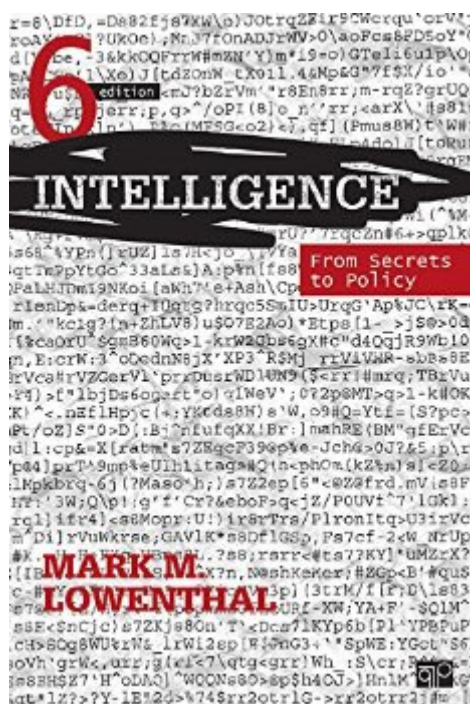# Intelligence: From Secrets To Policy

Synopsis

Mark M. Lowenthalâ ™s trusted guide is the go-to resource for understanding how the intelligence communityâ ™s history, structure, procedures, and functions affect policy decisions. In this Sixth Edition of Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy, the author highlights new challenges facing the intelligence community, examining NSA programs, UAVs, the impact of social media, and the effects of the Snowden leaks on collection and Congressional oversight. An expanded chapter on oversight scrutinizes the role of the FISA court, OMB, and GAO.

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Customer Reviews

I was an Air Force military intelligence officer in the late 1990s. I've been working in computer security since then. I read Intelligence, 4th Ed (I4E) to determine if I could recommend this book to those who doubt or don't understand the US intelligence community (IC). I am very pleased to say that I4E is an excellent book for those with little to no intelligence experience. I also found I4E to be a great way to catch up on changes in the IC, particularly since Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA).Mark Lowenthal struck me as an author who

really understands the IC. When I read his descriptions of MASINT not being appreciated (p 96), the institutional bias against open source intelligence (p 105), and related cultural issues, I thought he offered a view of the IC not found in other sources. His explanations of friction between agencies, between various Congressional oversight committees, and between branches of government were very enlightening. The interests and bias of each party were interesting; for example, Congress (like Chief Information or Technology Officers) likes to buy new tech (satellites, etc.) instead of investing in analysts! I appreciated his description of the importance of Congressional authorizers vs appropriators, and how those duties affect the IC budget.I4E really frames IC issues in a way that makes sense to the reader. For example, p 2 says "Intelligence agencies exist for at least four major reasons: to avoid strategic surprise; to provide long-term expertise; to support the policy process; and to maintain the secrecy of information, needs, and methods." He explains that while Pearl Harbor was a strategic surprise, 9/11 was a tactical surprise.

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