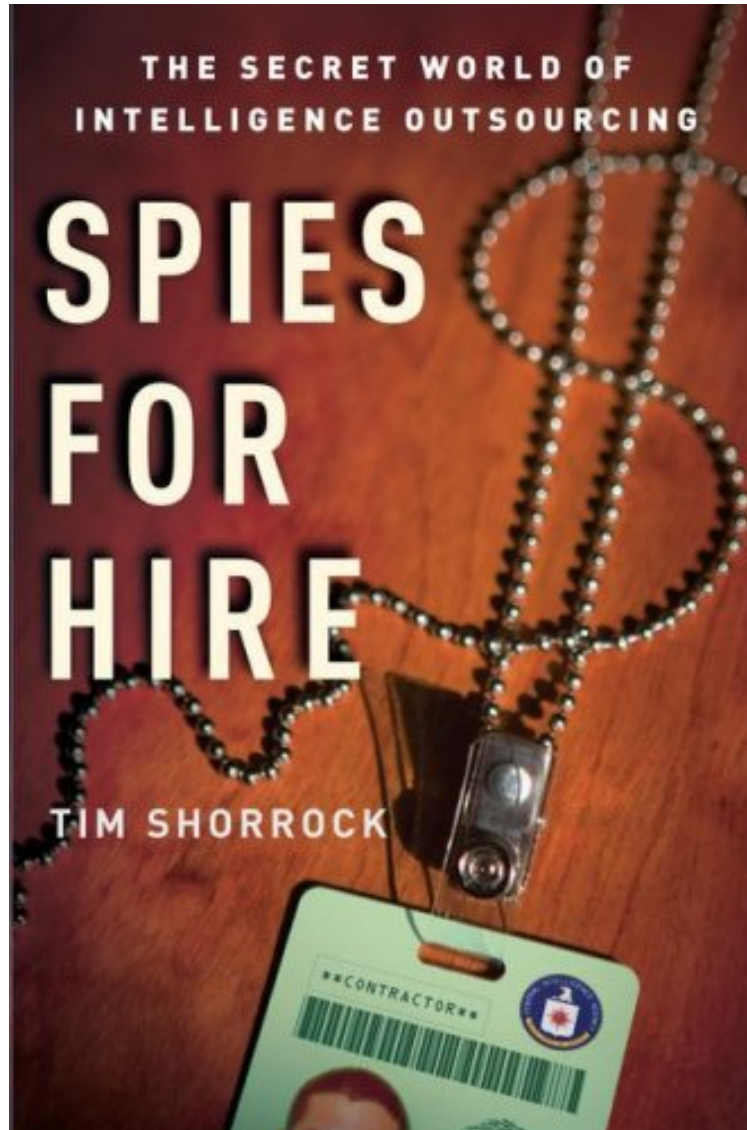


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Spies for Hire: The Secret World of Intelligence Outsourcing

Tim Shorrock

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Tim Shorrock : Spies for Hire: The Secret World of Intelligence Outsourcing before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spies for Hire: The Secret World of Intelligence Outsourcing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book By Glen Robertson This book really goes into detail about how the intelligence field and its spy work is being outsourced today. Yes James Bond still has a place in this world but he would most likely be a private contractor instead of employed at CIA or MI6 1 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. 3 for Research, 1 for Conclusions
By David Southworth
This is an interesting and timely book. The author has done an impressive amount of research on the insidious relationships between senior national security members of the US government and the contracting companies who support them. The revolving door between senior policy and decision makers in the US government and private companies is over the top. Many government employees see their federal service solely as a means of sweetening their post retirement contracting gigs. However, with all this research he makes some poor conclusions. He implies that companies have armies of cleared employees just floating out in the ether. In fact, all of those cleared employees must be working on US government work, or else they would not have clearances. He all but states that private industry drives government decision making. There may be some degree of influence, but to say for example that private industry helped send the country to war in Iraq is just wrong (the president and his senior leadership deserve "credit" for that). And while the intelligence community budget is large and has grown exponentially since 9/11, the author makes no effort to distinguish between big ticket items such as satellites and spy planes and the personnel who support them or analyze what these expensive toys put out. To say that a majority of the intel budget goes to private industry might be true, but that is because government doesn't actually build most things anymore (and hasn't since at least WWII), Lockheed, Boeing, Raytheon et al have most of that capability now. This is a thought provoking though frustrating work. The author should have done is homework on procurement and the differences between how different "INTs" operate.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Good Read
By George
The book is well-referenced, making skillful use of first-person sources. Each chapter is filled with information and provide deeper insight into what, in some books, is just a listing of factual information.

In *Spies for Hire*, investigative reporter Tim Shorrock lifts the veil off a major story the government doesn't want us to know about - the massive outsourcing of top secret intelligence activities to private-sector contractors. Starting during the Clinton administration, when intelligence budgets were cut drastically and privatization of government services became national policy, and expanding dramatically in the wake of 9/11, when the CIA and other agencies were frantically looking to hire analysts and linguists, the intelligence community has been relying more and more on corporations to perform sensitive tasks heretofore considered to be exclusively the work of federal employees. This outsourcing of intelligence activities is now a \$50 billion-a-year business that consumes up to 70 percent of the US intelligence budget. And it's a business that the government has tried hard to keep under wraps. *Spies for Hire* provides the first behind-the-scenes look at this new way of spying. Shorrock shows how corporations such as Booz Allen Hamilton, Lockheed Martin, SAIC, CACI International, and IBM have become full partners with the CIA, the National Security Agency, and the Pentagon in their most sensitive foreign and domestic operations. He explores how this partnership has led to wasteful spending and threatens to erode the privacy protections and congressional oversight so important to American democracy. From CIA covert actions to NSA eavesdropping, from Abu Ghraib to Guantanamo, from the Pentagon's techno-driven war in Iraq to the coming global battles over information dominance and control of cyberspace, contractors are doing it all. *Spies for Hire* goes behind today's headlines to highlight how private corporations are aiding the growth of a new and frightening national surveillance state.

From Publishers Weekly
Even James Bond is temping these days. According to investigative journalist Shorrock, the CIA and other intelligence agencies now have more contractors working for them than they do spies of their own. Often former staff hired back at double or triple their former government salaries, these private contractors do everything from fighting in Afghanistan to interrogating prisoners, aiming spy satellites and supervising secret agents. Shorrock gives a comprehensive at times eye-glazing rundown of the players in the industry, and his book is valuable for its detailed panorama of 21st-century intelligence work. He uncovers serious abuses contractor CACI International figured prominently in the Abu Ghraib outrages and nagging concerns about corrupt ties between intelligence officials and private corporations, industry lobbying for a national surveillance state, the withering of the intelligence agencies' in-house capacities and the displacement of an ethos of public service by a profit motive. However, the bulk of the outsourcing Shorrock unearths is rather pedestrian, involving the management of mundane IT systems and various administrative services, and this expos insinuates more skullduggery than it demonstrates. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A sterling example of why investigative journalists are valuable during an era of deep, broad and unconscionable government secrecy." ---Kirkus
About the Author
Tim Shorrock is an investigative journalist whose work has appeared in many publications in the United States and abroad, including the Nation, Mother Jones, the Los Angeles Times, and the Asia Times. Reader of over 400 audiobooks, Dick Hill has won three coveted Audie awards and been nominated numerous times. He is also the recipient of several AudioFile Earphones Awards. AudioFile includes Dick on their prestigious list of "Golden Voices."