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Adapting to the Times, Innovating with the Situation—A Review of the Post-print Edition of ‘New Era Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Work Series’

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] Emerging technologies and new social demands have created opportunities for the development of intelligence studies and intelligence work, while also imposing higher and novel requirements on intelligence research and service capabilities. Only through pursuing transformation can intelligence studies and intelligence work achieve healthy and rapid development.

[Method/Process] The pursuit of transformation in intelligence studies and intelligence work primarily encompasses a return to the essence of intelligence and pioneering innovations in application domains. The “Series on Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Work in the New Era” (hereinafter referred to as “the Series”) represents precisely a research achievement oriented toward “changing with the times and innovating according to circumstances.”

[Results/Conclusions] The content of the Series constitutes a logically complete system, encompassing: disciplinary construction and education in intelligence studies, theories and methods of intelligence studies, intelligence work, the developmental history of intelligence studies, foreign intelligence studies and intelligence work, among others. It will undoubtedly exert practical and far-reaching impacts on theoretical innovation in intelligence studies and the development of the intelligence enterprise.

Full Text

Adapting to the Times and Innovating with the Trend: A Review of *The Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services Series in the New Era*

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Abstract:

[Purpose/Significance] Emerging technologies and new social demands have created opportunities for the development of intelligence studies and intelligence services, while also imposing higher and newer requirements on intelligence research and service capabilities. Only by seeking change can intelligence studies and intelligence services achieve healthy and rapid development. [Method/Process] The transformation of intelligence studies and intelligence services mainly includes a return to the essence of intelligence and the exploration and innovation in application fields. *The Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services Series in the New Era* (hereinafter referred to as “the Series”) represents research achievements oriented toward “adapting to the times and innovating with the trend.” [Result/Conclusion] The content of the Series forms a logically complete system encompassing: intelligence studies discipline construction and intelligence education, intelligence theories and methods, intelligence services, the history of intelligence studies development, and foreign intelligence studies and services. It will undoubtedly exert realistic and long-term influence on theoretical innovation in intelligence studies and the development of the intelligence enterprise.

Keywords: intelligence studies; intelligence education; intelligence services; foreign intelligence; intelligence history; national strategy; big data

Currently, the development of intelligence studies and intelligence services has entered a new era. On one hand, emerging technologies such as “cloud, IoT, mobile internet, big data, and intelligent technologies” have comprehensively penetrated intelligence research paradigms, service models, and operational processes. On the other hand, social demands including technological innovation, economic development, social governance, and foreign competition and confrontation have placed new and higher requirements on intelligence capabilities. It is undeniable that intelligence services centered on documentation and information work remain incompatible with the trends of the times and social needs, and traditional intelligence theories and methods are inadequate for explaining and solving new problems. The intelligence enterprise can only achieve healthy development by adapting to the times and innovating with the trend.

Since the 1950s, intelligence has played a vital role as “eyes, ears, vanguard, and staff” in breaking technological blockades, promoting scientific and technologi-

cal development, and supporting economic construction. Since the shift from “intelligence” to “information” in the 1990s, the meaning of intelligence has become generalized, leading to the alienation of its proper functions and characteristics. Concerned about the declining status, weakening discourse power, and developmental imbalance of intelligence studies, the academic community has increasingly called for a return to the essence of intelligence [1]. Intelligence is not equivalent to information; intelligence, intelligence studies, and the intelligence enterprise remain irreplaceable. From the standpoint of “intelligence,” this means returning to its true nature—tracing its origins, emphasizing its essence, and restoring its original historical mission, fundamental tasks, research or work objects, and disciplinary or operational boundaries [2]. Intelligence studies is an interdisciplinary field that inevitably evolves from studying its own domain to comprehensive cross-domain research, enriching and perfecting its content by drawing on theories and methods from other disciplines, and ultimately developing unique theories and methods of its own. Today’s intelligence studies and intelligence services must adopt a broad intelligence perspective to expand application fields, introduce advanced and applicable thinking, concepts, and interdisciplinary methods and technologies, and innovate theories and methods.

The new era, new technologies, and new national strategies have endowed intelligence studies and intelligence services with a new mission, creating tremendous room for growth [3]. In recent years, the intelligence studies community has produced numerous studies on transformation and innovation, including: defining the discipline’s connotation and extension, summarizing its fundamental academic propositions, categories, viewpoints, and ideas, and further clarifying the direction, priorities, and pathways for discipline construction; intelligence services and research oriented toward national scientific and technological innovation development strategies; and expanding new disciplinary fields to support national think tank research and construction [4]. Among these, the scholar leading systematic, holistic, and theoretically innovative research is Professor Su Xinning from Nanjing University. In 2017, the National Social Science Fund Major Project “Research on the Development Path of Intelligence Studies Discipline Construction and Intelligence Services,” with Professor Su Xinning as chief expert, was approved. After more than three years of research, the project yielded fruitful results, with the Series representing an important compilation of these achievements.

Published by Scientific and Technical Documentation Press, the Series comprises 11 volumes [5], with lead authors from nine universities including Nanjing University, Peking University, Renmin University of China, and University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as two research institutes: Beijing Institute of Science and Technology Information and the Academy of Military Sciences. Contributors are distributed across dozens of universities and research institutions nationwide. Grounded in local realities yet with a global perspective, highlighting distinctive features while strengthening foundations, the Series spans intelligence theories, methods, education, and services, covering both the

history and future of intelligence studies and services, and balancing domestic and international perspectives. It establishes new foundations, positions, pathways, and chapters for the future development of intelligence studies and services, reflecting the 编著 team's grand vision, strategic thinking, and great mission for intelligence theories and methodological systems in the new era.

2. Brief Analysis of the Series Content

The 11 volumes constitute a complete logical system of intelligence studies and services from the perspectives of discipline, education, theory, method, and practice. They fully embody the “transformation, integration, and innovation” thinking for intelligence enterprise development in the new era, “breaking” through disciplinary status quo transformation and “establishing” through disciplinary space expansion, thereby laying the foundation for the healthy and sustainable development of intelligence studies and services.

2.1 Intelligence Studies Discipline Construction and Intelligence Education *Intelligence Studies Discipline Construction and Development* by Professor Yang Jianlin and colleagues from Nanjing University systematically examines intelligence discipline construction. Based on a historical review of the discipline's development and using problem analysis and theoretical differentiation as entry points, the book analyzes the basic principles and theoretical system of intelligence studies from a philosophical height and through corresponding paradigms and schools. It then investigates the impact of concepts such as “overall national security,” “national think tank strategy,” “big data environment,” “scientific and technological progress and social development,” and “national competitive environment” on discipline construction. The book's main theoretical innovations include: first, focusing on theoretical transformation in the big data environment, exploring innovation and reconstruction of intelligence theories from essential issues such as research paradigms and theoretical cores, attempting to address the problem of new understandings of classical theories by re-examining them in new contexts; second, using the integration of Information and Intelligence paradigms as guiding ideology to construct the knowledge system of intelligence studies from multiple dimensions. This book represents a re-positioning of intelligence studies within the context of national security and social development, holding important reference value for charting a distinctly Chinese path in intelligence discipline development.

Intelligence Education System and Talent Cultivation by Professor Wang Dongbo and colleagues from Nanjing Agricultural University provides a comprehensive review of intelligence education in China. Using deep learning and other intelligent technologies, the book conducts in-depth mining and analysis of educational data (courses, training programs, research directions, etc.) from important domestic and international intelligence education institutions obtained through questionnaire and online surveys. Addressing the disconnect between intelligence theory and practice in talent cultivation, the book explores

reforms in the intelligence studies curriculum system based on investigations of societal and national strategic demands for intelligence talent. Particularly in the big data environment, the book expands its vision into the data science field, extracting talent skill entities from data science job postings to explore curriculum design content that guides the intelligence discipline to keep pace with the times. This book provides detailed data for comprehensively understanding domestic and international intelligence education and offers a basic foundation for transforming intelligence studies education.

2.2 Intelligence Theories and Methods *Intelligence Studies Theory: Philosophical Foundations and Applied Development* by Professor Wang Fang and colleagues from Nankai University analyzes important theories of intelligence studies from a philosophical perspective and conducts comprehensive investigations into their applications. The book both summarizes and analyzes foundational theories including ontology, epistemology, and meta-theory of intelligence studies, and identifies characteristics of theoretical research in China’s intelligence studies—namely, a primary focus on structural/relational theories, with theoretical development concentrating on the information society, users and information behavior, while also paying considerable attention to informetrics, knowledge management, and information resources and knowledge services. The book’s philosophical understanding of intelligence theories and its research on the characteristics of theoretical applications provide important guidance for constructing intelligence theories with Chinese characteristics.

Intelligence Studies Research Methods and Technical Systems by Professor Zhang Chengzhi and colleagues from Nanjing University of Science and Technology both comprehensively organizes general methods (first-level categories) and specialized methods (second-level categories) of intelligence studies. Combining natural language processing and machine learning methods, the book learns from and extracts research method entities in the intelligence studies domain from corpora, constructs the intelligence studies methods and technical system using clustering methods, and develops a knowledge base and retrieval system for intelligence research methods. Additionally, the book explores intelligence studies method systems in specific scenarios. This book lays a solid foundation for innovation in intelligence research methods and provides a key for solving practical problems.

2.3 Intelligence Services and Systems *The Development of China’s Intelligence Services in the New Era* by researchers Wu Chensheng and Li Hui from Beijing Institute of Science and Technology Information stands at the forefront of China’s intelligence service development. Against the backdrop of national security governance, economic and social development, and big data intelligence environments, and focusing on the two core issues of “transformation” and “integration,” the book systematically reviews the development history of intelligence services across various fields in China, analyzes the new situations and practical dilemmas facing the transformation and development of China’s intelligence

services, conducts in-depth research on the role positioning, mission responsibilities, and key tasks of intelligence services under new circumstances, and proposes dominant ideas for transforming traditional intelligence services and strategies and pathways for developing intelligence services. This book holds important practical significance for reconstructing China's intelligence service order with the purpose of "national strategy" and promoting the transformation of intelligence research institutions into important think tanks.

Research on National Intelligence Service Systems from a Big Data Perspective by Professor Ma Haiqun and colleagues from Heilongjiang University first investigates intelligence service systems and the environment of national intelligence work in developed foreign countries. Focusing on the impact of the big data perspective and the overall national security concept on national intelligence service systems, and emphasizing the former, the book analyzes the development of China's intelligence service systems under the big data perspective from domestic and international perspectives in terms of policy and legal systems, new strategic layouts, and institutional models, and constructs a model for China's intelligence service system under the big data perspective. Grounded in domestic realities with a global perspective, this book provides important guidance for macro-level governance of intelligence services suited to China's national conditions.

2.4 Intelligence Perception and Application *On Intelligence Perception* by Professor Wang Yanfei and colleagues from Peking University addresses environments where uncertainty in problems faced by intelligence work increases and relationships between evidence become more concealed and variable. Upholding the intelligence purpose of "solving decision-makers' information incompleteness problems" and focusing on the intelligence mission of "early warning and far-sightedness," the book explores the laws and norms of intelligence perception by distinguishing intelligence task types and processes, thereby helping to compensate for limitations of traditional intelligence analysis methods and providing advanced concepts and tools for intelligence academia and enterprise development.

Intelligence and Think Tanks by Professor Chu Jingli and colleagues from University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences) addresses the national think tank strategy and people's vague understanding of the relationship between intelligence and think tanks. The book explores the correlation and mutual promotion between intelligence and think tanks, analyzes the role of intelligence in various stages of think tank operations, and provides theoretical foundations for the positive interaction between intelligence and think tanks and the think tank transformation of intelligence institutions.

Competitive Intelligence Analysis Methods and Applications by Professor Xu Xin and colleagues from East China Normal University focuses on the big data environment and innovation development needs, systematically exploring the entire

chain of methods for big data collection, monitoring, organization, storage, and analysis for competitive intelligence. On this basis, the book further delves into specific scenarios, proposing methods for technology competitive intelligence analysis oriented toward fields and market intelligence analysis oriented toward industries. This book holds important reference value for competitive intelligence analysis work in the new era.

2.5 History of Intelligence Studies Development *The History and Development Process of Chinese Intelligence Studies* by Professor Zhou Xiaoying and colleagues from Renmin University of China provides a comprehensive review of the development of China's intelligence enterprise since the mid-1950s when intelligence studies was born. The book uncovers little-known events, clarifies vague concepts, generalizes concepts from numerous events, analyzes development backgrounds, processes, and outcomes, and ultimately clearly outlines the evolution of intelligence studies development, summarizing its developmental laws. From the perspectives of intelligence discipline, education, and services, this book provides detailed facts and data for understanding the development process of intelligence studies and offers a basic perspective for exploring the development tension of the intelligence enterprise and establishing a Chinese-characteristic intelligence studies system.

Foreign Intelligence Studies and Intelligence Services by Professor Chu Jingli and colleagues from University of Chinese Academy of Sciences investigates and analyzes the origins and development, theories, education, and services of intelligence studies in eight developed countries (the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Israel, India, and Australia). The book summarizes the social impacts and characteristics of intelligence studies and services development in these countries, examines China's development from a comparative perspective, and proposes targeted development strategies based on China's national conditions. This book provides rich data for systematically understanding intelligence studies and services in developed foreign countries (both English-speaking and non-English-speaking) and holds important reference value for establishing an intelligence studies system with Chinese characteristics.

3. Contributions of the Series

The Series represents a monumental academic work with comprehensive content and a complete system since the birth of intelligence studies, with many volumes addressing topics published for the first time in China. It embodies the collective wisdom of China's intelligence academia and community and China's unique contributions to global intelligence studies development, representing a positive response to the construction of disciplinary, academic, and discourse systems for philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics.

3.1 Theoretical Contributions

- (1) **Expanding disciplinary scope.** The scope and caliber of a discipline are crucial; clinging to tradition will block many development pathways [6]. Only by expanding disciplinary scope in accordance with the trends of the times can a discipline maintain its vitality. The Series broadens its vision to the big data environment and national strategies such as think tanks, national security, and development, greatly expanding its objects of study and correspondingly extending its knowledge system. Its value orientation has also changed, avoiding low-level introduction of information technology and enhancing its impact on social and economic development. The National Social Science Fund Major Project “Research on the Development Path of Intelligence Studies Discipline Construction and Intelligence Services” convened over 140 scholars from more than 40 institutions in the intelligence community, unprecedented in scale, scholar participation, and fruitful outcomes. This massive scholarly effort has produced the Series with significant theoretical innovation and a complete system, which will play an important role in promoting innovative development of China’s intelligence discipline and education, breakthroughs in intelligence theories and methods, and transformation of intelligence services in the coming years.
- (2) **Promoting theoretical innovation.** For intelligence studies to gradually mature, it must achieve major breakthroughs in its theoretical system, which in turn must address two critical issues: philosophical foundations and methodology. The Series conducts in-depth explorations of these issues, powerfully promoting theoretical innovation in intelligence studies. Notably, the Series re-examines past fundamental theories and principles of intelligence studies, exploring theoretical transformation in the current development environment, breaking the theoretical silence that has persisted in intelligence academia for nearly 30 years, and reversing the weak theoretical situation.
- (3) **Deepening understanding of intelligence studies development.** The Series conducts extensive domestic and international investigations around intelligence education, disciplinary development, and intelligence services progress, accumulating rich data. Objectively speaking, such large-scale, systematic, and complete investigation work is unprecedented in intelligence academia, powerfully deepening people’s understanding of intelligence studies development and providing abundant data support for building intelligence studies with Chinese characteristics.

3.2 Contributions to the Intelligence Enterprise

- (1) **Strengthening the foundation of intelligence discipline construction.** Guided by the integration of Information and Intelligence paradigms, the Series constructs the basic framework of the intelligence studies disciplinary system, laying a solid foundation for building the knowledge system of intelligence studies and for curriculum and teaching

development.

- (2) **Promoting the development of intelligence education.** The Series provides rich materials for core curriculum development in academic master's, academic doctoral, and professional master's programs in library and intelligence studies, offering realistic foundations for reforming talent cultivation programs for high-end intelligence professionals.
- (3) **Innovating intelligence service operations and management.** At the top-level design, the Series proposes construction models for national intelligence service systems; at the operational level, it systematically analyzes the mission, key tasks, and capability building of intelligence services in the new era around “transformation” and “integration,” providing theoretical foundations for the think tank transformation of intelligence institutions and offering theories and norms for innovating intelligence work methods.

The intelligence enterprise must “adapt to the times and innovate with the trend.” This requires continuously enhancing the theoretical contribution and practical innovation capabilities of both academia and the professional community, and continuously strengthening the driving force for the development of the intelligence enterprise.

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

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