

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910661016803321
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Titolo	The secret world : a history of intelligence // Christopher Andrew
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, Connecticut : , : Yale University Press, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	9780300240528 (electronic book) 030024052X (electronic book) 9780300238440
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 896 pages, 32 unnumbered leaves of plates) : illustrations (some colour), portraits
Collana	The Henry L. Stimson Lectures Ser.
Disciplina	327.1209
Soggetti	Intelligence service - History Espionage - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

The first-ever detailed, comprehensive history of intelligence, from Moses and Sun Tzu to the present day The history of espionage is far older than any of today's intelligence agencies, yet the long history of intelligence operations has been largely forgotten. The codebreakers at Bletchley Park, the most successful World War II intelligence agency, were completely unaware that their predecessors in earlier moments of national crisis had broken the codes of Napoleon during the Napoleonic wars and those of Spain before the Spanish Armada. Those who do not understand past mistakes are likely to repeat them. Intelligence is a prime example. At the outbreak of World War I, the grasp of intelligence shown by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith was not in the same class as that of George Washington during the Revolutionary War and leading eighteenth-century British statesmen. In this book, the first global history of espionage ever written, distinguished historian Christopher Andrew recovers much of the lost intelligence history of the past three millennia-and shows us its relevance.
