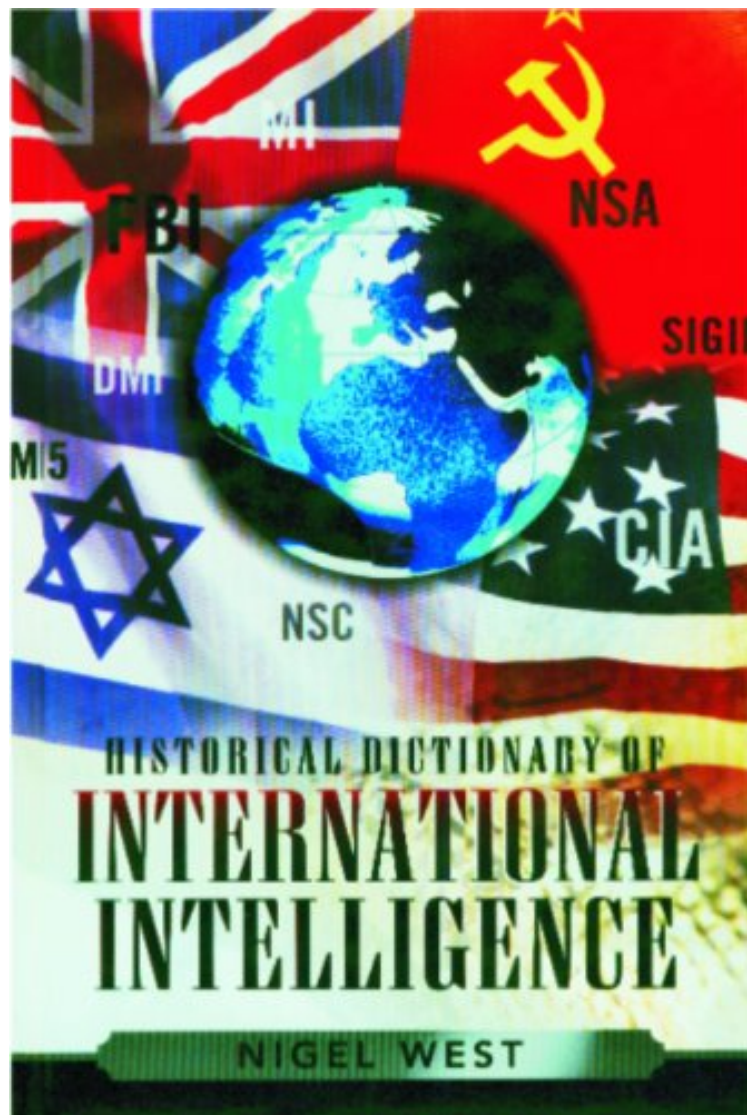


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Historical Dictionary of International Intelligence (Historical Dictionaries of Intelligence and Counterintelligence)

Nigel West

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Nigel West : Historical Dictionary of International Intelligence (Historical Dictionaries of Intelligence and Counterintelligence) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historical Dictionary of International Intelligence (Historical Dictionaries of Intelligence and Counterintelligence):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. what, no mention of Iraq and WMD?!By W BoudvilleNigel West

provides us with a very readable compendium of military intelligence topics. Broadly spanning from World War 2 to the present. The coverage is broad. Topics include D Day, a discard, and Lockerbie. Unsurprisingly, most of the topics are from the vantage of the British and Americans. None of the topics are covered in any depth. The book might be best used as a lead-in to a topic you are interested in. Amusingly, Iraq, Saddam Hussein and WMD are not listed as topics. Of these, only Hussein gets a brief mention, in another topic.

Once dubbed espionage, the practice of intelligence has never been more important nor more sophisticated than it is today. Its coming-of-age began during World War II, which saw the birth of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in the United States and the XX Committee to supervise the activities of double agents in Great Britain, and during the Cold War, where its rapid technological advances forever changed intelligence-gathering methods. Today, with the growing concern for terrorism, intelligence is more vital than ever and is needed not only by major powers but virtually all countries. In this time of change, it is essential to consider the evolution of intelligence, and how well it is coping at present. That, among other things, is the contribution of the Historical Dictionary of International Intelligence. Author Nigel West's second contribution to the series includes a list of acronyms, a chronology, a bibliography, and hundreds of cross-referenced dictionary entries on the agencies and agents, the operations and equipment, the tradecraft and jargon, and many of the countries involved. No military reference collection is complete without it.

From Booklist This is the fourth in the publisher's Historical Dictionaries of Intelligence and Counterintelligence series and the second written by West. Similar in format to the other works in the series, it contains a list of acronyms, a chronology (1908-2005), and entries on agencies and agents, operations, jargon, and countries, among them Cuba, Libya, and Spain but not India or Pakistan. Entries range in length from a few short sentences to one to three pages. See and see also references are indicated in boldface type. An extensive bibliography at the back of the book illustrates the scholarship and research conducted by the author. It is not, however, as thorough and in-depth as the bibliographies in other titles in the series because it tries to cover too much territory. There is some overlap with Historical Dictionary of British Intelligence (2005) and Historical Dictionary of United States Intelligence (2006). One would expect to see much longer entries for key countries such as China and the former Soviet Union. Perhaps it would have been better to divide up the series' international coverage by region rather than trying to cover so much in one volume. This is a useful work, though it's not quite up to the standard of the other titles in the series. Still, it's recommended for public and academic libraries where military history, security, and intelligence are of interest. Terri Tomchyshyn Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ...useful addition... (Studies In Intelligence, Vol. 51, No. 2)...a useful work....recommended for public libraries and academic libraries where military history, security, and intelligence are of interest. (Booklist, 12/15/2006) This dictionary is ideal for beginning researchers. Recommended. (CHOICE, Vol. 44, No. 6 (February 2007))...Scarecrow are fortunate in having such a renowned and generally respected writer to provide the lead title of their new series. This book will be a useful purchase for any general library... (Reference s, Vol. 21, No. 5 (2007))...an excellent resource... (American Reference Books Annual, vol. 38 (2007)) This historical dictionary is as well-researched and literate an account of the world's secret services as we are likely to get. (Robert Pringle Journal of Slavic Military Studies, Vol. 20, 2007) This fourth volume in the series (and the author's second contribution) offers cross-referenced dictionary entries on international intelligence agencies and agents, operations and equipment, tradecraft and jargon, and countries. It includes a list of acronyms and a chronology. West is a military historian specializing in intelligence and security issues. (Reference and Research Book News, November 2006) About the Author Nigel West is a military historian, specializing in intelligence and security issues. He is currently the European Editor of the International Journal of Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence and teaches the history of postwar intelligence at the Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies in Alexandria, VA. He is the author of many books, including the Historical Dictionary of British Intelligence (Scarecrow Press, 2005). In October 2003 he was awarded the U.S. Association of Former Intelligence Officers' first Lifetime Literature Achievement Award.