

Presentation: James R. Sutton

**Subverting a Government Monopoly,
the Privatization of Intelligence**

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I. Research Focus

- a. How intelligence is carried out by non-governmental actors (NGIOs)
 - i. Corporate or commercial
 - 1. For their own internal interests
 - 2. As commercial service
 - 3. In support of government operations
 - ii. Social, political or personal activists
 - iii. Criminal enterprises
- b. The model

II. Privatizing Intelligence

1. Opportunities
2. Challenges
3. Threats

II. Privatizing Intelligence: Opportunities

- Companies providing intelligence, security, and paramilitary (ISP) support on sub-national and asymmetric conflicts are attaining a remarkable level of influence and legitimacy
- The question is not whether the ISP sector will grow or not?
IT WILL!
The real question is how governments, multilateral institutions, NGOs and corporations will work with these new players.

II. Privatizing Intelligence: Opportunities

What is the desirability of privatizing ISP services?

The minuses:

- They are key to managing the conflict, but not within, the military operation
- They lack of universally established legal standards, vetting, or operating procedures
- Too much left up to market forces over which the government has marginal control

II. Privatizing Intelligence: Opportunities

What is the desirability of privatizing ISP services?

The pluses:

- They take on the full range of military roles, but are not part of the force
- The use of ISPs avoids the dangerous results of past government practices
- Perform effectively or be replaced
- Creative, innovative and can assist military prototype and benchmark TTP's

II. Privatizing Intelligence: Challenges

- Current expansion not a well-planned strategy; but the result of an ad hoc process that was riddled with partisanship, ideology, personal and institutional agendas
- Public and Congress remain largely unaware about the nature, size and scope of ISP's. However, boots-on-the-ground are asking what such outsourcing will mean in the long term

II. Privatizing Intelligence: Challenges & Threats

1. Equity
2. Secrecy
3. Privacy
4. Efficiency
 - ◆ Human Capital
 - ◆ Wide Collaboration
 - ◆ Consequences & results

Is a model possible?

III. Findings & Implications

- Acceleration of realignment on the basis of ethnicity, language, religion and culture
- Government intelligence will be challenged to maintain relevance. It is constrained by its technological infrastructure and operational mind-sets

III. Findings & Implications

Sherman Kent, was right all along

- intelligence (in whatever flavor) is nothing more than useful knowledge
- if intelligence is knowledge, secrecy greatly diminishes its potential value

The model

III. Findings & Implications

Consider how technologies have evolved since 1995:

- ◆ Explosion of wireless communications resulted in hundreds of underlying technologies
- ◆ Ubiquitous information access results in an explosive growth of standards and applications
- ◆ New forms of community and whole industries built around online commerce
- ◆ Everyday new vulnerabilities are identified and many more will emerge in the future, some we cannot presently visualize, let alone anticipate. (i.e., *4th Generation Warfare & Sidewise Application of Technology*)

Now What ? We need Heretics



The present turf – we are still learning

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“The learning curve is a loop.”

What is next? The importance of basics

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“Miss Dugan, will you send someone in here who can distinguish right from wrong?”



Q & A's Discussion