any collection interested in the latest security changes and practices" ª Midwest Book Review

"The last dozen or more years are replete with significant successes and failures of intelligence analysis. These essays make a unique contribution to dissecting the factors behind both, as well as offering broader perspectives and insights on getting the analysis right, effectively serving decision makers, and preserving the integrity of the effort. The authors are superbly qualified and I believe their contributions to the craft of intelligence will be both useful and lasting." ª Robert M. Gates, former secretary of defense and former director of the CIA "Analyzing Intelligence provides a superb and self-critical assessment of analyst roles in the collection, evaluation, and interpretation of information on the wide spectrum of issues germane to national security. All who work in and receive support from the intelligence community should read the outstanding essays in this collection." ª Mike McConnell, former director of national intelligence "Roger George and James Bruce have produced, in this new edition of their classic volume, the best source for wisdom on modern intelligence analysis. With important contributions from superstars in the US profession, this new edition is a landmark signifying professionalization of the intelligence enterprise. It deserves a place on every serious student and practitioner's bookshelf." ª Jennifer Sims, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, former deputy assistant secretary of state for intelligence coordination, and co-editor of *Vaults, Mirrors, and Masks: Rediscovering US Counterintelligence* "Analyzing Intelligence is an impressively broad, deep, and comprehensive survey of the nature, problems, and coping techniques of the craft. The contributors combine professional experience and intellectual acuity in an ideal way for making sense of the psychological, political, and bureaucratic context of intelligence work. The book serves as a handbook for government analysts at all stages of their careers, and an eye-opening explanation of the process for outside observers. No other does so as thoroughly." ª Richard K. Betts, Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies, Department of Political Science, Columbia University, and author of *Enemies of Intelligence: Knowledge and Power in American National Security* "An indispensable guide to one of the most critical issues affecting intelligence and policy-making in the twenty-first century, successfully combining the lessons to be drawn from both first-hand experience and academic research." ª Christopher Andrew, faculty of history, Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, and author of *Defend the Realm: The Authorized*

History of MI5

Experienced professionals offering important insights on a wealth of issues related to intelligence analysis.

I was watching a documentary on Israel’s famous Six Day War, and the big question is always how they came to be so well prepared. One of the pilots involved in the war said “above all, you have to have intelligence.” It might seem trivial compared to fighter aircraft and tanks, but for Israel, I bet 50% was intelligence. They knew the location of all the Egyptian airbases, when the planes would be on the ground, and where the defenses were. When it comes to intelligence, we can say “okay, we need to know where the enemy is and what kind of weapons they have.” But the question now is how you’re going to know. Are you watching them via satellite? Do you have a spy down there? Do you have a mole in their government? If so, how do you know you can trust them? This book covers all those things, especially with regard to the post-Cold War era. Analyzing Intelligence devotes a chapter to the relationship between the intelligence gatherer and the analyst. It cites examples such as Pearl Harbor, The Yom Kippur War, and the Iranian Revolution, as examples of a weak relationship. In those three cases, there were few ears willing to listen to the information gathered on the respective countries. Israel’s spies, who’d spent years accumulating information on her neighbors, didn’t know that Egypt had surface-to-air missiles and wire-guided anti-tank Sagers from the USSR. In Iran, the US embassy didn’t have employees who spoke Farsi, and they knew nothing about the country. They didn’t know that the Shah was old, the army officers were incompetent, and the starving populace was angry. Ayatollah Khomeini, then living in Paris, was anything but quiet about his intentions. Somehow, nobody noticed. It seems from this book that a problem with intelligence is the lack of cooperation between agencies. Pearl Harbor is used as an example of the US army and navy not sharing information, and others, like Iran in 1979, seem more an example of ignorance based on arrogance. Then there’s the failure to warn about India’s nuclear tests. But with Israel today, they seem to know everything everywhere. I suspect that when you have a tiny country, with a minuscule coastline and only one major airport, there’s less to be done. Keep in mind that today Arab leaders (like most third-world dictators) are rarely secretive, so it’s easy to listen in on their activities. But not so with North

Korea. TheyÃ¢â€šâ€œre super-secrective and impossible to penetrate. The people are all brainwashed. It remains to be seen what happens with them.

This is a very fine book, not least because of its inclusion of Jack Davis (search for as well as Carmen Medina (see them both at Phi Beta Iota the Public Intelligence Blog), but it must still be categorized as a status quo book. Despite improvements from the 1st edition the authors still pull some punches -- I dare hope that by the 3rd edition -- and the book is certainly worthy of going forward -- they will get tougher, perhaps in a new final chapter -- Where Did We Go Wrong, Who Did We Ignore, How Do We Get It Right Now? If you are an analyst or a trainer of analysts or a manager of analysts, this is essential reading, but it continues to validate my long-standing concerns about American intelligence:1) Lack of a strategic analytic model (search for the term at Phi Beta Iota)2) Lack of deep historical and multi-cultural appreciation including outreach to people that a) hate Americans and b) will never in a million years qualify for either citizenship or clearances3) Lack of a deep understanding and necessary voice on the complete inadequacy of collection sources, the zero presence of processing and lack of desktop analytic tools, and the need for ABSOLUTE devotion to the truth, not--as is still the case, "within the reasonable bounds of dishonesty" aka "slam dunk"4) Lack of integrity in the holistic analytic/true cost economics sense, not least of which is the analytic abject acceptance of the false premise that the best intelligence is top secret/sensitive compartmented information--see the free online articles "Intelligence for the President--AND Everyone Else" as well as "On Defense Intelligence -- Seven Strikes," both at CounterPunch. Below are ten books I recommend (and where I have posted a summary review) as substantive complements to this book, which serves well as a core reading for both undergraduates and graduates as well as adult mid-career students:935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America's Moral IntegrityVice: Dick Cheney and the Hijacking of the American PresidencyIntelligence and U.S. Foreign Policy: Iraq, 9/11, and Misguided ReformWho the Hell Are We Fighting?: The Story of Sam Adams and the Vietnam Intelligence WarsAnalytic Professionalism and the Policymaking ProcessInforming StatecraftLost PromiseThe Landscape of History: How Historians Map the PastLost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & 'Project Truth'Fog Facts: Searching for Truth in the Land of SpinBeyond the above books, see my reviews of over 300 books on intelligence, all here at , as linked within the easily found Worth a Look: Book Reviews on Government Secret Intelligence. Robert David STEELE VivasINTELLIGENCE FOR EARTH: Clarity, Diversity, Integrity, & Sustainability

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