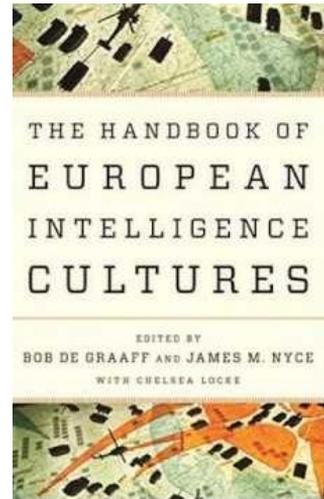


The Handbook of European Intelligence Cultures

Edited by Bob de Graaff and James M Nyce, with
Chelsea Locke
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers: Lanham, NJ
2016, hardcover, 496 pages
ISBN 978-1-4422-4941-7

Reviewed by Dr Henry Prunckun



English texts on the topics of intelligence and counterintelligence are in plentiful supply. A search of the post-9/11 subject literature shows that books on these topics seem to have doubled, and doubled again. So, scholars are faced with, not the problem of finding relevant material, but finding so much that their ability to locate quality writings in amongst this explosion of publications has become an issue.

Of course, English publications relating to intelligence and counterintelligence are just a fraction of what is being published each year. One case to illustrate this point is *Savremene Obavjsetajne Teorij (Modern Intelligence Theories, 2013)*, which was published in Serbian by Dr Maid Pajevic. Unfortunately, this text is not accessible to English scholars who are looking for authoritative research. But, bilingual researchers do have an advantage, though it still limits them to two languages.

What De Graaff and Nyce have done is to bring together 32 European intelligence scholars and asked them about the most pressing questions facing the intelligence profession. The result is an exceptional text, in English, about national intelligence cultures in some of the most influential countries in Europe. This book is not only a relief for mono-lingual intelligence scholars, but a valuable resource for practitioners as well. It provides insights into intelligence issues in countries that would rarely be available to researchers unless they can read a score of foreign languages.

The countries surveyed in this unique compilation of essays include, Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania,

Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Romania, and more. The text provides a single source that will be valuable for conducting comparative analysis about these countries' national intelligence apparatuses.

Rather than seek agency specific contributors, the editors have selected subject matter experts who discuss the intelligence communities in their country. In this way, the editors have provided insights into the ways intelligence is conducted in the different environments across Europe—an environment that has become intricately related in the same way that business intelligence, military intelligence, and national security intelligence have fused into an inseparable blend of related issues.

Key to understanding this environment is the ability to appreciate how these European intelligence agencies operate and to recognise the key national actors. De Graaff and Nyce have done this by encouraging the contributors to discuss the cultural as well as the ideological climate that underpins intelligence practice. By way of example, the chapter on Italy steps the reader through the historical context of Italian intelligence, then discusses the various reforms initiatives that have taken place, and why. Reforms such as those that shifted the view of an Italian secret service to one of intelligence, thus making the newly structured organisations' work global in nature and transparent. The chapter discusses the transnational threats Italian intelligence now faces—economic espionage, regional instability, terrorism, and the nuclear capabilities of Iran and Pakistan.

Handbook of European Intelligence Cultures provides a comprehensive coverage of European intelligence communities that is rarely seen in English language publications. It contains an exhaustive list of abbreviations and acronyms, chapter notes and lists of references cited. It makes an exceptional addition to the bookshelves of theoreticians and practitioners alike.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Dr Henry Prunckun is a research methodologist who specialises in the study of transnational crime—espionage, terrorism, drugs, and arms trafficking, as well as cyber-crime.

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