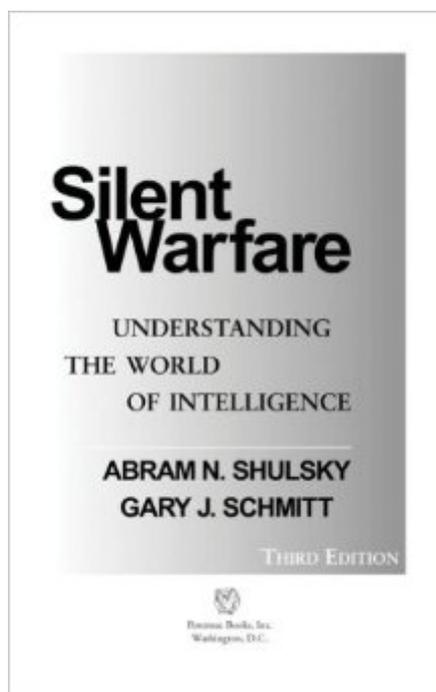# Silent Warfare: Understanding The World Of Intelligence, 3d Edition

Synopsis

A thoroughly updated revision of the first comprehensive overview of intelligence designed for both the student and the general reader, Silent Warfare is an insiderâ ™s guide to a shadowy, often misunderstood world. Leading intelligence scholars Abram N. Shulsky and Gary J. Schmitt clearly explain such topics as the principles of collection, analysis, counterintelligence, and covert action, and their interrelationship with policymakers and democratic values. This new edition takes account of the expanding literature in the field of intelligence and deals with the consequences for intelligence of vast recent changes in telecommunication and computer technology the new â œinformation age.â • It also reflects the worldâ ™s strategic changes since the end of the Cold War. This landmark book provides a valuable framework for understanding todayâ ™s headlines, as well as the many developments likely to come in the real world of the spy.

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Customer Reviews

Silent Warfare is probably the best introductory text available covering the subject of intelligence. It reads like a text book, but that's because it basically IS a textbook. It's a serious academic text

rather than a cloak and dagger story. This is one to read for understanding rather than necessarily for pleasure.The book is fairly short but covers all the bases in terms of types of intelligence, types of intelligence organisation, the various debates surrounding the subject etc. It is, perhaps inevitably, somewhat America-centric. British intelligence and the KGB stick their heads into the picture from time to time, largely to provide illustrative comparisons rather than as studies in themselves.When making a point, the authors generally try to provide historical examples and comparison, which is helpful, especially for the beginner. It also helps to enliven the text a bit.The book is extremely well sourced and many of the end notes contain further explanations and are extremely interesting in themselves.The only thing I feel the book lacks, and this is a fairly minor quibble, is a bibliography. This would have been very useful, especially in what is intended to be an introductory textbook. A bibliographical essay with suggestions for recommended further reading would have been even better.Quibbles aside, this is a very good primer and to the best of my knowledge there are no books on the market that can compete with it in terms of providing a solid academic introduction to the subject. People with a serious interest in intelligence would be well advised to follow this book up by taking a look at the works of Michael Herman, which provide more in-depth coverage (especially "Intelligence Power in Peace and War") and a non-American (in this case British) angle - though they may be a little heavy for the absolute novice.To sum up, if you have never read an academic book on intelligence before this is the one to go for.

Both the authors, Abram Shulsky and Gary Schmitt, are respected intelligence organization professionals who have taken up university-level teaching and writing. The book is focused on intelligence theory and organization - not on tradecraft. As such, the principal audience of this book would likely be future intelligence policymakers or foreign intelligence organizations trying to gain an insight into US intelligence systems.The book does a solid job of identifying what intelligence is, how it is collected (humint vs. techint), how it is processed, how it is systematically protected, and what counter-intelligence includes. In addition, it addresses the gray areas of covert action (Is it intelligence or military activity?) and plausible denial. Although much of this discussion could apply to most nations' intelligence bureaus, the authors only explicity describe the American intelligence system.Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the book is the wealth of sources it contains. Many of these are freely and immediately available on the web for all to read. All the footnotes are very thoroughly explained and usually refer to a specific source. The source list itself adds tremendous value to the book by guiding the reader to so many numerous definitive works on intelligence operations.All in all, this is a solid introduction to intelligence and a great book for pursuing its

addition sources.

I bought this text a few months ago, having read so many positive reviews on . While I am not regretting having bought it, I wasn't all too impressed by it. As others have noted, one thing the text does well, is it gives a solid background on what intelligence is and what it is not.I understand that older books are out of date. I have read and appreciated many of them during my studies. However, for a book whose latest edition came out in 2002 to be this out of touch is laughable. The section about satellites was particularly amusing. It provided a lenghty definition of the term 'resolution', which was obviously aimed at a generation that has never used a home computer. Similarly, the book predicted how the cost of satellite imaging might go down and that it may become more common for smaller states to use it. In this day and age of Google Earth, I literally burst out laughing when reading this section.There are other sections like this, but these two examples were particularly amusing and memorable.To sum up, the less timely sections of this text on humint are well worth your time. Similarly, it does give sound definitions of basic terms and the scope of intelligence. Just be warned that you'll have to really bite your lip when reading some of the chapters on 'technology'.

As a whole, the American public is often unaware of the important role which intelligence collection and analysis plays within the development of national security policy; Silent Warfare provides an excellent introduction to this role. While not patronizing the reader, Shulsky and Schmitt have managed to break intelligence down into its basic components, explaining the theories and experiences through easy-to-understand historical contexts. They explain the differences between technical intelligence, human intelligence, and open source intelligence; they also explain the often overlooked role of covert operations within the confines of intelligence and national security policy.While dealing with such a touchy subject, Shulsky and Schmitt are also careful not to gloss over the short comings of the intelligence community. Within Silent Warfare, they touch on issues such as the "not built here" syndrome, as well as the American tendency to project American values on other populations which may -- or may not -- see things the way we do. They take these criticisms one step further by also presenting possible solutions, as well as the solutions currently in testing phases.Overall, I felt this book was a great introduction to intelligence, breaking the essential elements down into east-to-understand phrasing and terminology without talking down to the reader and without overindulging in the use of the infamous "alphabet soup."

Silent Warfare: Understanding the World of Intelligence, 3d Edition Spiritual Warfare During Your Sleep: Weapons of Warfare vol. 2 (Dream Warfare) Communicating With Intelligence: Writing and Briefing in the Intelligence and National Security Communities (Security and Professional Intelligence Education Series) Silent Sea (The Silent War Book 2) Spiritual Warfare During Your Sleep: Dealing With Dream Invaders vol. 1 (Dream Warfare) Historical Dictionary of Ian Fleming's World of Intelligence: Fact and Fiction (Historical Dictionaries of Intelligence and Counterintelligence) Understanding Bergson, Understanding Modernism (Understanding Philosophy, Understanding Modernism) Swift Artificial Intelligence: Made Easy, w/ Essential Programming; Learn to Create your * Problem Solving * Algorithms! TODAY! w/ Machine Learning & Data Structures (Artificial Intelligence Series) Emotional Intelligence: Master Your Emotions-Raise Your EQ, Critical Thinking and Optimize Your Life (Emotional Intelligence, Critical thinking, EQ) Emotional Intelligence: A Practical Guide For Emotional Skills And Interpersonal Communication (Emotional Intelligence, Emotional Skills, Interpersonal Emotions, Mindfulness) War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring (Studies in Environment and History) Survival Communication: 20 Proven Lessons to Stay In Touch With Your Family When the World Goes Silent: (Prepper's Guid, Survival Guide, Survivalist, Safety, ... Survival Skills Book) (Survival Books) Storming the City: U.S. Military Performance in Urban Warfare from World War II to Vietnam (American Military Studies) Thunder Below!: The USS *Barb* Revolutionizes Submarine Warfare in World War II Plague Makers: The Secret World of Biological Warfare Collective Intelligence: Mankind's Emerging World in Cyberspace Studying Those Who Study Us: An Anthropologist in the World of Artificial Intelligence Guerrilla Warfare: Authorized Edition: Authorised Edition Turner Classic Movies Presents Leonard Maltin's Classic Movie Guide: From the Silent Era Through 1965: Third Edition La Inflamacion Silenciosa/ the Anti-inflammation Zone: Reversing the Silent Epidemic That's Destroying Our Health (Spanish Edition)