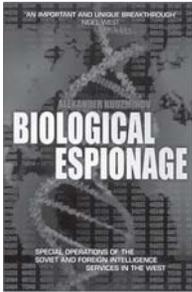

Book Reviews

By Mr. Reid Kirby



Biological Espionage: Special Operations of the Soviet and Russian Foreign Intelligence Services in the West, Alexander Kouzminov, Stackpole Books, 2005.

Biological Espionage is about the Soviet methods of Human Intelligence (HUMINT). The author contends that intelligence gathered by technological means, such as remote sensing, fails to provide the information needed for dealing with biological warfare. Without HUMINT, it is impossible to obtain and analyze test samples of the biological warfare agents and, therefore, impossible to determine intentions.

The forward, written by Nigel West, illuminates the opinion that the largest failing of Western intelligence is the lack of HUMINT, which was evidenced by the intelligence gathered regarding Iraq. Unlike books written by defectors, Mr. Kouzminov is a Russian émigré; and because of his patriotic character, the KGB is not vilified as a Byzantine bureaucracy of evil. He attacks incompetence, mismanagement, post-Soviet corruption, and the abuse of power by the KGB/SVR. Spy novel enthusiasts will enjoy the descriptions of HUMINT operations, the preparation needed for fielding illegal immigrants as spies, and how sleeper spy agents were tasked with the mission to attack the United States and NATO facilities with biological weapons in the event of a war. However, the author disappoints the reader by making several unsupported, one-line statements about biological warfare.

Soviet intelligence reported that the United States did not have a serious offensive or defensive biological weapons program; however, Mr. Kouzminov states that the United States maintained a secret offensive program until 1989. The author is clear about Russia maintaining a biological weapons program that consists of genetically engineered agents which incorporate biological regulators for added effect.

The author ends the book with a list of potential targets located worldwide and the recommendation that world intelligence agencies develop and collaborate on HUMINT in order to achieve biological security.

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