

### The Hidden Hand: A Brief History of the CIA

By Richard H. Immerman



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*The Hidden Hand* is a succinct accessible and up-to-date survey of the Central Intelligence Agency's history from its inception in 1947 to the present.

- Covers both aspects of the CIA's mission the collection and analysis of intelligence and the execution of foreign policy through covert, paramilitary operations
- De-mythologizes the CIA's role in America's global affairs while addressing its place within American political and popular culture
- Written by an esteemed scholar and high-ranking officer in the intelligence community, drawing on the latest research
- Assesses the agency's successes and failures, with an eye to the complex and controversial nature of the subject



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"I highly recommend Immerman's history as a corrective." (Journal of American History, 3 January 2016)

"Written in clear terms with excellent summaries of complex events, The Hidden Hand makes a mass of history and bureaucratic strife manageable to newcomers of the subject. ...The redactions in this volume serve as an introduction for would-be scholars to the risks of researching so close to the circles of power and authority." (*Intelligence and National Security*, 6 February 2015)

"Richard H. Immerman, who teaches the history of American foreign policy and intelligence at Temple University, has produced a fine, concise history of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The Hidden Handhas three major virtues: it is fair-minded, readable and up-to-date, including a useful insider's analysis of how the creation of the new position of National Director of Intelligence (NDI) in 2005 has affected the role of the CIA and its director." (Survival: Global Politics and Strategy, 1 January 2015)

"Meantime, as far as the book under review is concerned, It's a very well written piece of history and well referenced with numerous end-of-chapter source notes." (*Nurturing Potential*, 1 March 2014)

#### Review

"Richard Immerman's brief history of the CIA is, I believe, the best one currently available." – John Lewis Gaddis, Yale University

"In this important book, Richard Immerman examines the torturous history and mixed record of the CIA. Arguing that the agency was engulfed from its inception in controversy between intelligence analysts and covert operators, Immerman laments the agency's post-9/11 trajectory toward paramilitary operations. If you are looking for a good, short text in your courses on intelligence history, this should serve you well."

—Melvyn P. Leffler, Edward Stettinius Professor of American History, University of Virginia

"The hidden Hand provides a balanced and informative history of CIA covert actions, why they were undertaken, and what they accomplished." –Thomas Fingar, Former Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis

"Born in conflict and steeped in controversy, the CIA remains extraordinarily difficult to understand. But now it has a fair and insightful biography. Richard Immerman bring to the task the skills of an accomplished historian and the personal experience of having seen it from the inside. The result is fascinating and important." – Robert Jervis, author of *Why Intelligence Fails: Lessons from the Iranian Revolution and the Iraq War* 

#### From the Back Cover

Since its inception in 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency has played an outsized role in the political life of

the United States, whether by formulating and implementing policy or by fueling popular culture and imagination. *The Hidden Hand* is a succinct accessible and up-to-date history of the agency that succinctly takes the reader from its early days of intelligence gathering and analysis to its more recent involvement in the execution of foreign policy through covert operations, psychological warfare, and other programs. In manageable chapters and easy-to-digest prose, the author—a respected scholar who has researched intelligence for more than 30 years and also served as a high-ranking officer in the intelligence community—covers all aspects of the CIA from its mission to its performance to its record. He draws on the latest evidence and research to assess the agency's successes and failures over the last half century, highlighting key operations of the past and present. Throughout, his assessment is balanced and thorough with an eye on the complex and controversial nature of the subject. This is a masterful account that demythologizes the CIA's role in America's global affairs while addressing its integral place within American political and popular culture.

#### **Users Review**

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