

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S COMPLETE LITERARY GUIDE ♦ JANUARY 15-21, 1995

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# BOOK REVIEW

## SPIES ARE EVERYWHERE

## A cache of books detail the workings of the CIA, KGB and Israeli intelligence

REVIEWED BY DANIEL WICK

**D**espite the fall of communism, interest in spying continues to thrive, as a deluge of new books indicates.

Peter Grose's fine new biography, **GENTLEMAN SPY: THE LIFE OF ALLEN DULLES** (Houghton Mifflin; 641 pages; \$30), offers a penetrating account of the life and career of Allen Dulles, the man probably most responsible for today's CIA, warts and all. Born to the world of diplomacy (his grandfather was secretary of state), Dulles joined the diplomatic corps during World War I, later became a noted corporate lawyer and then distinguished himself in the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) as the prominent American spy-master stationed in Europe, directing espionage against the Nazis.

But, as Grose notes, it was during Dulles' tenure as Eisenhower's CIA director (his brother, John Foster Dulles, was Ike's bellicose secretary of state) that the modern CIA was formed. Known as the Great White Case Officer, Dulles is portrayed here with a bias for covert operations, although he was well aware of the value of intelligence gathering and analysis. Under his leadership (and Ike's insistence, Grose points out), the CIA mounted covert operations all over the globe, most notably in Iran, overthrowing the legitimate Mossadegh government and installing the shah; in the Philippines, waging a guerrilla war inspired by the legendary Edward Lansdale that prefigured similar strategies employed by the CIA during the Vietnam War; and in Guatemala, overthrowing the duly elected government, which was replaced eventually by a state terrorist regime.

Grose adds that Dulles also oversaw the U-2 program and of course, the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion, which led an embittered John F. Kennedy to dismiss



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him as CIA director (several months after the invasion took place). Later Dulles served on the Warren Commission, where he successfully kept other members from inquiring too deeply into FBI and CIA files in matters relating to the Kennedy assassination.

Grose's biography superbly brings Allen Dulles to life with all his considerable intelligence, charm and wit. But

Grose does not overlook Dulles' limitations, both political and personal. Dulles belonged to the world of the patrician diplomat, but he, more than any other American, is given credit here for ushering in the age of amoral espionage, the spy with a Cold War cause but lacking in conscience. Even in his personal life, Dulles

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was devious, engaging in extramarital affairs with the aristocratic Mary Bancroft and Wally Toscanini Castelbarco, daughter of the noted conductor. Not quite a great man, he was, as Grose demonstrates, a fascinating one.

Altogether less admirable and less interesting, at least as a personality, is Ted Shackley, a Cold Warrior in the Dulles mold grown moldy. As David Corn tells in **BLOND GHOST: TED SHACKLEY AND THE CIA'S CRUSADE** (Simon & Schuster; 509 pages; \$27.50), Shackley was a covert operations specialist par excellence. In the 1950s he ran a spy network in postwar Berlin; in the early '60s he oversaw the CIA's anti-Castro operations from a secret Miami base, then conducted secret operations in Laos, where he ran a clandestine operation in 1968 that resulted in the deaths of thousands of Hmong tribespeople. Nonetheless, Shackley rose rapidly in the CIA hierarchy, eventually attaining the position of deputy director of operations. But it was Shackley's links to renegade CIA agent Ed Wilson, undercover factotum for Moammar Khadafy, that eventually brought Shackley down.

Corn argues that the CIA's fascination with covert operations run by Shackley and others sullied the agency's intelligence-gathering efforts. If intelligence happened to run counter to a covert operation, the CIA blithely ignored it, as with the intelligence showing how weak opposition to Castro was before the Bay of Pigs debacle. In the last analysis, the book is a cautionary and well-told tale of American Cold War hubris.

As if the CIA doesn't have enough problems of its own making, Mark Riebling's **WEDGE: THE SECRET WAR BETWEEN THE FBI AND CIA** (Alfred A. Knopf; 563 pages; \$27.50) describes the destructive rivalry that led, says Riebling, to such a poor liaison system between the two agencies that it may very well have contributed to JFK's assassination, the Watergate coverup and Aldrich Ames' decade-long career as a high-living mole for the KGB. Based on recently declassified documents and dozens of interviews with former FBI and CIA officials (Riebling tentatively but persuasively identifies CIA agent Cord Meyer as Woodward and Bernstein's mysterious informant Deep Throat), "Wedge" is a meticulously researched yet entertaining account of a secret war between secret agencies.

Not only has the demise of the Soviet Union opened up KGB files to Western researchers, but former KGB officials seem eager to share their nefarious experiences with Western audiences. Prominent among these tantalizing tattletales is Oleg Kalugin, a retired major general of the KGB who wrote **THE FIRST DIRECTORATE: MY 32 YEARS IN INTELLIGENCE AND ESPIONAGE AGAINST THE WEST** (St. Martin's; 375 pages; \$23.95) with Fen Montaigne.

Until the Russian rightist victory in February 1994, Kalugin was a liberal Yeltsin supporter in the Russian parliament. Among other things, for nearly 13 years Kalugin oversaw KGB counterintelligence in the United States, helping to arrange the defection to the Soviet Union of CIA agent Edward Lee Howard and overseeing the spy

ring of American agent John Walker. Kalugin writes with the conviction of a reformed man who genuinely despises the Marxist faith in which he was raised and to which he so long adhered. Of the Soviet system, he observes in cutting prose: "It was an inhuman creation, and I am proud to have played some small part in toppling it. I do not regret its passing."

For those obsessed with the Cambridge Five, Yuri Modin, their KGB controller in the late '40s and early '50s, has penned a perceptive memoir, **MY FIVE CAMBRIDGE FRIENDS: BURGESS, MACLEAN, PHILBY, BLUNT AND CAIRNCROSS** (Farrar, Straus & Giroux; 282 pages; \$23). Of special interest are the sections on John Cairncross, the least well known of the five. As Modin makes clear, Cairncross was not recruited by one of the other four (he scarcely knew them and did not belong to their social circle) but rather by a rich Communist Cambridge undergraduate James Klugman. As a cipher expert at the British Government Code and Cypher School in Bletchley Park, Cairncross passed super-secret Ultra intercepts to the Soviets which proved so valuable that, as Modin says, "the Soviet triumph in the great tank battle at Kursk and Douga in July 1943... was thus partly attributable to John Cairncross."

Eventually forced out of government service in the early 1950s in the wake of the Burgess-Maclean defector to Moscow, Cairncross was never tried for espionage. In Modin's view, "The reason must be that there was insufficient evidence to convict him. In other words, our side had done a first-rate job from beginning to end." As for his overall judgment of the Cambridge Five, Modin eloquently observes: "Scorning the other illusions of humanity — power, wealth, love, ambition, serenity, and glory — they chose to follow the greatest illusion of all, which is politics. They swore an oath of loyalty to the revolution. They did not break faith."

If these two KGB memoirs make compelling reading, Soviet journalist Yevgenia Albats' short history **THE KGB: THE STATE WITHIN A STATE** (Farrar, Straus & Giroux; 401 pages; \$25; translated by Catherine A. Fitzpatrick), does not. Although a useful book to have published in the Soviet Union in 1992, it is largely derivative of Christopher Andrew and Oleg Gordievsky's "KGB: The Inside Story" (1990). Albats' fears of a possible resurgence of the KGB's influence on Russian society are, however, both real and justified.

There is a trio of new books on Israeli intelligence. **THE OTHER SIDE OF DECEPTION: A ROGUE AGENT EXPOSES THE MOSSAD'S SECRET AGENDA** (HarperCollins; 315 pages; \$24) continues the dubious saga of Victor Ostrovsky, supposed renegade former Mossad agent. The book is open to the same objections that were raised against his best-selling "By Way of Deception," namely that he offers no real proof to back up his sensational assertions. Here, for example, he claims that Mossad helped plan lethal biological experiments on Palestinians and South African blacks and murdered the German prime minister of Schleswig Holstein, Uwe Barschel.

**IN HITLER'S SHADOW: AN ISRAELI'S AMAZING JOURNEY INSIDE GERMANY'S NEO-NAZI MOVEMENT** (Doubleday; 275 pages; \$24.95) is the curious account by Israeli detective-adventurer-journalist Yaron Svoray of

his allegedly successful efforts to penetrate the contemporary German neo-Nazi movement. Doubtless the neo-Nazis should be taken seriously, but the mere fact that they supposedly let Svoray, a self-described non-Aryan-looking guy with a heavy Israeli accent, into their inner circle raises serious questions about their sanity. Inexplicably, Svoray's book, co-authored by Nick Taylor, contains an introduction by Simon Wiesenthal, whose Los Angeles center funded many of Svoray's exploits, although surely the crafty old Nazi hunter must have seen through Svoray's feeble facade.

By far the best of the three is **CIRCLE OF FEAR: MY LIFE AS AN ISRAELI AND IRAQI SPY** (Brassey's; 318 pages; \$24.95). This is a fascinating account of the career of a double agent, Hussein Sumaida, an Iraqi who spied for Israel, was caught by Saddam Hussein's security forces and was then forced to spy for Iraq. Sumaida managed to flee Iraq and settle in Canada in 1990 but had to await the outcome of the Gulf War to be reunited with his wife, Ban. The portrait he (along with co-writer Carole Jerome) draws of Saddam and the brutal Ba'ath regime is stark and unforgettable. ■

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