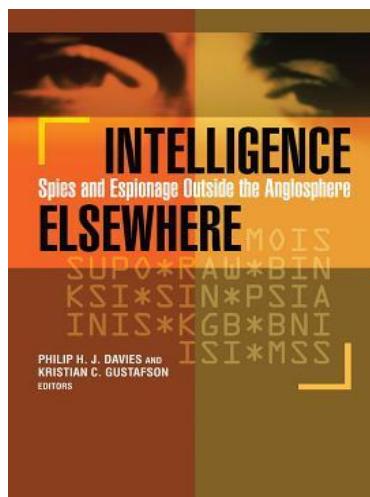


**PHILIP DAVIES ȘI KRISTIAN GUSTAFSON EDITORS, (2013),
*INTELLIGENCE ELSEWHERE: SPIES AND ESPIONAGE OUTSIDE
THE ANGLOSPHERE*,
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PRESS, WASHINGTON D.C.
REVIEW BY COSMINA-ELENA EPURE (ANIMV)**



The volume entitled *Elsewhere Intelligence: Spies and Espionage Outside the Anglosphere* is structured as a complex collections revolve around a single pole: intelligence. Its authors, Philip Davies and Kristian Gustafson, known as the personalities involved in the field, harness a series of works and references of several specialists with the aim of building a broad vision on what intelligence represents.

Scientific contribution is even greater as we witness an academic approach focused on two levels: the historical dimension – a pillar in the construction and development of concepts and ideas and present, focusing on the political and cultural contexts.

Historical perspective. Knowledge starts by taking a look at the origins, therefore the intelligence community historical perspective is fundamental to determining the present and the future. In this sense, the authors resort to comparative analysis of the role of culture in intelligence, with a stop at a few examples: India, China, the Arab world and Russia. It is emphasized the importance and timeliness of the work of Sun Tzu, by the fact that at the core of Chinese armed interventions is subversion and espionage. As regards Russia's acting, it is a comparison between the Byzantine Empire forecasts and the Soviet period. The conclusion to this example marks the importance of the Byzantine period in the democratization of Russian intelligence practices.

The chapter on the Arab world places clandestine intelligence gathering and espionage in Islamic and Arabic history, specifically the period the prophet Mohammed tried to maintain his religion emerging.

Current perspective. The second part of the book is dedicated to an particular analysis of each state regarding current practices in intelligence and also the needs and requirements in order to change and to adapt to policy makers and to the security environment.

If we are to talk about Pakistan, its domestic intelligence services exercise a strong influence on the state. Iranian intelligence activity is the result of an interaction between three factors – Shi'ism, bureaucracy, and clerical factions. Political privileged consensus on informing decision makers is one that revolves around what it is targeting Japan in intelligence. This contributes profoundly in affecting the proper conduct of the intelligence process.

Next three chapters follow the reform of the security sector and are invoked as examples Ghana, Argentina and Indonesia. It is stated, in this case, approaching practices and measures in intelligence is closely linked to Eastern European experience.

As a novelty, the authors dwell on issues that have not been exploited out regarding intelligence field. Thus, it is about Northern states that take into consideration different strategies than European ones. In support of this assertion is Sweden, characterized by bureaucratic tradition and socialist tendencies. For its part, the intelligence work was conducted independently.

Both Sweden and Finland evaluate their orientation and priorities in the post-Cold War world, noting that tend towards different directions due to historical, economical and security interests, but also extremely important – thanks to strategic culture.

Conclusions. The starting point of the intelligence activity is the uncertainty. Starting from a base so unstable, in a continuous change, the authors admit a disadvantage of this type of activity: it can not be considered as being always truthful.

But the worth of intelligence activity lies on the attempt to limit or reduce uncertainty. Therefore, through the collection, processing and analysis of information can build some solid insights that contribute to decision making process in a state, as well as maintaining and safeguarding national security interests.

Knowing the purpose of an intelligence service, we can move on to particular elements of each state – the first and most important is culture, which is under the umbrella of specific tradition and heritage (eg. Pakistan and Indonesia where Sanskrit tradition is highlighted).

Achieving an intelligence service objectives is to apply the techniques and methods that characterize it. In this section, the authors launches dyad covert actions – diplomacy. Therefore, history places in the same area espionage, sabotage and assassinations, while reality suggests lack of violence as a management dimension of foreign policy – diplomacy. The passage of time is the factor that has contributed to the evolution of intelligence and how it can be applied.

In the academic approach, the work of Philip Davies and Kristian Gustafson comes as a cornerstone of the knowledge and deepening of the area of intelligence. In this respect, the fundamental role of history and tradition that is assigned to act as a fingerprint on the present and current practices. However, the volume is a part of an attempt to define intelligence studies as an academic discipline.

The greatest achievement of this volume lies in forgetting for a moment the espionage world consisting of only United States of America, United Kingdom and Europe. Therefore, the two authors establish that in the academic research of intelligence, knowledge can't rest on a niche level.

This collection of scientific papers can be treated as a great opportunity to find an universal framework in order to define intelligence and its techniques and methods. Besides all this, an aspect that lacks approaching is the dimension regarding national intelligence implementation in each country and also the relation with decision makers. Consequently, it appears a need to deepen the research and, in this way, to create a wider vision (which can represent the base for comparative studies).

Taking into consideration the constantly changing security architecture as well as changes occurring in the international distribution of power, "Intelligence Elsewhere: Spies and Espionage Outside the Anglosphere" provides basic knowledge for a better understanding of current and future events .

A well-known quote of Nicolae Bălcescu, *"The history is the first book of a nation. Within it past, present and future can be seen"* gives a good conclusion that every process or research, irrespective of its nature, involves taking a look into history. In this instance, intelligence area is in a permanent development and to underlie studies and ideas, the past plays and important part. The purpose is to come with a forecast related to reality which becomes a benchmark in developing policies and strategic decisions.