The North American Society for Intelligence History

NASIH was formed in the summer of 2016

The project was initiated by a group of scholars from North America who were interested in the history of intelligence. Our goal is to encourage and support the study of intelligence history in Canada and the United States. Membership is open to anyone interested in the historical study of intelligence. Email us at NASIntelHist@gmail.com

The State of the Field

Historian Hugh Wilford recently submitted a historiographical article to PASSPORT, the official newsletter for the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. In his article Wilford lamented the state of our field. He argued that while the study of intelligence history was undergoing a renaissance of sorts in Great Britain, in the Americas the story was somewhat different. He suggested that today intelligence history is dominated by policy-oriented political scientists and journalists rather than professional historians. He pointed to the release of the 2013 edition of America in the World: The Historiography of American Foreign Relations Since 1941 as evidence of this trend. When America in the World was first published in 1996, it included an essay by historian John Ferris on intelligence history. In the most recent edition the subject did not feature at all.

NASIH was organized to address this issue. Our goal is to encourage and support the study of intelligence history and to highlight the accomplishments of scholars in our field. Toward these ends our initial goals are modest: Two newsletters a year, a Twitter account and a conference every second year. We are in the process of negotiating our first conference in 2018/2019. We look forward to providing more information as the details become finalized.

Please contact us if you have any announcements related to the history of intelligence. We are especially interested in conference announcements, book publications and new document collections that have become declassified. Our second newsletter will appear in the winter of 2018.
New From the National Security Archive

The National Security Archive (nsarchive.gwu.edu) in Washington, DC is an excellent source for primary source materials and analyses pertaining to intelligence history. Among their recent briefing books that may be of interest to intelligence historians are:

Steve Everly, ed., “U.S., Britain Developed Plans to Disable or Destroy Middle Eastern Oil Facilities from Late 1940s to Early 1960s in Event of a Soviet Invasion,” National Security Archive, Briefing Book No. 552, June 23, 2016.

- "A new and revealing account of the CIA’s role in a top-secret plan to ravage the Middle East oil industry."


- Declassified State Department intelligence reports from the 1960s.


PODCASTS

The Bletchley Park Trust in the United Kingdom
- https://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/podcast/

International Spy Museum in the United States has regular podcast series on intelligence history. They are available at:

- http://www.spymuseum.org/multimedia/spycast/all/

Spybray Podcast for fans of Spy/Espionage books and movies (available on ITunes)

Spies and Shadows – Podcasts of the UK intelligence/covert world (available on ITunes)
Introducing the Canadian
Foreign Intelligence Project

We would like to introduce a new historical research initiative—the Canadian Foreign Intelligence History Project (CFIHP)—and invite your participation.

The field of foreign intelligence—that is, intelligence to support decisions on foreign and defence policy and operations—has not received a great deal of attention from researchers in Canada, compared with the study of security intelligence and its support to domestic security policy and operations. It is time to bring foreign intelligence in Canada out of the shadows.

The CFIHP seeks to encourage the study of the history of the foreign intelligence assessment function in Canada by facilitating the exchange of information among researchers and providing a forum for formal and informal collaboration through workshops and conferences. We hope to integrate the study of foreign intelligence in Canada more effectively with the study of Canadian foreign and defence policy and related fields.

Full information on the CFIHP, its research focus and the resources available to project partners is available at http://carleton.ca/csids/canadian-foreign-intelligence-history-project/. This website is a work in progress and will be updated with additional information as it becomes available.

The centrepiece of this effort is a database that has been created containing a wide range of declassified documents related to foreign intelligence assessment and the organization of intelligence in Canada. Most of these documents were obtained through an extensive and continuing campaign of requests through the Access to Information process and have not been previously available to researchers. The website describes in more detail the current contents of the database, but the quantity of available documents will increase as additional ATI releases are received.

We would like this to be a fully collaborative effort. Partners will have access to the growing collection of documents on the CFIHP database. In return, we would expect project partners to share documents that they have obtained through the ATI process and elsewhere that are not readily available to researchers so that they can be included in the database. As well, we would encourage project partners to share draft and finished research via the CFIHP website, workshops and conferences, and to share published articles and other finished research for inclusion in the CFIHP database. The CFIHP would also provide a forum for coordinating ATI requests and the sharing of best practices in accessing the ATI process. We believe that scholars in a number of areas would find value in becoming CFIHP partners, including:

- Canadian intelligence history, Comparative (5-eyes) intelligence studies, Canadian foreign and defence policy, Cold War history

In 2018 we are aiming to hold a scholarly conference in Toronto where the results of the research will be presented.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the CFIHP as a partner please get in touch with either of the project leaders. Please pass on this invitation to any other scholars, researchers, graduate students or others who might be interested in taking part and encourage them to contact us. As we make our plans for the workshop in June we are trying to gauge the level of interest in this project.

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The Bay of Pigs Declassified

Last year, the CIA lost its last effort to keep its internal histories of the Bay of Pigs secret. The circumstances explaining the agency’s failure to overthrow Cuba’s Fidel Castro remain controversial. The National Security Archive has long worked to declassify these histories and related documents. First, it gained access to Inspector General (IG) Lyman Kirkpatrick’s scathing critique of the operation and the Directorate of Plans’ (DDP) response. Then it forced the CIA to publish its internal histories, which Jack Pfeiffer wrote between 1979 and 1984. Finally, it got the agency to release the fifth volume of these histories, “CIA’s Internal Investigation of the Bay of Pigs,” which revisits Kirkpatrick and the DDP’s heated exchange, this past October.

CIA Chief Historian David Robarge has cautioned readers that Pfeiffer’s superiors rejected his unfinished draft “because of serious shortcomings in scholarship, its polemical tone, and its failure to add significantly to an understanding of the controversy.” Nevertheless, the volume still presents valuable information. It names William Dildine, Robert Shaffer, and Robert Shea, the three IG staff members who conducted the interviews and gathered the information that Kirkpatrick used in his critique. It also offers insight into the bickering that followed that critique’s distribution.

Pfeiffer divided his draft into four chapters. The first introduces the controversy. The second and third review the IG critique and the DDP response. The fourth offers commentary. An appendix reprints several of the memoranda that CIA officials exchanged after Kirkpatrick's investigation.

Robarge’s warning about the draft’s shortcomings understates its problems. The draft makes clear that Pfeiffer sided with the DDP. He questioned Kirkpatrick’s motives, suggesting that the inspector general and his staff were incompetent and mentally ill. He also alleged that Kirkpatrick wanted Bissell’s job. Pfeiffer’s approach to this controversy, and his investment in one side’s interpretation of it, kept him from seeing the bigger picture. Indeed, no one has yet put this power struggle into proper perspective or explained what it was about. Kirkpatrick and the DDP were playing the blame game, but the stakes were higher than any one person’s career.

James Lockhart is an Assistant Professor of History at American University, in Dubai. He specializes in American foreign relations and international studies. He is broadly trained in world affairs, global and transnational history, and comparative analysis, with interdisciplinary area expertise in the United States, Latin America, and the Near East, and subject interest in the Cold War, the post-Cold War world, and intelligence history. Edinburgh University Press will publish his book, Chile, the CIA, and the Cold War: A Transatlantic Perspective.

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Bay of Pigs Declassified continued

Kirkpatrick used the debacle to assail the priorities and organizational structure that Dulles had reified. Thus Kirkpatrick faulted the DDP for rank incompetence and recommended that the CIA empower espionage officers and intelligence analysts to review future covert operations. He gave his report to Dulles, John McCone, and Kennedy’s intelligence advisory board. Someone passed a copy to Attorney General Robert Kennedy, too.

Dulles and his covert operators understood Kirkpatrick’s intentions and counterattacked. Pfeiffer described how Dulles and his deputy, Charles Cabell, confronted Kirkpatrick. Witnesses recalled “an extremely stormy session.” They did not speak for more than a year afterward. Cabell asked McCone to keep the report in-house lest someone use it to attack Dulles’s mission and organizational priorities. The DDP response attempted to discredit it. All of this landed in McCone’s lap, and he punted. He bound the two documents together and passed them to Kennedy’s advisory board. The agency worked to keep these reports secret from then forward. Thus this now-declassified information reveals something of the internal struggle of those case officers who specialized in covert operations and those who specialized in espionage to define the CIA as an intelligence service in the Cold War’s first two decades.

New FRUS volume on Iran

On June 15, 2017 the State Department released its “retrospective” volume on the 1953 Coup in Iran.

In 1989 the State Department published a first volume on Iran but it did not contain any references to the American-British covert operation in the country. The glaring omission resulted in the resignation of the chief outside advisor of the series. It also led Congress to pass legislation that mandated “a thorough, accurate and reliable documented record” of American foreign policy.

For additional information please visit the National Security Archives at:


Please find the volume at:

https://history.state.gov/historical-documents/frus1951-54Iran/pg_1
Board of Directors

President Mark Stout Ph.D. Mark is the Program Director for the Graduate Certificate in Intelligence at John Hopkins University. He is a former U.S. intelligence officer and former Historian of the International Spy Museum.

Vice President Sarah-Jane Corke Ph.D. Sarah-Jane is an assistant professor of American History at Dalhousie University. She is the author of *US Covert Operations and Cold War Strategy: Truman Secret Warfare and the CIA*, Routledge, 2008. She is now working on a biography of John Paton and Patricia Grady Davies.

John R. Ferris Ph.D. John is a professor of History at the University of Calgary. He is the author of *Intelligence and Strategy*, Routledge, 2001 and a number of other books on British strategic history. At the present time he is writing the authorized history of GCHQ.


Maria Robson is our graduate student representative. She is pursuing her Doctoral degree at Northeastern University, with a focus on security, intelligence, and international relations within Political Science. She holds a Master's in Military, Security, and Strategic Studies from the University of Calgary, Canada, where her thesis focused on Canadian signals intelligence sharing within the Five Eyes alliance. Maria holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Economics, and History from the University of Toronto, Canada. Her research on World War II signals intelligence has been published in the *Journal of Intelligence History*. Maria currently works as a researcher at Northeastern's Global Resilience Institute and previously worked as a private sector Global Security Analyst in the energy industry.

**NASIH Meet-Up at SHAFR**

Saturday, June 24

5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Bar Louie

320 S. 23rd Street

For more information contact

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Selected Scholarly Books on Intelligence Published in 2016

Official/Authorized History
- Richard A. Mobley and Edward J. Marolda, *Knowing the Enemy: Naval Intelligence in Southeast Asia*

Scholarly History
- Richard Aldrich and Rory Cormac, *The Black Door: Spies, Secret Intelligence and British Prime Ministers*
- Lori Clune, *Executing the Rosenbergs: Death and Diplomacy in a Cold War World*
- Dennis Deletant, *British Clandestine Activities in Romania during the Second World War*
- John F. Dooley, *Codes, Ciphers and Spies: Tales of Military Intelligence in World War I*
- Louise Edwards, *Women Warriors and Wartime Spies of China*
- Lloyd Gardner, *The War on Leakers*
- Jeffrey Herf, *Undeclared Wars with Israel: East Germany and the West German Far Left, 1967-1989*
- Christopher Moran, *Company Confessions: Secrets, Memoirs, and the CIA*
- Magnus Pahl, *Hitler’s Fremde Heere Ost: German Military Intelligence on the Eastern Front 1942-45*
- David H. Price, *Cold War Anthropology: The CIA, the Pentagon, and the Growth of Dual Use Anthropology*
- David Priess, *The President’s Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America’s Presidents from Kennedy to Obama*
- William J. Rust, *Eisenhower and Cambodia: Diplomacy, Covert Action, and the Origins of the Second Indochina War*
- Simon Willmetts, *In Secrecy’s Shadow: The OSS and CIA in Hollywood Cinema*
Selected Popular Books Published in Intelligence History in 2016

**Popular History**

- Nicholas Bethell and Robert Elsie, *The Albanian Operation of the CIA and Mi6, 1949-1953: Conversations with Participants in a Venture Betrayed*
- Barbara Bond, *Great Escapes: The Story of MI9's Second World War Escape and Evasion Maps*
- Nick Barratt, *The Forgotten Spy: The Untold Story of Stalin’s First British Mole*
- Jamie Bisher, *The Intelligence War in Latin America, 1914-1922*
- Stephen Budiansky, *Code Warriors: NSA’s Codebreakers and the Secret Intelligence War against the Soviet Union*
- Barnes Carr, *Operation Whisper: The Capture of Soviet Spies Morris and Lona Cohen*
- Paddy Hayes, *Queen of Spies: Daphne Park, Britain’s Cold War Spy Master*
- Bernd Horn, *A Most Ungentlemanly Way of War: The SOE and the Canadian Connection*
- Patrick H. Martin, *Elizabethan Espionage: Plotters and Spies in the Struggle Between Catholicism and the Crown*
- Barry Meier, *Missing Man: The American Spy Who Vanished in Iran*
- Paul Paillole, *The Spy in Hitler’s Inner Circle: Hans-Thilo Schmidt and the Intelligence Network that Decoded Enigma*
- David Priess, *The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America’s Presidents from Kennedy to Obama*
- Edwin Ruis, *Spynest: British and German Espionage from Neutral Holland 1914 - 1918*
- Nicholas Van Der Bijl, *To Complete the Jigsaw: British Military Intelligence in the First World War*
- Sue Black, *Saving Bletchley Park*
- Nigel West, *At Her Majesty's Secret Service: The Chiefs of Britain’s Intelligence Agency, MI6*
- Philip Williams, *OSS Station Victor: Hurley’s Secret War*

**Memoirs**

- Robert Harling, *Ian Fleming: A Personal Memoir*
- Michael Hayden, *Playing to the Edge: American Intelligence in the Age of Terror*
New From the Woodrow Wilson Center


Edinburg University Press is pleased to announce a new series on Intelligence, Surveillance and Secret Warfare. The editors are Michael Goodman, Richard Aldrich, Rory Cormac and Hugh Wilford. This series explores modern intelligence: its past, present and future, the manner in which it is gathered and the causes for which it is harnessed. Whether through rich empirical detail, conceptual development and/or theoretical expansion, books in this series provoke original questions for researchers and students alike. If you have a project you would like to be considered for this series, please contact Hugh Wilford at hugh.wilford@csulb.edu

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