

***The Intelligence beyond the Anglosphere:  
Mediterranean and Balkan Regions***

***Edited by John M. Nomikos and Joseph Fitsanakis***

**Summary**

The region that covers the Balkans and the Mediterranean has historically served as a bridge between the East and the West, between Europe, Asia and Africa. Historically these areas have witnessed the interaction and collision of various empires, religions and civilizations. The last three decades, the Balkans and the Mediterranean region, have experienced a plethora of security challenges. Starting from the disintegration of Yugoslavia to the aftermath of the so-called Arab Spring, ethnic cleansing, political turmoil, fundamentalism, organized crime, terrorism, illegal immigration and foreign interventions have largely shaped the regional security agenda. Despite the fact that there is a vast literature that addresses the security challenges in these regions, a text that provides insight into intelligence developments that have taken place over the past years, was lacking.

There is no doubt, that there is a great need for understanding the social, political and cultural factors that will shape the future of these regions. Intelligence is about understanding and the intelligence function, the collection, correlation, analysis, and dissemination of relevant information, is integral to national and regional security. Intelligence has never been more important to international affairs than it is nowadays. The *Intelligence beyond the Anglosphere: Mediterranean and Balkan Regions* fills this gap and presents an exposition and analysis of intelligence issues. John Nomikos and Joseph Fitsanakis have edited a unique compilation of essays that discuss matters like intelligence reform, the relationship between media and the intelligence community, the importance of financial intelligence, the democratization of intelligence agencies, the relations between the intelligence services and the executive branch, the intelligence cooperation within the EU, and in general the historical and cultural factors that shape intelligence practice. This well-written and comprehensive collection of essays provides hard to find information and knowledge into a number of rarely discussed case studies like Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania, Greece, Cyprus and many more. This book also serves as an example of how the intelligence studies literature has evolved in a region that has been largely neglected by the western intelligence scholarship. The latter has been constrained by an ethnocentric approach on intelligence. Very often, Anglo-Saxon scholars presume that their understanding of intelligence is also a universal one. The editors assembled an outstanding group of regional experts and gave voice to a plurality of viewpoints. The *Intelligence beyond the Anglosphere: Mediterranean and Balkan Regions* provides a survey of intelligence aspects in countries that would rarely be available to scholars and practitioners that have no knowledge of the foreign languages.

**Book Review Statements**

*The editors of this volume are to be commended for a very interesting collection of contributions from well-informed authors on the Mediterranean and Southeastern part of Europe. There is a great need for a volume like this that addresses such a volatile region, whose security issues often do not receive the academic and policy attention they deserve from outsiders. The different contributions pay attention to the issues of the past quarter of a century since the end of the Cold War. Special attention is paid to intelligence reforms, the wars in Former Yugoslavia, organized crime, corruption and migration issues. As the authors discuss the degree of success in reforming the intelligence services, often transitioning from a totalitarian to a democratic context, the legacies of the past get a prominent position in the diverse contributions. Thus the embeddedness in time, tradition and geographical location impresses*

*itself on the reader and contributes to a cross-boundary and cross-cultural understanding of the intelligence systems in this part of the world.*

**Bob de Graaff**, Professor for Intelligence and Security Studies at the University of Utrecht ; Chairman of the European Chapter of the International Association for Intelligence Education (IAFIE) ; and co-editor of the Handbook of European Intelligence Cultures.

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*“This work is not only a commendable piece of unique scholarship, contributing to a body of knowledge in desperate need of diversification, but it will hopefully act as a guiding light and inspiration to other scholars in the field who wish to begin building in earnest deeper knowledge about how intelligence is constructed and operates outside of the more dominant American and British schools of thought. Focusing on the Mediterranean and Balkan regions offers a wealth of rich, little-known detail and should be the first step in a hopeful onslaught of future works covering other regions even further removed from the Anglosphere.”*

**Dr. Matthew Crosston** is Vice-Chairman of Modern Diplomacy and Editor-in-Chief of the Global South policy initiative, the Journal of Rising Powers. He was the founding director of the International Security and Intelligence Studies program at Bellevue University, an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence, and is a member of the Editorial Boards at the Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. He serves on the Science Board of Directors for Secretum, the Polish Journal of Intelligence and is the only invited American blog analyst for the Russian International Affairs Council.

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