

REVIEW ABOUT THE BOOK AMY B. ZEGART: SPIES, LIES, AND ALGORITHMS: THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE**RECENZÍÓ AMY B. ZEGART: SPIES, LIES, AND ALGORITHMS: THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CÍMŰ KÖNYVÉRŐL**

GULYÁS Attila¹

Key sentence: “America’s intelligence agencies must adapt or they will fail.”

Amy B. Zegart² is the Morris Arnold and Nona Jean Cox Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and Professor of Political Science (by courtesy) at Stanford University. She is also a Senior Fellow at Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Chair of Stanford’s Artificial Intelligence and International Security Steering Committee, and a contributing writer at The Atlantic. She specializes in U.S. intelligence, emerging technologies and national security, grand strategy, and global political risk management. Zegart has been featured by the National Journal as one of the ten most influential experts in intelligence reform. Most recently, she served as a commissioner on the 2020 CSIS Technology and Intelligence Task Force (co-chaired by Avril Haines and Stephanie O’Sullivan) and has advised the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence. She served on the Clinton administration’s National Security Council staff and as a foreign policy adviser to the Bush 2000 presidential campaign. She has also testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and advised senior officials on intelligence, homeland security, and cyber security matters.

Amy B. Zegart’s name is a guarantee for the high quality content as a leading national expert on the United States Intelligence Community and national security she has comprehensive knowledge about the actual state of the American Intelligence Community and the challenges it faces now and in the future.

As an outsider, Amy B. Zegart faced challenges in accessing to classified information so she could study only the publicly available sources, but she realized the inherent possibilities in this situation and articulated her own independent opinions and critics. She masterfully exploited the potential in her special position to present the history of the American Intelligence, the essence of the intelligence in generally, the pitfalls of the

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intelligence collection and analysis. Zegart also demonstrate how complicated to find the balance between secrecy and openness and sheds some light on the intricate interrelations that underlie the democratic control of the American intelligence services. In addition to the organizational intelligence collection, she gave a glimpse of the peculiarities of the amateur, non-governmental OSINT intelligence collectors activities and the implications on the intelligence community. She dedicates a separate chapter to cyber security which is one of the most burning security question of our era.

The author flooded the reader with case studies, reports from the real life, collected citations from politicians making them more understandable by tables, figures.

The first chapter is on the new security landscape of our era in which the Intelligence Community has to face the gamut of security challenges. The author articulates the problems one by one with short explanations to make them and clear, and where it needs she illuminates their contexts.

The challenges of the social media emerged in the near past seem to fading away in the light of challenges of AI or the Quantum Supremacy, not to mention the gene technology. The AI reforms the way as we see the world, it can release human capacity in many aspects of everyday life. AI makes decisions on behalf of the human causing ethical problems. Can (at all) AI blamed for decisions? Our present cryptography system would collapse by a single blow when someone win the Quantum Supremacy, and until new technology won't be elaborated we won't have digital secrets. Only few of us take into account the inherent possibilities of the synthetic biology that has endless possibilities in the change of our life and poses boundless security risks. The gene modified plants, animals, human, not to mention the race tailored pathogens are just to name a few.

With the end of Cold War, the security landscape has dramatically changed. Instead of a clearly defined enemy the Intelligence Community faces many different threatens from different directions. The balance of power has also changed because earlier the super powers threatened the smaller, weaker countries, but it is not the situation anymore. Today, these “weak” countries, or even terrorist organizations having the new technologies are capable to threaten super powers.

Until the last decade only the super powers had resources to process big amount of information while today countries with modest resources are also capable to collect, and process information in bigger volume. Due to the technical development new devices with sci-fi like capabilities are available for average people, so practically anyone can be intelligence collector as we could see after the siege of the capitol when volunteers helped to identify the participants by the social media pictures. Although this a Janus- faced phenomenon, because these OSINT activist with lack of intelligence analysis training often conclude wrong causing misunderstanding that the Intelligence Community has to correct them drawing away resources from the really important tasks.

Earlier in history threatens had perceptible signs, today threatens come from the cyber space which doesn't exist physically. The strikes come anonymously from the out of blue, in many cases without any prior notice so in cases there is no chance for the retaliation.

The second chapter of the book demonstrates how much know American citizens about intelligence and the intelligence services. The fictional books and movies shaped their knowledge painting a false deceptive picture of the intelligence itself. Unfortunately,

this is the hot bed of the contesos, the deep state fantasies, misunderstanding of the role of intelligence services. Owing to the lack of education of intelligence, including the politicians, only few know the real possibilities and capabilities of intelligence services so in cases they have unreal expectations towards the services.

The second factor that hinders the recognition of intelligence activity is the secrecy. Without this intelligence service doesn't exist, but at the same time it doesn't let scientist and researchers to study and hone its efficiency.

The third chapter is dedicated to the history of the American intelligence which is definitely shorter than some of the European or Asian counterparts. The author with ruthless honesty reveals the childhood diseases of the American intelligence evolution including the democratic tensions, the fragmentations, halting development. We can see the arch from the George Washington's spies trough the spy satellites to the remote controlled spy and striker UAVs in parallel with the evolving role geopolitical of the United States. In this chapter the reader is introduced to the endless conflict between the secrecy and need for openness in democracy. This conflict is inherent in the world of intelligence, because it must keep in secret its sources, procedures, technics and capabilities to be capable to carry out its secret information collection function. Simultaneously, the society tries to keep under control the services, which is a cumbersome process because of aforementioned reasons. Further, Zegart presents the American Intelligence community's structure and gives the readers a glimpse of the background of the creation Director of National Intelligence position.

The next chapter is the backbone of the book. It tells what intelligence is and what is not. Zegart carefully explains what is the aim of the intelligence, what are the core missions, and how it is supposed to support the policymaking. Their job is to provide the best available intelligence and leave the policy making to the politicians. Yet, despite the best efforts there are frictions between intelligence services and politicians because they came from different worlds and see the world differently.

Further, she examines intelligence basics through the analytic lens, a human lens and an operational lens which is an interesting approach of this topic.

She made vivid this chapter by interviewing current and former intelligence officers whose jobs included briefing the president, catching traitors, handling assets and defectors. The interviewees reveal their ethical dilemmas, their success and worst moments.

She crowned this chapter with the story of catching Osama Bin Laden putting the story in intelligence context.

The fifth chapter presents the intelligence analysis, the different analysis methods with their advantages and disadvantages including the seven deadly biases. She explains why it is so hard to provide user-friendly, user -tailored reliable intelligence. She cites as a deterrent example the "Curveball" case which is the epitome of the bad intelligence analysis. In this chapter she also studies the possibilities of the AI usage in the analysis examining it strong and weak sides.

The following section of the book is about traitors, which is a very sensitive and unpleasant question within the intelligence community. The author takes the possible motives through what can turn our insiders to be a turncoat. She demonstrates through the three intelligence challenges the Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames cases, which are

undeniably among the most notorious cases in the twenty-first history of the American Intelligence community. James Jesus Angleton's "blessed reign" is also a part of the deterrent examples in this book demonstrating how hard it is to find the balance between trust and paranoia. She also deals with question of the technical development that is double-edged swords since it provides our activity with sophisticated encrypted communication, but it also support our enemies with hindering our fight against them.

The seventh chapter is touching a widely debated hot topic burdened with ethical dilemmas. The covert actions divide not only the politicians, but the civil society, as well. After reading this part of the book we will know what covert action is, and who can approve it under what circumstances. What happens if a covert action fails? Does US have right to kill someone in a foreign country without any trial, and judgment? The author walks with us through the dilemmas in connection with the covert actions. We well know the possible reasons why presidents prefer covert actions.

The following pages in the book are dedicated to the mysterious world of congressional oversight. Zegart explains from multi aspects view how it developed, why it is so important, what difficulties burden this institution, and why it works with so bad efficiency. She offers a valuable glimpse into the world of Senate Committees revealing the reasons why senators shy away from membership of Intelligence Committee. The CIA detention and interrogation program along with the NSA warrantless wiretapping program are also discussed as the two notorious controversial scandals that generated heated debates both in the world of policy and in civil society.

Chapter nine is about the change caused by digital technology in nuclear sleuthing. In the 21st century the nuclear intelligence is not the privilege of superpowers anymore. Non-governmental organizations or even individuals can investigate illicit nuclear activities worldwide using open source technologies. This dramatic change has undeniable benefits, but it also has disadvantages as well, since the publicized wrong analysis can lead to international tensions that the intelligence services have to correct, and in cases it takes many resources from the services.

The last part of the book deals with the newly emerged pervasive cyber threats and their consequences in the light of intelligence services. The topic is actual, interesting and puts into spotlight how important having controlled the cyber space where nefarious actors employ deception, carry out cyber espionage campaigns, wage information warfare trying to influence the society. The traditional domain like land, air, and sea totally differ from the manmade cyber domain that is inherently insecure. Nature can provide geographic advantages for some countries and vulnerabilities for others while in the cyber domains it is not valid anymore. The natural sources have no effect on the outcome of cyber warfare. The cyber threat is a special act if it hacks not only the computers or computer networks but it hacks minds as well. The cyber-attacks aim to destroy the confidentiality, integrity, availability, and reliability. In the course of a cyber-attack it is hard to identify the perpetrator and the real nature of the weapon used in the action since it can be a simple malware or a part of a sophisticated cyber espionage software system. Further, Zegart demonstrates how social media can influence the mindset and opinions of the society, how dangerous it can be if it used by nefarious intentions.

Later, the author points out that we can only see a little portion of AI capabilities and it is only the beginning, and no one can foresee where it ends. The deep fake videos and photographs are so real that by using them one can create a forged reality.

She also brings up the inevitable role of the leader of techgiants as they form our future giving citizens new technologies that can have harmful effect on national security so they have unalienable responsibilities in the national security.

I recommend this book for those who are interested in intelligence, especially in American intelligence, because after reading this book the reader will be aware of the intelligence basics, and the challenges the American intelligence faces now and in the future. Due to its structure this book is applicable for educational purposes as well.

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[1] Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation, Freeman Spogli Institute, Institute Faculty and Researchers: Amy Zegart, PhD Biography, https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/people/amy_zegart [Accessed: May 12,2022]

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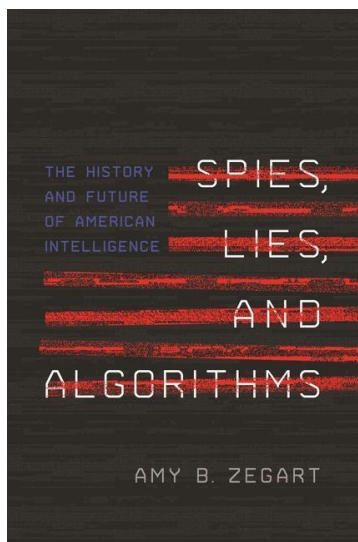
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