Many experts on security intelligence distinguish ‘mysteries’ from ‘secrets’. Mysteries (e.g. can Pakistan survive the threat it faces from the presence of insurgents in its western provinces?) are worldly phenomena that governments may wish to understand, but which are difficult to fathom given the foibles of human beings, not least their inability accurately to foretell the future. Secrets (e.g. the number of nuclear submarines in the Chinese navy), however, are more susceptible to understanding. Indeed, with the right spy in place, with surveillance satellites in their proper orbit, or with reconnaissance aircraft well-positioned in enemy airspace, secrets can be deduced, but governments are largely limited to thoughtful speculation about the planet’s deeper mysteries. Either way, prudent states will seek to establish intelligence-gathering agencies to ferret out secrets and help productively to ponder mysteries.

Serious academic work focusing on issues in and around this kind of activity flourishes as never before, and this new four-volume collection from Routledge’s Critical Concepts in Military, Strategic, and Security Studies series addresses the need for an authoritative reference work to make sense of a rapidly growing and ever more complex corpus of scholarly literature. Intelligence is fully indexed and includes a comprehensive introduction, newly written by the editor, which places the collected materials in its historical and intellectual context. It is destined to be valued by scholars and students as a vital one-stop research and pedagogic resource.
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44. Hayden B. Peake, 'OSS and the Verona Decrypts', Intelligence and National Security, 1997, 12, 14–34.

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Counterintelligence and Civil Liberties
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Implications

A Comparative Perspective