

Imprint: Viking
Published: 29/10/2020
ISBN: 9780241385180
Length: 352 Pages
RRP: £20.00

How Spies Think

Ten Lessons in Intelligence

David Omand

[Hardback](#) [Ebook](#) [Audio Download](#)

[View more editions](#)

PRE-ORDER FROM

RELEASED 29/10/2020

'One of the best books ever written about intelligence analysis and its long-term lessons. Brilliant, lucid and thought-provoking' Christopher Andrew, author of *The Defence of the Realm: The Authorized History of MI5*

From the former director of GCHQ, learn the methodology used by the British intelligence agencies to reach judgements, establish the right level of confidence and act decisively.

Intelligence officers discern the truth. They gather information - often contradictory or incomplete - and, with it, they build the most accurate possible image of the world. With the stakes at their absolute highest, they must then decide what to do.

In everyday life, you are faced with contradictory, incomplete information, too. Reading the news on soci...

[Read more](#)

Share at

Reviews

'One of the best books ever written about intelligence analysis and its long-term lessons. Brilliant, lucid and thought-provoking'

Christopher Andrew, author of *The Defence of the Realm: The Authorized History of MI5*

'This is nothing less than the new manual for analytical thought. What does it take to think clearly and maintain an open mind in the face of confusion? David Omand's book on *How Spies Think* prepares us for the the challenges of the 21st century'

Richard Aldrich, author of *GCHQ*

'David Omand has a unique combination of experience as both a producer and consumer of secret intelligence, a deep knowledge of intelligence history and techniques, and a gift for lucid exposition. **An invaluable book for anyone who wants to think like a spy but also for those concerned about the role spies can play in a democracy'**

Lawrence Freedman, author of *The Future of War*

'Sir David Omand is undoubtedly **one of the most able people to have served in British government since the Second World War'**

TLS

'David Omand has more experience of the intelligence agencies and how they operate than anyone else in Britain. He also has the rare ability to explain spycraft and how raw intelligence is analysed without the use of jargon which would be incomprehensible to most readers. **I have been waiting for a book like this for years'**

Sir Malcolm Rifkind

'**Britain's spooks are world-renowned. This brilliant book lets us into one of the secrets of their success** - how to use rigorous analysis to separate fact from fake. It's a skill that can help us all to make better choices in our lives'

Peter Ricketts, former British National Security Adviser

'With today's political reality trumping political fiction, we rely now for mystery on the world of spies, espionage and secret intelligence. In this fascinating and revealing book David Omand, after a lifetime in that shadowy world, pulls back the curtain on spying triumphs, the occasional disasters but also the important lessons for all of us from these dark but essential arts. It is **a true eye-opener on a world which outsiders only guess about'**

Lord George Robertson, former UK Defence Secretary and Secretary General of NATO

'A tour de force. David Omand equips the reader with powerful intelligence techniques to survive in the new digital age. He lightens it with a fascinating selection of anecdotes, some firsthand, to illustrate his themes. And **he makes an overwhelming case for rationality as the best response to a world of fake news and cyberattacks. Essential reading'**

Richard Wilson, former Head of the Home Civil Service

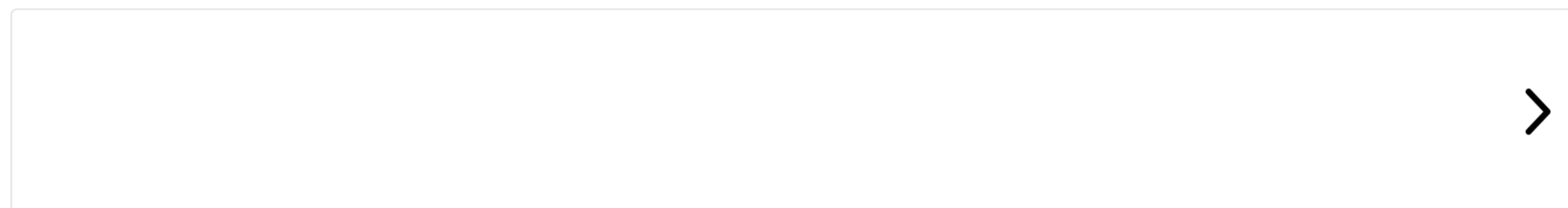
'**A brilliant book, by one of the UK's true polymaths - author, academic, administrator, mathematician - and former spy.** But this isn't just a book for those interested in the secret world of MI5, MI6, and GCHQ; it's for anyone wanting to know how to make better decisions, and avoid the traps into which businesses, and governments can and do fall, time after time'

Rt Hon Jack Straw, former Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, and Lord Chancellor

'Professor Sir David Omand deconstructs then reconstructs an important mode of thinking, spy thought, for those of us who deal with strategy, information, misinformation, and disinformation. **He leaves the reader with a powerful framework to help us face the realpolitik of the world'**

Professor Michael Mainelli, Alderman & Sheriff of the City of London

About the Author



Sign up to the Penguin Newsletter

For the latest books, recommendations, offers and more

Your email [SIGN UP](#)

By signing up, I confirm that I'm over 16. To find out what personal data we collect and how we use it, please visit our [Privacy Policy](#)

About us

- [Our company](#)
- [Work with us](#)
- [Getting published](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Publishing houses](#)
- [Creative Responsibility](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Send website feedback](#)

Useful links

- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Cookies policy](#)
- [Modern slavery statement](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Terms & conditions](#)
- [Help & FAQs](#)
- [Gender pay gap reports](#)
- [Industry commitment to professional behaviour](#)
- [Permissions](#)

Stay connected

- Follow Penguin
- Follow Puffin