Editorial

THE PRIVATE WORLD OF INTELLIGENCE

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Special Edition Editors

It has been argued that since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, no other profession has experienced change to the same extent as that of intelligence. As evidence of this we have seen the profession grow in the number of analysts being employed and the targets they are tasked to address. As well as these changes, intelligence projects and missions have become more complex. Moreover, the increased activities associated with post-9/11 intelligence have resulted in privatisation some aspects of intelligence work. As an indicator, we are now seeing scholarly texts appear in the subject literature that are specifically addressing the privatisation of intelligence as a topic—one such book is reviewed in this special issue of Salus Journal. The topic of privatisation of intelligence was discussed in its worldwide context during a one-day symposium in Canberra on 8 August 2013.

The symposium was hosted by Charles Sturt University and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, and was held at the National Press Club. Dr Troy Whitford, a lecturer in history and politics at Charles Sturt University, was the symposium’s convenor. During Dr Whitford’s opening address to the delegates, he pointed out that intelligence activities such as agent and analyst recruitment, open-source information gathering, covert surveillance, and data analysis are being privatised. In response, private investigation firms are now contracting services to government and non-government organisations, as well as the corporate sector.

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Dr Whitford welcomed speakers at *The Privatisation of Intelligence* symposium who included: former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Professor Mick Palmer, AO, APM; Head of the Olympic Intelligence Centre and the National Olympic Intelligence Project for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games, Ms Sue Wilkinson; Director at Civil Liberties Australia, Mr Tim Vines; and Assistant Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, Mr Jake Blight.

Papers presented at the symposium were considered for inclusion in this special issue of *Salus Journal*—we are pleased to be able to present two critical essays and three unclassified papers representing the sampling of perspectives of the practitioners and academics who attended. We commend these papers to you as examples of “the private world of intelligence,” and in doing so extend our gratitude to the Editorial Board’s Associate Editors for giving of their time to review them.

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Private intelligence services are non-state actors involved in the sector of Intelligence and are primarily collecting and analyzing information by outsourcing public funding and by providing assistance to large multinationals. In recent years, and after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in the U.S, individuals have gained wide access to government services as subcontractors and partners and now operate a very important part of the funds available for the «War against terrorism». Generally it can be assumed that the dividing lines between the state and the business world have blurred to a great extent over the past few years. Clearly the 9/11 attacks have revolutionized the manner by which intelligence operations are being conducted since. Private intelligence agency. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. A private intelligence agency (PIA) is a private sector (non-governmental) or quasi-non-government organization devoted to the collection, analysis, and exploitation of information, most commonly through the evaluation of public sources (OSINT or Open Source INTelligence) and cooperation with other institutions.[1] Some private agencies make their services available to governments as well as individual consumers; however, most of these agencies. Private intelligence agencies have also been seen in fiction. Which Are the Best Spy Agencies in the World? The University Where US Intelligence Personnel Study. Transcription. List of private intelligence companies. Although there were consolidations of private intelligence businesses in the late 1990s, it was not until the Bush years that intelligence reform led to the consolidation of significant bureaucratic power in the ODNI. But privately, competing forces were at work too. The intelligence community spent $18 billion per year on contractors in 1998, but by 2003 that number had more than doubled to $43.5 billion.20 Today, each agency has its own proportion of contracted work. Inquiries Journal provides undergraduate and graduate students around the world a platform for the wide dissemination of academic work over a range of core disciplines. Representing the work of students from hundreds of institutions around the globe, Inquiries Journal's large database of academic articles is completely free. A private intelligence agency (PIA) is a private sector (non-governmental) or quasi-non-government organization devoted to the collection, analysis, and exploitation of information, through the evaluation of public sources (OSINT or Open Source INTelligence) and cooperation with other institutions. Some private intelligence agencies obtain information deceptively or through on-the-ground activities for clients.