Evolution And Development of Intelligence in International Relations

Dr Inwang B. Utin

Department Of History and Diplomatic Studies
Akwa Ibom State University
Obio Akpa Camps
Research Gate Handle: Inwang B. Utin

Abstract
The intelligence community has come to stay following its advent and evolution from a long time ago. Even in the early biblical times intelligence was adopted in espionage and spying by the children of Israel over the land of Cannan flowing with milk and honey. For instance, it was the intelligence report received by Moses that enhanced a smooth operation that led to the conquest of that land and outright possession of it. As nation States emerged, diplomatic alliances and collaborations formalized and deepened the evolution of intelligence. This study found out that non-State actors including terrorist and insurgent groups have equally used intelligence as its major tool for information gathering before launching mayhem on an area. The intelligence organizations of States surpass that of terrorist organizations in all ramification and can therefore be used in full capacity to contain any plans of terrorist groups, militia and even community conflict. The paper uses analytical method of historical writing and relied mainly on secondary sources to analyse the evolution of intelligence, argues that intelligence has become a major mechanism used by States for security purposes. The study proffered that intelligence and early warning mechanisms can be used together to combat any act of subversion of any kind by either terrorist, militia or insurgent organizations.
Keywords: Evolution, Development, Intelligence, International Relations.

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Introduction

Intelligence is an integral part of statecraft concerned with the gathering of information. The information collected is usually processed and adopted for governmental activities. It is an information system of government but not ordinary information gathered by journalist. It has a more restricted meaning and operation than ordinary information gathering. It is more restricted and has linkages with international relations, defense, national security and secrecy. Intelligence is a strategic adjunct of national power and a crucial element in decision making in terms of national security, defense, and foreign policies.

From time immemorial, intelligence gathering has been a fundamental part of human affairs. For instance, in ancient days, soothsayers claimed to communicate with the gods, they also claimed to have the power to predict the future, however reports by these soothsayers were usually ignored by policymakers. Similarly, during the Bible times, Moses on the advice of the Almighty God sent intelligence agents to spy out the land of Canaan. Twelve Agents spied the land of Cannan and returned after 40 days. The report by the spies enables the Israelites to initiate a fundamental strategy in order to annexed the land of Cannan. This article focuses on the evolution and development of intelligence. The article has the following subheadings which include the history and evolution of intelligence, intelligence during the modern era, intelligence during the cold war, the advent of intelligence in some selected countries and the application of intelligence in the age of insecurity and terrorism.

History Of Intelligence

The application of intelligence in governance dates back in history. Ancient and pre-modern societies relied on intelligence for information during war or peacetime. The information gathered enhanced quick action so that opposing areas would not have an edge over them. During the pre-Modern era usually referred to as "Pre-modern Intelligence," soothsayers acted as intelligent agents. They claim that they had the power to communicate with the gods and could also predict the future. It is claimed that reports from these soothsayers were ambiguous and were usually ignored by policymakers. During the time of Moses according to the Bible, spies were sent as agents to spy the land of Canaan. These spies were in Canaan for forty days and on return reported to Moses and the people of Israel that the land was indeed flowing with milk and honey but occupied by people more powerful than the Israelites. The intelligence report ignited fear on the people who rebelled against Moses and were punished by God. However, the intelligent report enables the Israelite to prepare adequately against the Canannite.

During the fourth 4th century BC, the ancient Chinese Author Sun Tzu wrote a book on intelligence and titled "The Art of War." The book identifies five secret agents which included:

- The double Agent: these agents were deployed from the adversary's intelligence and security service.
- The Deceptive Agent provided fake information to confuse the enemy.
- The Expendable Agent, whose losses enable other more important agents to operate.
- The Penetration Agent, had access to enemy's senior leadership.
- Agent in Place had full access to the enemy's secrets.

Sun Tzu also wrote on the essence of good intelligence organization, counter-intelligence, and psychological warfare.

In Europe, intelligence was adopted for statecraft during the Middle Ages but was not well organized. Similarly, in the 15th century, the Italian City-States established full time mission in State headquarters. The Italians used these permanent embassies as intelligence sources and even developed codes and ciphers that enabled information to be communicated. During the 16th century other State government also followed the Italian style of intelligence. The eventual development of nationalism resulted in the growth of standing armies and professional diplomat. Intelligence organizations were established as well as series of steps for procuring foreign intelligence were developed. Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603) of England maintained an intelligent organization and Sir Francis Walsingham (1532–1590) developed a network of intelligent Agents in foreign countries. Walsingham recruited graduates of Oxford and Cambridge as secret agents and also developed the craft of espionage as well as tools and techniques for making and breaking of codes; he also engaged fully in foreign political activities. Notable intelligence systems were equally developed by Armand Jean du Plessis (1585-1642), Cardinal Richelieu (1599–1658). During this time, British intelligent operation included secret channels of communication, the penetration of émigré circles, and the assassination of enemies of the State. During the 18th century, there was need to separate organization devoted to internal security, known as counter

intelligence and those concerned with external foreign intelligence. Outstanding reforms of the intelligence unit in Europe is credited to King Frederick the Great (1740–1786) of Prussia. Major innovations also took place under German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck (1815–1898) who established the intelligence gathering function of the General Staff. Under Wilhelm Steber, a single military intelligence agency was established and it became the world's first large-scale intelligence gathering organization that served as a state eyes on the outside world[1].

Intelligence During the Modern Era

The entry of Europe into international politics in the late 19th century required greater strategic intelligence in order to compete favorably with other powers in the age of advancement in military and communication. The era witnessed growth in counter-intelligence. The outbreak of the First World War is widely regarded as the failure of intelligence in the sense that the French intelligence service was already weakened due to internal intrigues resulting in gross mistake of German military strength in 1914. The French underrated German technical and tactical capabilities. Similarly, the German intelligence service had also deteriorated resulting in the German General Staff losing faith in the information from the intelligence office[2]. The British had a very sound general staff who succeeded in breaking German naval codes and use the information obtained to speed up United States entry into the war. The British exposed German attempt to involve Mexico in a war with the United States. Also, the tactical intelligence given by British commanders at the western front was misleading in terms of its assessment of Germany's military capabilities. The United States at this time did not have any intelligence agency or organization of its own. In fact, at the start of World War I, the United States Army intelligence was only a small section of the General Staff of two officers and two clerks. When the war ended, the service had developed up to 1,200 officers and civilians. However, it should be noted that US intelligence community during this time were staffed by amateurs without efficiency in administration.

The aftermath of World War I and its attendant intelligent lessons together with advancement in technology (electronics and aircraft technology) resulted in the proliferation of new intelligent agencies in the 1920s and 1930s most especially in totalitarian States of Germany, Italy and other democratic European countries. The advent of the Second World War in 1939 and the policies of Soviet Union, Italy, Germany, and Japan's expansion and annexation of territories prompted greater increased in intelligence organization across the world. In 1942, the United States established a full-fledged agency for secret operations and intelligence known as Office of Strategic Services (OSS). The most strategic achievement of the second world war was the launch of the Ultra project. The United Kingdom used a German encoding machine the ENIGMA to intercept and decipher top secret Germany military communications throughout the remaining period of the second world war. The ultra-project helped the allies to read the minds of the German Supreme Command. Ultra-enhanced the defeat of German U-boats fleet and the German surface navy[3]

Intelligence During the Cold War

The advent of the ideological War in 1947 between the United States and the defunct Soviet Union ushered in a new era in intelligence in all parts of the world. During the period, the intelligence community became the largest industry with the highest human resources and personnel. Intelligence agencies were created by nearly all countries of the world. During this period, the United States created the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 1947. Other outstanding intelligence organization includes the United Kingdom's MI5 and MI6, the Soviet Union KGB (Committee for State Security), France created the SDECE (External Documentation and Counter-Espionage Service), China's MSS (Ministry of State Security) and the Mossad of Israel including the Nigerian State Security Service (SSS) (later DSS (Directorate of State Service)). By the mid-1980s, regional powers including even small States developed intelligence service for their country.

The last two decades into the end of the Cold War saw the United States of America developed the imagery and signals intelligence. This included the satellite photography which was used in collecting information on Soviet Union weapons of mass destruction. The collapse and breakdown of Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War ushered in new comers into the industry of intelligence. These included non-state actors such as terrorist organizations, militias, and drug cartels. These groups developed elaborate intelligence and counter-intelligence capacity that matches some of the State Actors, for instance, the Al Qaeda Islamic group that masterminded the September 11, 2003 attack on the US. The Al Qaeda has an intelligence apparatus with outstanding operations base in the Middle East, Europe, and North America.

The intelligence architectures of the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union have become a model for most allies of these powers. For instance, the United State intelligence system have been adopted by

many countries that have been influenced by the US. The same goes with that of the Soviet Union in most Communist countries and that of the United Kingdom by most countries with parliamentary system of government.

The Advent of Intelligence in Some Selected Countries

The United States

During the Second World War II, the United States with no intelligence organization decided to create the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Later during the Cold War era, it became imperative to establish a central organization for defense. However, there were arguments on the level of centralization. Some wanted a single overarching intelligence system that would eliminate independent units operated by the army, navy, and the state department. Still others wanted a creation of a state department for technical military intelligence. However, the outcome of the debate was a compromise to establish the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency).

Department and Agencies were given the mandate to operate their own intelligence department. The outcome was the development of an intelligence community which included the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), a separate army, navy, air force intelligence staffs, State Department Intelligence, the National Security Agency (NSA), a Department of Energy nuclear intelligence unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The National Security Act of 1947 is the basic charter for all American Intelligence. The charter legally assigned 5 specific functions to the CIA which include:

- Advice the NSC on intelligence matters related to national security.
- Recommend to the NSC measures for efficient coordination of intelligence activities of departments and agencies of government.
- Collection and evaluation of foreign intelligence and ensuring that it is communicated to the government.
- Carrying out additional services for the intelligence agencies.
- Carrying out other functions and duties related to national security intelligence as the NSC may direct.

The CIA also conduct secret political and economic intervention, psychological warfare, and paramilitary operations in other countries. The CIA also has four major directorates in charge of Intelligence, Operations, Administration, Science and Technology. It is headed by a Director and Deputy Director both appointed by the president and also subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) is responsible for two outstanding roles, first as head of the CIA and a leading adviser to the president on intelligence matters relating to national security. The principal responsibility of the FBI is domestic counter-intelligence. The FBI Director serves under the Attorney General in the Department of Justice. Assistant Director of FBI heads the National Security Division. Its budget and personnel and organization are secret. The FBI and CIA sometimes cooperate in counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism and in an effort to combat international crime the National Security Agency (NSA) is in charge of signal intelligence which has to do with the making and breaking of codes and ciphers. It was established by presidential directives in 1952. It is the largest and most expensive and also the least known of all US intelligence organizations. It is headed by a high-ranking military officer. It is under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. It carry out espionage activities. They make use of sophisticated listening devices placed on planes and ships and on ground installations overseas[4].

Soviet Union and Russia

The KGB started as Cheka, secret police established by the Bolsheviks in 1917. In 1922, the Cheka was reorganized as the GPU (State Political Administration). In 1934, it was renamed the NKVD (Peoples Commissariat for Internal Affairs). Further reorganization took place during World War II which included the emergence of the Ministry of State Security (MSB). The climax of the reorganization of Soviet intelligence took place when the KGB was established in 1954. There were other intelligence agencies in the Soviet Union which included the GRU (Chief Intelligence Office). The KGB carried out foreign intelligence and counter-intelligence and security, maintained security in the armed forces and watched potential traitors in the military and intelligence service.

Even with the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Russia's intelligence service and counter-intelligence remain strong most especially the Federal Security Service (FSB) responsible for internal security and counter-intelligence. The Intelligence Service (SVR) engages in recruitment and espionage activities especially for CIA and FBI.

The United Kingdom Intelligence Services

The intelligence agency of the United Kingdom was organized along modern line during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I. The intelligence service of the UK has been preserved through high level secrecy in terms of its organization and operations. The organization has faced the challenge of huge number of indigenous people who double as agents. These includes the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). SIS was known during the war time as MI6 and also the British security service MI5. M15 and M16 is derived from the fact that the intelligence was once Section 6 the military intelligence and the security service Section 5. The MI6 is a civilian organization just like US CIA. It is responsible for gathering information from overseas and also perform other strategic services such as foreign espionage and covert political intervention. It maintains high level of secrecy to the extent that its director is commonly called "C" and is a highly anonymous figure.

The MI5 is British equivalent of the US FBI. Its primary responsibility is to protect British secrets at home from foreign spies and also prevent foreign spies and domestic sabotage, subversion and also theft of state secrets. MI5 is headed by a Director General who report to the Prime Minister through the Home Secretary. The code name of the MI5 Director is "K". The designation is derived from the name of Sir Vernon Kell, its chief from 1909 to 1940. The MI5 works secretly with the more publicized Special Branch of Scotland yard. The Defense Intelligence Service (DIS) is another member of the British intelligence community which is an integral part of the Ministry of Defense Intelligence specialists from the Royal Army, Navy and Air Force. The next is the Communication Intelligence which specializes in electronic surveillance and cryptology. Its operations are conducted from the Government Communication Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham.

Intelligence in the Age of Insecurity and Terrorism

After the cold war new comers emerged in the intelligence industry and this included Non-State Actors such as Terrorist Organisations and militia groups. These groups have developed outstanding counter intelligence capacity. Some of these groups include the Alqaeda, Hisbola, Hamas, Boko Haram, ISWAP and also ethnic militia organisations such as the Niger Delta militia groups in Nigeria and rebel groups in countries such as Congo DRC, Sudan, Liberia and others. These terrorist organisations have promoted and intensified conflict and crisis in most countries of the world. For insatance the Alqaeda masterminded terrorist attack on the United States in September 11 2003. that resulted in the collapse of the world trade centre, causing massive destruction and greater loss of of human lives. Similarly terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hisbola have prolonged and intensified crisis in the Middle East resulting in continuous loss of lives and properties. For example, the conflict between Hamas and Israel has resulted in intermittent attack on GAZA and other part of Palestine leading to genocide[5] resulting in waste of human lives and wanton destruction of properties. This has resulted in refugee and other humanitarian issues in the area. Militia groups in some African countries such as Nigeria, Congo DRC, and Sudan have equally resulted in intra national conflict. For instance, in DR Congo militia groups have taken over some areas in the country causing mayhem and violence in the country. Insurgent activities by ethnic militia groups in Nigeria resulted in destruction and vandalization of oil pipelines and hostage taking of government and oil workers[6].

Although conflict is inevitable and unavoidable due to human nature it should not be allowed to escalate without due attention[7]. The responsibility of government is to protect lives and properties, intelligence as a statecraft should be used adequately to contain the trend of terrorism and ethnic militia activities. These groups have intelligence networks in most countries of the world which enhanced their operations on States. As a State craft, State intelligence architecture has the capacity to surpass that of terrorist organizations, therefore it should be used adequately to counter the activities and networks of terrorist organizations.

Intelligence and early warning mechanisms can be used together to combat the activities of terrorist, militia organizations and also civil wars and community conflict[8]. Intelligence will enhance detection of early signs of terrorist and militia activities as well as civil wars and community conflict. Once detected, government security operatives take over the control of the area thus averting destructive manifestation by agent of destruction and other forms of crisis that may occur.

Conclusion

This chapter analyzed the history and the evolution of the intelligence service which dates back in time. Right from the time of the Israelites, Moses sent spies on intelligence mission in order to conquer the land of Canaan which was flowing with milk and honey. Sun Tzu writing on intelligence in the Art of War identified five secret agents. Similarly, Italian City-States established permanent embassies in foreign capitals and also used these

permanent embassies as intelligence sources and developed codes and ciphers that enable information to be secretly communicated. Since the mid-15th century, when nationalism developed in most countries' intelligence organizations were established to enable the procurement of foreign intelligence. Right from these periods, the intelligence community has continued to evolve and become an integral part of the State system. The end of the cold war ushered in new comers into the industry of intelligence and this includes non-state actors such as terrorist organizations, militias and drug cartels. These groups design sophisticated intelligence and counter-intelligence capacity that matches some of the State intelligence actors. Lastly, as long as Divinity allows human life to continue, intelligence will continue to be an integral part of statecraft and humanity

Endnotes

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