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## Culling Gems from the Vast Ocean and Harnessing Them Broadly: A Review of the Postprint of *Foreign Intelligence Science and Intelligence Work*

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### Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] This review of the book *Foreign Intelligence Science and Intelligence Work* aims to enable readers to understand the development status, characteristics, and trends of intelligence science and intelligence work in major countries worldwide, as well as their reference value and lessons for China's intelligence science and intelligence work.

[Method/Process] Employing content analysis and inductive-deductive methods, this paper evaluates the main features of the book from perspectives including overall content and key aspects.

[Results/Conclusion] The book is a representative monograph that demonstrates the overall development of intelligence science and intelligence work in major countries worldwide, explores the connotation and scope of the intelligence discipline, and investigates the developmental experiences of intelligence work. Based on systematic and rich materials, this research provides important references for exploring and expanding the future development direction of China's intelligence discipline and intelligence undertaking in the digital intelligence era.

### Full Text

## Finding Pearls in the Vast Ocean: A Review of *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services*

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**Abstract:** [Purpose/significance] This paper reviews the book *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services*, aiming to help readers understand

the development status, characteristics, and trends of intelligence studies and intelligence services in major countries worldwide, and to provide references for China's intelligence discipline and practice. *[Method/process]* Using content analysis, induction, and deduction, this paper evaluates the book's main features from the perspectives of overall content and key aspects. *[Result/conclusion]* This book is a representative monograph that demonstrates the overall development of intelligence studies and services in major countries, explores the connotation and scope of the intelligence discipline, and investigates development experiences in intelligence work. Based on systematic and abundant materials, this study provides an important reference for exploring and expanding the future development direction of China's intelligence discipline and intelligence enterprise in the digital intelligence era.

**Keywords:** foreign intelligence studies; foreign intelligence services; book review

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In the digital intelligence era marked by big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, facing increasingly complex domestic and international situations, national security, development, and innovation have endowed intelligence studies and intelligence services with new missions during this critical period of challenges and opportunities. It has become a consensus in the intelligence community to reconsider the role and boundaries of intelligence studies and services, reposition the development goals of the intelligence discipline, re-examine the nature and functions of intelligence work, further leverage intelligence's role as "eyes, ears, vanguard, and advisor" and its "guiding" function, and strive to improve the alignment between intelligence work and national development and security.

Throughout the development of China's intelligence studies and services, absorbing and drawing upon intelligence theories and academic perspectives from around the world while strengthening academic and professional exchanges with international intelligence scholars and practitioners is a practical need for advancing China's intelligence discipline. In this context, Professor Chu Jingli, leading a group of domestic young and middle-aged scholars, spent three years overcoming the impact of the sudden pandemic and language barriers to conduct systematic, comprehensive, and in-depth research on intelligence studies and services in eight countries—the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Israel, India, and Australia—based on detailed materials, and completed the book *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services*.

As a researcher in intelligence studies, I had the privilege of reading the manuscript at the earliest opportunity. Although I had some understanding of major countries' intelligence studies and services from years of learning and research, I had not yet formed a systematic and clear cognitive framework.

While reading this monograph, the basic contours and systematic frameworks of intelligence studies and services in major countries gradually became clear. Upon closing the pages and reflecting carefully, the distinctive features of this work also became increasingly apparent.

## **1. Comprehensive Scope: Presenting the Global Landscape of Intelligence Studies and Services**

In recent years, digital and intelligent development has endowed intelligence with new connotations, blurred intelligence boundaries, and expanded intelligence application fields. However, due to differences in national conditions, culture, education systems, and development history, different countries have different understandings of the connotation of intelligence studies and the scope of intelligence services, resulting in distinct paths and characteristics in their intelligence disciplines and enterprises.

*Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services* adopts an international perspective with localized viewpoints, using a unified analytical framework across five dimensions: origin and development, theoretical foundations, operational mechanisms, intelligence scholars, and education. This structured approach comprehensively and systematically presents the history, characteristics, and development trends of intelligence studies and services in eight major countries. On this basis, employing comparative perspectives and fine-grained identification methods, the book conducts comprehensive comparative analysis across different dimensions and levels, both within and across layers, systematically revealing the integrated whole of intelligence studies and services in major countries—their research, application systems, implementation methods, and social conditions. By seeking the “most basic consensus” and “greatest common divisor,” it explores the fundamental laws in the development of intelligence studies and services across nations, providing basic guidelines for better advancing China’s intelligence discipline and practice.

It is precisely this panoramic display based on a grand intelligence perspective that presents the diverse landscape of global intelligence studies and services to readers. This monograph has become one of the few domestic works that comprehensively covers, systematically organizes, and reveals the development patterns of intelligence studies and practical experiences of intelligence services in major countries worldwide.

## **2. Inclusive Approach: Exploring the Connotation and Scope of the Intelligence Discipline**

Although intelligence and information cannot be clearly separated, there remains considerable debate regarding the disciplinary scope and core of intelligence studies based on “information” versus “intelligence” perspectives. Meanwhile, “intelligence is a developing and dynamic concept”—while its essence remains stable, its connotation and functions continuously evolve with social

development. Therefore, researching the connotation and scope of intelligence disciplines in various countries from an international perspective in the digital era is an extremely challenging task.

Leading his team with an inclusive mindset, meticulous analysis, and masterful capability, Professor Chu Jingli, rooted in the Chinese context and based on in-depth excavation and analysis of collected materials, presents readers with a relatively complete picture of the disciplinary scope systems of intelligence studies in major countries through *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services*, elucidating the connotation of the intelligence discipline from a grand intelligence perspective.

From a national perspective, the book systematically organizes each country's disciplinary scope, research objects, and theoretical contributions. From a localized perspective, it meticulously analyzes educational characteristics and scholars' viewpoints, forming a global picture of intelligence systems composed of objective systems, tool systems, and application systems, as well as a disciplinary scope system for intelligence studies. On this basis, it outlines the basic contours of intelligence discipline connotation and scope worldwide. This panoramic disciplinary analysis and scope construction based on a grand intelligence perspective will provide insights for the connotation-based construction and development of China's intelligence discipline and hold important value for strengthening, improving, and promoting disciplinary development.

### **3. Interwoven Analysis: Investigating Success and Development in Intelligence Services**

Globally, due to the diversification of intelligence service objects across different countries and industries, each nation has formed intelligence systems and operational models adapted to its national conditions, presenting distinct development paths. *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services* takes “regional characteristics” and “national models” of intelligence services as its main analytical threads. From a global and holistic perspective, it horizontally presents the panoramic development trends of intelligence enterprises and service paths in major countries. Simultaneously, focusing on each country's intelligence services, it vertically analyzes the “institutional embeddedness” of global intelligence enterprises as a key entry point, examining from various aspects—including environment, intelligence content, technology, workflow, effectiveness, and cognition across different national contexts—to explore the basic models, coordination relationships among elements, and the characteristics, advantages, experiences, and laws of intelligence service development. This interwoven horizontal and vertical approach forms the book's distinctive analytical framework and three-dimensional presentation.

Based on this framework, the monograph conducts in-depth analysis starting from the decomposition, comparison, and benchmarking of different facets and dimensions of national intelligence enterprises. It examines the U.S. intelligence

system embedded across all areas of national security and development; Russia’s whole-nation intelligence mechanism closely related to science, technology, military, defense, security, and counter-terrorism that plays a key role in national strategic interests; and Japan’s “intelligence-based nation” system with unique “oriental” characteristics permeating all aspects of society. There is no best model, only the most suitable one. Through analysis of these typical national intelligence mechanisms and operational models, the book presents readers with the complex, competitive yet intermingled development trends of intelligence enterprises and services in the current multipolar and diversified international pattern, as well as development models where intelligence systems match national ideology, political orientation, strategic policies, national security, and specific national conditions—further establishing the concept and cornerstone of grand intelligence.

This interwoven, three-dimensional analytical model not only provides a research paradigm for analyzing and studying national intelligence enterprises and services but also offers references for clarifying the positioning and development strategies, working mechanisms, and models of China’s intelligence enterprise.

#### **4. Eclectic Synthesis: Exploring Development Strategies for China’s Intelligence Enterprise**

*Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services* adopts an international perspective and Chinese academic viewpoint, grounded in the grand intelligence concept, to conduct objective and realistic organization, comparison, and benchmarking research on intelligence studies and services in major countries worldwide from the perspectives of information content, processing methods, management models, governance mechanisms, and disciplinary development. Its fundamental purpose is to open new vistas for intelligence studies and services with Chinese characteristics in the digital era.

Looking internationally, the book systematically organizes the exploration paths and solutions of major countries in the development of intelligence studies and services through contradiction analysis among elements such as intelligence environment, content, technology, governance mechanisms, effectiveness, and cognition. It draws lessons and extracts insights, and based on diagnosis and understanding of China’s intelligence enterprise development stage, level, and bottlenecks, proposes development strategies including: an intelligence structure integrating civil and military intelligence under the national security and development framework; a diversified intelligence management pattern with coordinated division of labor among military intelligence, public security intelligence, competitive intelligence, library and information science, scientific and technological intelligence, and social science intelligence; and a “two wings” intelligence effectiveness positioning serving national security and development based on the “eyes, ears, vanguard, and advisor” function. This eclectic and visionary approach will provide important references for promoting mutual integration and support across intelligence fields in China, achieving organic civil-

military intelligence integration, and exploring future development directions for the intelligence enterprise.

In summary, *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services* is a discerning and essence-extracting work produced during the critical period of redefining the development of intelligence studies and services under the guidance of national development and security thinking. It will further promote the role and value of intelligence studies and services in national innovation, development, and security. The only shortcoming is that perhaps due to language barriers, the analysis of some countries' intelligence studies and services relies heavily on secondary sources such as laws, policies, and government documents, lacking primary source materials. If primary sources could be collected and obtained in a timely manner to further enhance the timeliness and depth of the research content, its value would be even greater. Additionally, intelligence studies and services in more countries may each have distinctive features worth further exploration and presentation to strengthen the global perspective of intelligence studies and services.

## References

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**Abstract:** *[Purpose/significance]* This paper reviews the book *Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services*, in order to make readers understand the development status, characteristics and trends of intelligence studies and intelligence services in major countries in the world, also provides the references for intelligence studies and intelligence services in China. *[Method/process]* Using the methods of content analysis, induction and deduction, this paper evaluated the main characteristics of the book from the overall contents and main aspects. *[Result/conclusion]* The book is a representative book showing the overall development of intelligence studies and intelligence services of major countries in the world, and exploring intelligence discipline connotation and category and the intelligence development experience. Based on system abundant data for

the study, this book will provide an important reference for exploring and expanding the future development direction of intelligence studies and intelligence services in China in the wisdom era.

**Keywords:** foreign intelligence studies; foreign intelligence services; book review

*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

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