

The History of Intelligence in the United States

Chapter 2

To understand why the intelligence community today is structured the way it is, one must first understand its history.

Revolutionary War to the Civil War

- George Washington
 - ~Espionage Act
- Nathan Hale
 - ~“I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

Civil War to World War I

- Allen Pinkerton
- Harriet Tubman
 - **Black Dispatches**
- Office of Naval Intelligence

Law Enforcement Intelligence: The Palmer Raids

- In 1914, radical anarchists bombed government authorities and businesses.
- Attorney General Mitchell Palmer turned to a small agency known as the Bureau of Investigation.
 - J. Edgar Hoover
- The Bureau of Investigation spearheaded a series of raids against suspected anarchists.

Pearl Harbor and World War II

- An intelligence failure
- Intelligence developments were critical to the war effort
 - **Coordinator of Information** was created to integrate intelligence
 - The **Office of Strategic Services** – the first true intelligence service
 - The Bureau operated the **Special Intelligence Service**
 - **Project Ultra**

The Cold War

- America needed a permanent intelligence agency
- The Communist Revolution
- Winston Churchill
 - **Iron Curtain**
- The philosophy of **containment**
- A series of proxy wars
 - **Mutually Assured Destruction**

The Cold War

- The National Security Act of 1947
 - CIA
 - It was not given law enforcement powers
 - It was mandated to operate primarily outside the United States
 - National Security Council
 - Established laws relating to intelligence collection and covert activities

The Cold War

- The Korean War
 - An intelligence failure
 - Identified specific gaps in U.S. intelligence
 - No communication within the military
 - Led to the creation of the DIA - its mission included collecting, analyzing, and integrating intelligence and advising in matters pertaining to military intelligence.

The Cold War

- NSA
 - A super-secret organization whose mission was strictly SIGINT
- IMINT
 - The U-2
 - **Francis Gary Powers**
- Cuba
 - Castro assassination attempts
 - **Bay of Pigs**
 - The compromise of the **Cuban Missile Crisis**

The Cold War

- The Vietnam Era
 - The overthrow of Diem
 - The underestimated Vietcong and the North Vietnamese
 - An unpopular war – 1 million deployed; 56,000 killed
- The War at Home
 - **COINTELPRO**
 - **Operation Chaos**

The Cold War

- Watergate and the Pike and Church Committees
 - Nixon resigns
 - No trust in the government
 - Intelligence agencies under scrutiny
 - **Pike and Church**
 - **FISA**
 - Provided oversight
 - Regulated electronic surveillance and physical searches
 - FISC

The Cold War

- The Carter Years
 - The Shah of Iran
 - Iran's hatred for the U.S. grows
 - The Iran Hostage Crisis
 - US assistance of the mujahedeen
- The Reagan Years: The End of the Cold War
 - Soviet troops defeated
- The End of the Soviet Union
 - The fall of the Berlin Wall

The Emergence of Terrorism

- A multi-polar world emerges
- Terrorism becomes the “new threat”
 - Suicide bombings against the American embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut
 - The bombing of Pan American World Airways flight 103
- The Mujahedeen turns against the U.S.
 - Osama bin Laden
 - Al Qa’ida
 - 1993 WTC bombings
 - Nairobi and Dar es Salaam
 - USS *Cole*
- Cold War mentality

Espionage in the 80s and 90s

- 1985 – the **Year of the Spy**
- Aldrich Ames
- Earl Edwin Pitts
- Harold James Nicholson
- Robert Hanssen

The Clinton Years

- Peace Dividend
- Domestic Terrorism
 - Timothy McVeigh
 - David Koresh and Branch Davidians

9/11 and its Aftermath

- No one was prepared
- Terrorism was now THE threat
- Missions and roles changed overnight
- The findings of the **9/11 Commission**
 - No one understood the gravity of the al Qa'ida threat
 - Agencies were not equipped
 - The Cold War mentality would no longer work

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 & the Creation of the DNI

- **PATRIOT Act**
- The creation of the **Department of Homeland Security**
- **IRTPA**
 - DNI
 - Vision 2015
 - NCTC
 - Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board
- The Reorganization of the IC

Recent Developments in the Struggle Against Terrorism

- Thwarted domestic attacks
- Capturing and killing of al Qa'ida leaders
- Osama bin Laden killed

Conclusion

- The U.S. intelligence infrastructure today is a product of its history
- Its evolution appears to have been driven by failure
- A tricky business
- The history that is being written today is creating the intelligence world of tomorrow