

Week 1: Introduction

A. Approaches to study of Intelligence

-Historical, organizational, functional, issue related

-Two views on intelligence: cloak and dagger, spies vs. social science, analysis

-Study of intelligence increasingly viewed as relevant to study of history, international relations and national security. But hindered by secrecy. End of Cold War and gradual declassification process helping. Much more openly available.

B. Definition of Intelligence

-Three elements define intelligence as a product: what, why and for whom?

a. sensitive information and analysis

b. relevant to national security issues and threats

c. to inform key policymakers and support vital operations

C. Scope of Intelligence

-national/strategic vs operational/tactical

-Strategic: who, what, why? General threat. Helps planning

-Tactical: when, where, how? Specific threat. Helps operations

D. Intelligence Activities or disciplines

-Collection. Gathering data from human, technical or open sources

-Analysis. Evaluating information and drawing conclusions, Relevant, reliable., timely, objective.

-Counterintelligence. Protect information, catch spies, deceive opponents.

-Covert action. Clandestine policy influence with plausible deniability.

E. Why Intelligence?

-Policymakers need to be informed. Not all is openly available. Threats still exist. Desire to avoid surprise. Threats no longer just foreign. Need interaction with domestic law enforcement.

-Intelligence agencies are part of executive branch. Source of permanent expertise. Expected to inform policy decisions and support policy once decisions made.

-But policies often controversial. Partisan politics prevail. Intelligence must remain objective: easier said than done. "Politicization".

-Intelligence agencies need to protect our own secrets and sensitive policies. Damage to sources and methods. But also needs oversight. Otherwise, it can be wasteful or illegal.

F. Bottomline. Intelligence controversial. Americans don't like secrecy. Gets easy headlines. Much study of failures, little of successes. Intelligence as scapegoat: "There are only policy successes and intelligence failures"