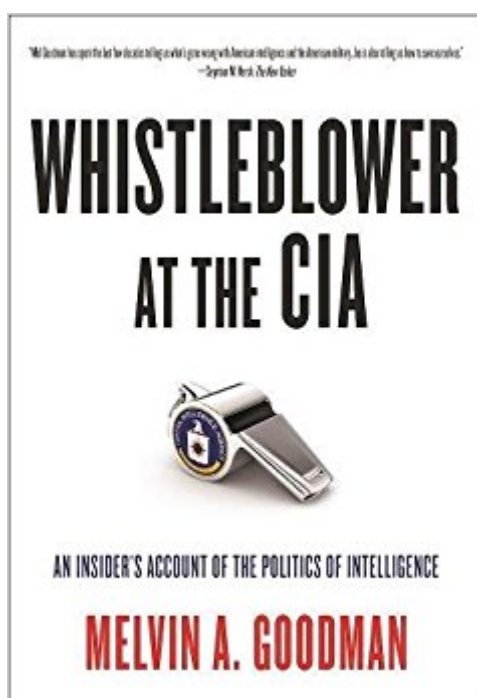


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Whistleblower At The CIA: An Insider's Account Of The Politics Of Intelligence



Synopsis

"Mel Goodman has spent the last few decades telling us what's gone wrong with American intelligence and the American military . . . he is also telling us how to save ourselves."--Seymour M. Hersh, *The New Yorker*"Whistleblower at the CIA offers a fascinating glimpse into the secret, behind-the-scenes world of U.S. intelligence. Melvin A. Goodman's first-person account of the systematic manipulation of intelligence at the CIA underscores why whistleblowing is so important, and why the institutional obstacles to it are so intense. . . . At its core it's an invaluable historical expose, a testimony to integrity and conscience, and a call for the U.S. intelligence community to keep its top leaders in check. Urgent, timely, and deeply recommended."--Daniel Ellsberg"In this fascinating and candid account of his years as a senior CIA analyst, Mel Goodman shows how the worst enemies of high quality intelligence can come from our own midst, and how the politicization of intelligence estimates can cause more damage to American security than its professed enemies. Whistleblower at the CIA is a must-read for anyone interested in the intricate web of intelligence-policymaking relations."--Uri Bar-Joseph, author of *The Angel: The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel*"Mel Goodman shines a critical whistleblower light into the dark recesses of the CIA as a former insider. His book serves in the public interest as a warning and wake-up call for what's at stake and why we cannot trust the CIA or the intelligence establishment to do the right thing."--Thomas Drake, former NSA senior executive and whistleblower"Mel Goodman's Whistleblower at the CIA is not just an insider's look at politics at the highest levels of government. It's also a personal account of the political odyssey Goodman had to negotiate for telling the truth. The CIA likes for its employees to believe that everything is a shade of grey. But some things are black or white, right or wrong. Mel Goodman did what was right. He may have paid with his career, but he's on the right side of history."--John Kiriakou, former CIA Counterterrorism Officer and former Senior Investigator, Senate Foreign Relations Committee"Mel Goodman's Whistleblower at the CIA confirmed for me what my own experience had revealed during six hectic days and seven sleepless nights at CIA headquarters, getting Colin Powell ready for his presentation to the UN Security Council on Iraq's 'Failure to Disarm' on February 5, 2003. Mr. Goodman provided exhaustive detail on why the agency has failed, again and again, and will continue to fail if some future president and congress do not step in and dramatically change the way CIA functions."--Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to secretary of state Colin Powell"A refreshingly honest, well-sourced expose of the CIA that not only furnishes the author's compelling personal story of standing up to inflated estimates sprinkled with little-known but historically significant details of the jewels and the warts, the successes and failures of decades of U.S.

intelligence analysis. Especially instructive to our current era plagued by faulty group-think and the 'war on whistleblowers,' the book chronicles how 'contrarian' analysts are often 'the best source for premonitory intelligence.' This book is a must-read not only for political historians and American citizens wanting to know the unvarnished and often surprising truth about the intelligence side of the CIA but for all students contemplating a career with the CIA or other intelligence agency.

•Coleen Rowley, retired FBI agent
Melvin Goodman's long career as a respected intelligence analyst at the CIA, specializing in US/Soviet relations, ended abruptly. In 1990, after twenty-four years of service, Goodman resigned when he could no longer tolerate the corruption he witnessed at the highest levels of the Agency. In 1991 he went public, blowing the whistle on top-level officials and leading the opposition against the appointment of Robert Gates as CIA director. In the widely covered Senate hearings, Goodman charged that Gates and others had subverted "the process and the ethics of intelligence" by deliberately misinforming the White House about major world events and covert operations. In this breathtaking expose, Goodman tells the whole story. Retracing his career with the Central Intelligence Agency, he presents a rare insider's account of the inner workings of America's intelligence community, and the corruption, intimidation, and misinformation that lead to disastrous foreign interventions. An invaluable and historic look into one of the most secretive and influential agencies of US government--and a wake-up call for the need to reform its practices.

Melvin A. Goodman served as a senior analyst and Division Chief at the CIA from 1966 to 1990. His writing has appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Harper's, and many others. He is author of six books on US intelligence and international security.

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Customer Reviews

Melvin A. Goodman: During his 42-year government career Goodman served official positions in the CIA, Army, State Dept. and Dept of Defense. Senior fellow at the Center for International Policy and an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins, he is author of "National Insecurity: The Cost of American Militarism" (with City Lights) and "Failure of Intelligence: The Decline and Fall of the CIA."

Terrific read. An invaluable personal perspective on the recent history the CIA. Goodman a professional analyst clear shows how and who compromised the Agency's mission and perverted it into a politicized arm of the deep state. Must read as rhetoric replaces rational foreign policy.

Lots of information

Great

This book is a little narcissistic, a little repetitive of some points and issues, and the author Goodman might have too big a personal axe to grind against some of the persons named, especially former CIA director, Robert Gates. But, it offers a fascinating insight into the CIA. Goodman reveals stories within the Agency and about it that no outsider can possibly know. Goodman's account purports to cover the period from 1966 (when he joined) to 1986 (when he left the CIA) but he goes beyond to recent events. Goodman outlines the early years in the CIA and explains its internal set-up with the two main divisions, Directorate of Operations and the Directorate of Intelligence keeping a firewall so thick that even the staff eat at separate canteens. He explains the role and importance of intelligence agents like himself, and the failure of the agency to appreciate that role. Instead, he claims that director after director had made the CIA so politicised that it panders to the White House. He lays the blame for the government's failure to foresee and be prepared for major geopolitical shifts, such as the collapse of the USSR on the CIA directors. An example of the many fascinating perspectives of the CIA's role is found in the chapter named "The Joy of Intelligence" in which Goodman claims that then National Security Advisor,

Zbigniew Brzezinski maintained a hawkish view of the Russians and believed that their invasion of Afghanistan in 1979-1980 was a precursor to further expansion. Goodman's analysis was that the Russians believed that the Americans would be back in Iran after their ouster in 1979 and thus wanted to be in Afghanistan as a counter-balance. Goodman says that the Intelligence sector within the CIA did not know that Brzezinski had already sanctioned covert operations against the Russians in 1979. Goodman believes that the recent U.S. overreaction to Russian policy toward Ukraine suggests that history may be repeating itself. Goodman's most stinging theme is that the conduct of the Americans in Afghanistan and the Middle East, some of which amounting to the level of war crimes, has contributed to the quagmire the USA finds itself in. It is not possible to understand the present turmoil in the Middle East and The Persian Gulf without recognizing the illegal and immoral invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the expansion of the war in Afghanistan. Goodman sheds light on the failure of three successive directors who failed to disclose the damage by the CIA agent, Aldrich Ames, who gave immense amount of secrets to the Russians, and then falsely claiming credit for Ames' arrest when it was a Russian defector who provided the information. The main personal target in this book was Robert Gates who joined the CIA shortly after Goodman, but his fortunes in the Agency and in the political arena rose as Goodman's fell. The chapter, Melvin Goodman v Bob Gates is a fascinating account of their friendship turned sour. The title of this book has "Whistleblower" on it. Goodman explains what he considers whistleblowing to be and why people do it. He believes that whistleblowing can be a patriotic act. Benjamin Franklin was one of the earliest whistleblowers, he said, when he disclosed that the militaisation around Boston was not because of the British but Thomas Hutchinson, the Governor of Massachusetts. Goodman describes past cases of whistleblowing that were, in his view, for the good of the Agency and the nation, but the whistleblowers were punished and some jailed. He leaves his opinions on Chelsea Manning and Snowden's roles to public debate, but he is offended by the fact that big names like General Petraeus who not only got away but has been doing well giving lucrative public lectures and joined a private equity firm. Petraeus gave his mistress eight notebooks of classified information so that she can help him write his biography. "A dissenter can make a huge difference in righting wrongs" [but] whistleblowers, dissidents, and leakers are rarely honoured. Although whistleblowers are often vindicated both legally and morally for their revelations, they are typically ridiculed, vilified, and subject to retaliation, Goodman says. The 379 pages of this book is vast treasure

for intelligence seekers.

I have taken 3 courses on international relations with this author. He is highly intelligent and has a superbly insightful mind. But he doesn't abide stupid comments. His background is amazing. He knows a lot of the characters about whom he writes, especially Secy of Defense Gates, for whom he has little respect. This book will give the average person great insight into how the intelligence and law enforcement operations of the federal government are managed. You will see from his book that there are two types of people involved, those who want to get ahead by telling their superiors what the superiors want to hear, and those who are intellectually honest and have self respect, calling the shots as they seem them. Having read this book, you will be better able to understand the news as you watch or read it. Barry Blyveis

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