

Central Intelligence Agency

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The **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** is one of the 16 agencies that form the US Intelligence Community.



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Brief History



The official seal of the Office of Strategic Services.

The CIA was created in response to World War II as the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Its functions included traditional espionage, covert action (from propaganda to sabotage), counterintelligence, and intelligence analysis. This was revolutionary in US intelligence. Not only did it have such varied functions, but they were performed by a single, national agency. Also, it was a leap forward because of the breadth of its intelligence interests and use of scholars to produce finished intelligence.

After WWII, the OSS was disbanded, officially being shut down on October 1, 1945 by President Harry S. Truman. The X-2 (or counterintelligence) and secret intelligence branches were thus transferred into the War Department to form the Strategic Services Unit. The State Department absorbed the OSS's Research and Analysis branches.

Nearly simultaneously, President Truman ordered a study of the intelligence structure required by the US in a post-WWII world. This resulted in the creation of the National Intelligence Authority (NIA) and its operational element, the Central Intelligence Group (CIG). The CIG had the responsibility of coordinating and synthesizing the reports of the military service intelligence agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and additionally took on the task of clandestine intelligence collection.

Then, the National Security Act of 1947 was drafted and addressed the national security needs of the nation. This act created the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and made it an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the President. It replaced the CIG and gave it the following functions:

1. Advise the National Security Council (NSC) in matters regarding intelligence activities of the government departments and agencies as they relate to national security.
2. Make recommendations to the NSC for the coordination of intelligence activities of the departments and agencies of the government as they relate to national security.
3. Correlate and evaluate intelligence relating to national security, and provide for the appropriate dissemination of that intelligence within the government using existing agencies and facilities whenever possible.
4. Perform for the benefit of existing intelligence agencies such additional services of common concern as the NSC determines can be more effectively accomplished centrally.

5. Perform other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the NSC may from time to time direct.

That last statement is what has historically been cited even unto the present as authorization for covert action. However, it was originally intended only for espionage. The ultimate legal basis for covert action is presidential direction and congressional approval of funds for such programs.

Eventually, the CIA became the primary US intelligence agency for analysis, clandestine HUMINT collection, and covert action; also taking a large role in the development of reconnaissance and other technical collection systems for gathering imagery, signals, and measurement and signature intelligence.

Under President Ronald Reagan's Executive Order 12333, still partially in effect today, the CIA is permitted to collect "significant" foreign intelligence within the US, so long as that collection is not aimed at US Persons.

External links

Official websites and documents

- CIA official site (<https://www.cia.gov/>)
- CIA official Freedom of Information Act (foia) site (<http://www.foia.cia.gov/>)
- CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>)
- Studies in Intelligence (<https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/index.html>)

Other external links

(these links were in the CIA Wikipedia article as of November 11, 2006

- George Washington University National Security Archive (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/index.html>) :
 - Documents on CIA involvement with Pinochet (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20000919/>)
 - On CIA involvement in Guatemala (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB4/index.html>)
 - On CIA involvement with Nazi War Criminals (especially the Gehlen organization) (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB146/>)
- U.S. National Archive's Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. (<http://www.archives.gov/iwg/index.html>)
 - Summary of newly acquired CIA name files (including Klaus Barbie) (http://www.archives.gov/iwg/declassified_records/rg_263_cia_records/rg_263_report.html)
- CIA manual on coercive questioning (<http://www.parascope.com/articles/0397/kubark06.htm>)
- Licensed to Kill, Hired Guns in the War on Terror by Robert Young Pelton (Crown, Sept 1, 2006)
- *Sourcewatch "CIA Sourcewatch"* (<http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=CIA>) , www.sourcewatch.org Explains CIA operation methods
- *Art. Truth and Politics*: Harold Pinter's Nobel Prize Lecture (<http://nobelprize.org/literature/laureates/2005/pinter-lecture-e.html>) . Online posting, 8 December 2005. 9 December 2005.
- CIA information at Rotten.com (<http://www.rotten.com/library/conspiracy/cia/>) .
- Cop vs. CIA (<http://www.copvcia.com>) . Online posting. From the Wilderness (mirror site) /
- *Cocaine Import Agency* (<http://www.csun.edu/CommunicationStudies/ben/news/cia/>) . Online posting. *San José Mercury News*. (On alleged drug-smuggling by the CIA.)
- *The Cultural Cold War* (<http://www.libcom.org/history/articles/cultural-cold-war/>) , by Nathaniel Catchpole.
- In-Q-Tel official site (<http://www.in-q-tel.com/>) .
- *Inside the Company: CIA Diary* (http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/CIA/CIA_Diary_Agee.html) . Online posting. Third World Traveler: Excerpt from a book by leading whistleblower Philip Agee.
- *Killing Hope* (http://members.aol.com/bblum6/American_holocaust.htm) , by William Blum.
- *Meet the first President of the World Psychiatric Association* - Free Press international 3.18.2005 (<http://fpiaarticle.blogspot.com/2005/03/meet-first-president-of-world.html>) (Video)
- National Security Archive (George Washington University) (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>) .
- "Outsourcing Intelligence" (<http://montages.blogspot.com/2005/01/outsourcing-intelligence.html>) . Online blogpost. *Montage* 5 January 2005.

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- *The Relations between the CIA and the Executive Power since 2001* (<http://www.isria.com/en/free/0000026.php>) . Online posting (HTML file). ISRIA. 5 February 2006.
- *The Role of Open Sources in Intelligence* (http://www.isria.com/en/free/File1_NOMIKOS_15jan06.pdf) . Online posting (Pdf file). 31 31 December 2005.
- "Yet more turmoil at the CIA" (http://www.janes.com/security/international_security/news/jid/jid060511_1_n.shtml) . Online posting. Janes. (On implications of the "departure" of Porter Goss.
- [

38.952100_N_-77.145095_E_type:landmark_region:US Maps and aerial photos] Coordinates: [38.952100_N_-77.145095_E_type:landmark_region:US 38.952100° -77.145095°]

- Street map from Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=38.952100,-77.145095&q=38.952100,-77.145095&spn=0.015,0.025>) or Yahoo! Maps (http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result?lat=38.952100&lon=-77.145095&mag=2)
- Topographic map from TopoZone (<http://topozone.com/map.asp?lat=38.952100&lon=-77.145095&s=24&size=m&datum=nad83>)
- Aerial image or topographic map from TerraServer-USA (<http://terraserver-usa.com/image.aspx?s=11&lon=-77.145095&lat=38.952100&w=2>)
- Satellite image from Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=38.952100,-77.145095&q=38.952100,-77.145095&spn=0.015,0.025&t=h>) or Microsoft Virtual Earth (<http://virtualearth.msn.com/default.aspx?cp=38.952100%7C-77.145095&style=h&lvl=15&v=1>)



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