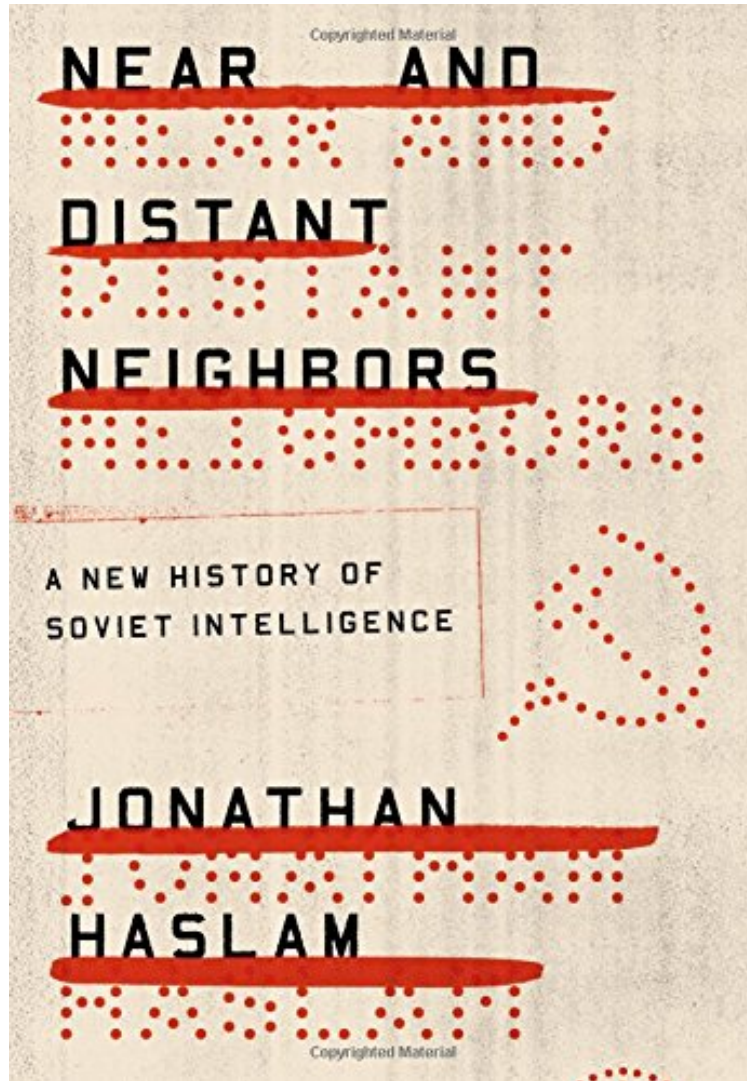


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Near and Distant Neighbors: A New History of Soviet Intelligence

Jonathan Haslam

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Jonathan Haslam : Near and Distant Neighbors: A New History of Soviet Intelligence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Near and Distant Neighbors: A New History of Soviet Intelligence:

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Kenney Jonathan Haslam has written a book on the history of the Cheka and the GRU and the rivalry (279 pages of text and 88 pages of footnotes.) Haslam failed to identify the V Cheka properly. The V, lacking throughout the book, stands for All Union. On December 20, 1917 the V KGB (FSB) was ordered to work the entire Soviet union beyond Leningrad at the expense of all other intelligence, police or judicial service. The GRU was formed in 1922 with little fanfare. No organizational charts for either service are included. Absent are documents of guidance, geographical boundaries of operation, police powers, training and weaponry. The V Cheka has its own Army, Navy, Air Force and Border Guards, 250K bodies. The GRU has very small military units. How and why did this difference occur? On 19 April 1943, the Red Army (Lt-Gen Kuznetsov) created a reconnaissance board within the Red Army to handle all intelligence previously assigned to the GRU. The GRU's dismissal almost put it out of business. No story or footnotes given here. Nothing about its revival. The Red Army used, in the main, its own agents behind German lines. Melanie McLane is asserted as having been informed by McLane that he was a Soviet Asset. No footnote. If this is so the entire history and interpretation of the Cambridge Five needs overturning and re-interpretation.. Richard Sorge famous and very effective asset in Tokyo is asserted as being up for execution upon his return to Moscow. Did neither testify to his bona fides with sufficient fervor to keep him alive and reports accepted by Stalin.? No footnote. How did Philby, by brilliant committee, work get The Venona Papers embargoed for years after their compilation when their exposure would have led to the Cambridge spies much earlier Robert Kennedy is written having met with a Soviet intelligence officer from the Soviet Embassy and in the course of their discussion formed the "Core" of the Crisis's. No foot not or corroboration. I can attest no such influence on the Commission existed. The British ambassador who JFK considered the brightest man in Washington after Bundy was the sole foreigner who came to know the smallest bit about the crisis. Art Lundahl (founder and head of the National Photographic Center) Paul Nitze and RFK made critical imports to the discussions. These three with JFK's agreement, kept History lurching along in a peaceful direction. Full disclosure I was Art's navy junior, his student and I hope the friend of this great man. We worked in class from JFK's charts. Haslam ducks the comic entanglement of the KGB and GRU in Africa during the sixties and seventies. They attempted to recruit the same agents, failed to learn English, French and the tribal languages. Untanned Ukrainian junior officers strolled the streets and caused horrific scenes with traffic police and in restaurants A sight to see. Blatant misstatements; "The White House paid little attention...South America." The Canal Zone belonged to the US and the FBI had an enormous presence there. The Bureau became very interested in all of South America after fleeing Nazi leaders were said to absconded to second homes there. "U S Deputy resident" No such animal. "Artificial satellite" Never saw one. p 121 "Allen Dulles was not a very smart man." Only a very stupid or ill informed man would make that statement. All those repeat all those who worked around him knew him to be a brilliant and sympathetic man at the height of his powers n one of the world's toughest jobs. Disagreements there were, he was difficult to persuade. This book does not tell the story of the modern Russian intelligence systems. Its few pages skip from topic to topic with little depth or explication. For example, why was a non professional intelligence officer Ann Chisholm, not known as a Fort Monmouth graduate allowed to service Penkovsky? Little depth or explication here. The book begins in error, spends its middle on well traversed turf and ends in a whimper. Is this book a fraud? W.....

A uniquely comprehensive and rich account of the Soviet intelligence services, Jonathan Haslam's *Near and Distant Neighbors* charts the labyrinthine story of Soviet intelligence from the October Revolution to the end of the Cold War. Previous histories have focused on the KGB, leaving military intelligence and the special service--which focused on codes and ciphers--lurking in the shadows. Drawing on previously neglected Russian sources, Haslam reveals how both were in fact crucial to the survival of the Soviet state. This was especially true after Stalin's death in 1953, as the Cold War heated up and dedicated Communist agents the regime had relied upon--Klaus Fuchs, the Rosenbergs, Donald Maclean--were betrayed. In the wake of these failures, Nikita Khrushchev and his successors discarded ideological recruitment in favor of blackmail and bribery. The tactical turn was so successful that we can draw only one conclusion: the West ultimately triumphed despite, not because of, the espionage war. In bringing to light the obscure inhabitants of an undercover intelligence world, Haslam offers a surprising and unprecedented portrayal of Soviet success that is not only fascinating but also essential to understanding Vladimir Putin's power today.

“Undaunted, Jonathan Haslam has inspected the workings of the Soviet Union’s entire spying machinery from the October Revolution to the end of the cold war, and produced, in *Near and Distant Neighbors*, an account of the KGB and its military counterpart, the GRU, that is, he says, “about as comprehensive as can be contained within one volume, given prevailing restrictions.” Certainly, one would not ask for more. Haslam’s book is full of colorful characters who excel in stealing secrets and killing people, including their own colleagues. Haslam writes that in 1938 Pavel Sudoplatov, arguably the most talented of the KGB’s assassins, murdered a Ukrainian nationalist in Rotterdam with an exploding cake. These accounts of early Russian derring-do could spawn a shelf of noir paperback thrillers.”
?Robert Cottrell, *The New York of Books* “Intelligence was central to Soviet security policy, and yet until now we have lacked a comprehensive history of it. This Jonathan Haslam has given us, with extensive research and penetrating

analysis. From the internal intrigues to the foreign exploits, the story is as fascinating as it is important” ?Robert Jervis, author of *Why Intelligence Fails: Lessons from the Iranian Revolution and the Iraq War*“A meticulous survey of Russian and Western sources makes for a lively account of the history of all the Soviet intelligence agencies--the first time anyone has succeeded with this.” ?Robert Service, emeritus professor of Russian history, St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, and author of *Trotsky: A Biography*About the AuthorJonathan Haslam is the George F. Kennan Professor at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. He is also a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and a professor emeritus of Cambridge University.