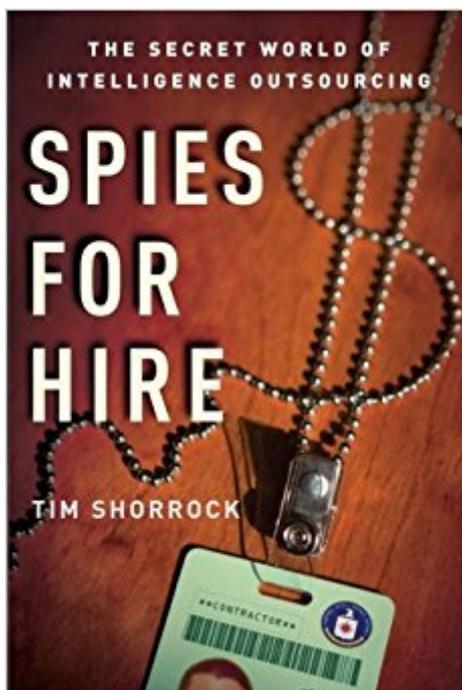The book was found

Spies For Hire: The Secret World Of Intelligence Outsourcing

Synopsis

In Spies for Hire, investigative reporter Tim Shorrock lifts the veil off a major story the government doesn't want us to know about - the massive outsourcing of top secret intelligence activities to private-sector contractors. Starting during the Clinton administration, when intelligence budgets were cut drastically and privatization of government services became national policy, and expanding dramatically in the wake of 9/11, when the CIA and other agencies were frantically looking to hire analysts and linguists, the intelligence community has been relying more and more on corporations to perform sensitive tasks heretofore considered to be exclusively the work of federal employees. This outsourcing of intelligence activities is now a $50 billion-a-year business that consumes up to 70 percent of the US intelligence budget. And it's a business that the government has tried hard to keep under wraps. Spies for Hire provides the first behind-the-scenes look at this new way of spying. Shorrock shows how corporations such as Booz Allen Hamilton, Lockheed Martin, SAIC, CACI International, and IBM have become full partners with the CIA, the National Security Agency, and the Pentagon in their most sensitive foreign and domestic operations. He explores how this partnership has led to wasteful spending and threatens to erode the privacy protections and congressional oversight so important to American democracy. From CIA covert actions to NSA eavesdropping, from Abu Ghraib to Guantanamo, from the Pentagon's techno-driven war in Iraq to the coming global battles over information dominance and control of cyberspace, contractors are doing it all. Spies for Hire goes behind today's headlines to highlight how private corporations are aiding the growth of a new and frightening national surveillance state.

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Customer Reviews

Even James Bond is temping these days. According to investigative journalist Shorrock, the CIA and other intelligence agencies now have more contractors working for them than they do spies of their own. Often former staff hired back at double or triple their former government salaries, these private contractors do everything from fighting in Afghanistan to interrogating prisoners, aiming spy satellites and supervising secret agents. Shorrock gives a comprehensiveâ "at times eye-glazingâ "rundown of the players in the industry, and his book is valuable for its detailed panorama of 21st-century intelligence work. He uncovers serious abusesâ "contractor CACI International figured prominently in the Abu Ghraib outragesâ "and nagging concerns about corrupt ties between intelligence officials and private corporations, industry lobbying for a national surveillance state, the withering of the intelligence agencies' in-house capacities and the displacement of an ethos of public service by a profit motive. However, the bulk of the outsourcing Shorrock unearths is rather pedestrian, involving the management of mundane IT systems and various administrative services, and this exposÃ© insinuates more skullduggery than it demonstrates. (May) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Tim Shorrock is walking, and mapping, a startling fault line of these crazy days: the way government is outsourcing its most basic functions at a time of peril. Replacing public service with private transactions -- often shadowy and unaccountable -- is what helped bring down Rome. Without fierce scrutiny, and the kind of sharp-eyed disclosures this book provides, it can bring down America. A must read." -- Ron Suskind, author of The One Percent Doctrine"Spies for Hire is an excellent roadmap to the daunting new terrain of U.S. intelligence, in which the explosive growth of intelligence contracting threatens to overwhelm any possibility of independent oversight. In this groundbreaking work, Tim Shorrock explores who has benefitted, who has paid, and why it matters to us all." -- Steven Aftergood, Project on Government Secrecy, Federation of American Scientists"Tim Shorrock is a digger, and he has penetrated a secret and fascinating world to write a telling and readable book." -- Evan Thomas, editor at large of Newsweek, author of Sea of Thunder"Tim Shorrock's well-researched and convincing book reveals how the intelligence community now subcontracts out most of its work -- 70 percent -- to private-sector companies that inevitably have their own agendas, which may or may not accord with the national interest. By laying

out very specifically how all this works, Shorrock has provided a very important service to the country." -- Burton Hersh, author of The Old Boys: The American Elite and the Origins of the CIA --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book is poorly written but I read it just before Snowden's revelations. It accurately describes a tendency I saw early in my career in the intelligence world - the outsourcing of intelligence analysis to competent technicians. As in the real business world, advancement comes through supervision and policy making. Thus, NSA hires lackeys [albeit very competent ones] to do their grit work for them. This was going on in the 60s early in my 30 plus year career in intelligence. The book reveals in boring detail just how widely prevalent this has become.Now the finger pointing is beginning, and blame is sought for ever giving the likes of Snowden a clearance. People like me with a memory remember when NSA gave one half of the Martin and Mitchell traitor duo a clearance although they knew one of this traitorous twosomes bizarre traits was having sex with a chicken and slamming a drawer on the chicken's head at the moment of climax. If you don't believe me, this incident is set forth in David Kahn's seminal history of code breaking, "The Codebreakers". Kahn eventually was hired by NSA, possibly so he would not embarrass them in future literary revelations.As for the current brouhaha, the Facebook generation has no concept of privacy and this whole revelation will soon be as old as yesterday's headline. Nothing will come of it, and if people had to choose between more terrorist attacks, which NSA is doing a pretty good job of preventing in the CONUS, or another giant terrorist attack, they will pick safety before privacy. It's a new world and the people under 40 today have ideas and morays as alien to me as an extraterrestrial from another galaxy.

This was a very informative look at how much of our national security has been farmed out to the private sector. It shows , also, how easily our elected officials can be bought.

Thots well presented considering the complexity of info. presentedClearly written for lay person......Therefore..Easily read & understoodMade a compelling readFor critical "need to know" pieces of info.!!!Wud highly recommend..book..!!!!!Especially in current international scenario

This book really goes into detail about how the intelligence field and it's spy work is being outsourced today. Yes James Bond still has a place in this world but he would most likely be a private contractor instead of employed at CIA or MI6

This is an interesting and timely book. The author has done an impressive amount of research on the insidious relationships between senior national security members of the US government and the contracting companies who support them. The revolving door between senior policy and decision makers in the US government and private companies is over the top. Many government employees see their federal service solely as a means of sweetening their post retirement contracting gigs.However, with all this research he makes some poor conclusions. He implies that companies have armies of cleared employees just floating out in the ether. In fact, all of those cleared employees must be working on US government work, or else they would not have clearances. He all but states that private industry drives government decision making. There may be some degree of influence, but to say for example that private industry helped send the country to war in Iraq is just wrong (the president and his senior leadership deserve "credit" for that). And while the intelligence community budget is large and has grown exponentially since 9/11, the author makes no effort to distinguish between big ticket items such as satellites and spy planes and the personnel who support them or analyze what these expensive toys put out. To say that a majority of the intel budget goes to private industry might be true, but that is because government doesn't actually build most things anymore (and hasn't since at least WWII), Lockheed, Boeing, Raytheon et al have most of that capability now.This is a thought provoking though frustrating work. The author should have done is homework on procurement and the differences between how different "INTs" operate.

The book is well-referenced, making skillful use of first-person sources. Each chapter is filled with information and provide deeper insight into what, in some books, is just a listing of factual information.

This is an absolute must read for anyone interested in the world of modern intelligence. Very well researched and written.

INTERESTING DOCUMENTARY OF GOVERNMENT USE OF PRIVATE INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT.

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