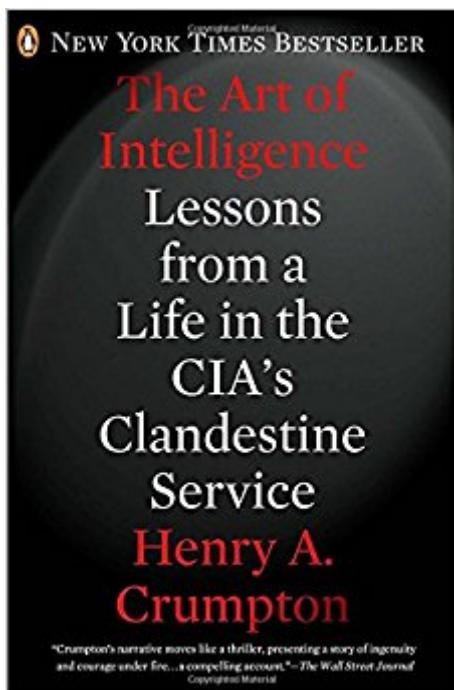


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The Art Of Intelligence: Lessons From A Life In The CIA's Clandestine Service



Synopsis

A legendary CIA spy and counterterrorism expert tells the spellbinding story of his high-risk, action-packed career. Revelatory and groundbreaking, *The Art of Intelligence* will change the way people view the CIA, domestic and foreign intelligence, and international terrorism. Henry A. "Hank" Crumpton, a twenty-four-year veteran of the CIA's Clandestine Service, offers a thrilling account that delivers profound lessons about what it means to serve as an honorable spy. From CIA recruiting missions in Africa to pioneering new programs like the UAV Predator, from running post-9/11 missions in Afghanistan to heading up all clandestine CIA operations in the United States, Crumpton chronicles his role in the battlefield and in the Oval Office in transforming the way America wages war and sheds light on issues of domestic espionage.

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Customer Reviews

"Crumpton's narrative, especially when chronicling the response to the 9/11 attacks, moves like a thriller, presenting a story of ingenuity and courage under fire. A compelling account of the changes that have allowed the CIA to fight the war on terror with unprecedented resources and success. There is no doubt that the CIA will in the future have to devote more resources to intelligence gathering. The agency should apply to its traditional operations the same ruthless, results-oriented ethos that Mr. Crumpton and his colleagues applied to fighting al Qaeda." *The Wall Street Journal* "A lively account...combines the derring-do of old-fashioned

spycraft with thoughtful meditations on the future of warfare and intelligence work. It deserves to be read." *The Washington Post* offers an exceptionally deep glimpse into the CIA's counterterrorism operations in the last decade of the twentieth century. *Harper*'s *A Colorful Inside Account* is a "colorful inside account." *San Francisco Chronicle* writes that *Hank Crumpton*'s riveting account of his life in the CIA and the run up to the war in Afghanistan is a treasure for every citizen who wants to know the sacrifices, courage and strategic vision of the clandestine services in war and peace. *Tom Brokaw* writes that *The Art of Intelligence* reflects the character of its author: Honest, smart, direct and impressive. Crumpton offers important new insights into the C.I.A.'s role in the Taliban's overthrow in 2001, as well as a wider portrait of modern intelligence that is frank and compelling. *Steve Coll*, author of *Ghost Wars* "[A] fascinating glimpse into the CIA's most secret and secretive department." *Kirkus*

Henry A. Crumpton is the chairman and CEO of Crumpton Group LLC, a global business advisory firm. After a twenty-four-year career in the CIA's Clandestine Service, he served as the U.S. coordinator for counterterrorism with the rank of Ambassador at Large. He lives in the Washington, D.C., area.

Henry Crumpton, *The Art of Intelligence* (New York: Penguin Press, 2012). See especially *Afghanistan Strategy*, *Afghanistan Operations* and *Beyond Afghanistan*, pp. 169-273. The author, who was in charge of the CIA/Special Forces effort to overthrow the Taliban following the terror strikes of 9/11, gives an insider's view of what worked and what did not. A fascinating companion piece to *Jawbreaker*. Captures the fighting spirit of those charged with avenging the deaths of 2,977 people when the Twin Towers were destroyed. Brutally honest about failures of intelligence and operations before, during and after the attack. Sees a new era when CIA, FBI, DOD and State must all be re-tasked and redirected to face the demands of the post 9/11 world and worldwide jihadi activities. Page 154 describes a perfect opportunity to kill Osama bin Laden prior to 9/11 and the reasons for its failure. Sobering. Enjoyed the rapidity and cynicism with which the Obama administration adopted the drone program and greatly expanded it.

With a long-time interest in the intelligence game, I have read quite a bit about our own CIA. Texts such as John Prados' "Safe For Democracy" and Ishmael Jones' "The Human Factor" have given

me pause as to the capabilities of this organization, due to the system of bureaucracy inherent in it. However, former operative Hank Crumpton offers up evidence of a different and more competent CIA than we have been led to believe. Although there is still bureaucratic bumbling, Crumpton spends more time on the agents in the field, the people who get things done in spite of it all, like Gary Berntsen (whose book "Human Intelligence, Counterterrorism and National Leadership" I have also read and will review elsewhere). A real eye-opener for those interested in American intelligence.

I am nearly finished with this book and have found it a very good read. It contains a very good CIA perspective of the war on terror and really sheds light on the CIA's involvement in the early stages of not only counterterrorism (principally UBL and AQ) but also the early days of the Afghan campaign. It balances well with and is supported by other accounts from other CIA and FBI personnel. Of course this is the CIA's perspective but I was quite frankly glad to finally have their version of events. They made sense and were very believable. Mr. Crumpton does an excellent job in telling this story. I have recommended this book to many friends and a good read. It has changes my perspective on the CIA from a neutral view to a positive view.

I would write a much more complete review, but wanted to post this right away to caution potential buyers about a printing flaw in the Penguin Book paperback edition currently being offered on . My copy of the book ended with Chapter 13 being repeated twice. Chapter 14, and the epilogue, acknowledgments, and index are listed in the table of contents, but not included. If you want to use it as a reference by tabbing and highlighting sections, as I did, you might want to first take a good look at the back of the book. As for the available content, I found it highly interesting and often informative. That said, Crumpton clearly does not provide detailed information or a precise chronology for many incidents he describes due to concerns about operational security. The book is not an account of the CIA per se, but a collection of vignettes that Crumpton uses to illustrate how the Clandestine Services operate as viewed through the prism of his own experiences.

Mr. Crumpton has done significant service for our country. This book describes part of that service and reveals the power of his "Magic Box" which from my point of view was the most significant piece of technology in the implementation of successful strategy in the early Afghanistan War. I read this book in one sitting as it was impossible to put it down.

This is a pretty good book, it does take some time to get into the author's flow and perspective and the pace picks up substantially in the middle part. My sense is that Henry (Hank) has a much deeper and intimate story to tell, but agency reviewers filtered out some of the specific details that would allow specific locations, individuals and events to be correlated. The story about events in Afghanistan are well written and engaging, overall, a book well worth reading.

Overall, an okay book. Not excellent, but not terrible. Like many books of this kind, some parts are a bit self-serving ("I did this and accomplished this, despite so and so's wishes"), and other parts are a bit too much on the side of "thank you for your service". The title belies the content's essence, as it is mostly memoir-driven, albeit with some appreciated analysis and other commentary, especially with regards to the Middle East strategy (though much has changed since this book was published). A quick read, though I skimmed quite a few parts, as they seemed somewhat redundant. I would recommend this book.

Perhaps the best overall book on intelligence I've ever read. Gets a little excessive in war glory in 2001-2002, but otherwise excellent. Non-partisan, Crump praises & lambasts Republicans & Democrats alike. Perhaps best of all, Crump asks many open-ended, profound questions throughout the book. The willingness to open the discussion and demonstrate that he doesn't know it all himself makes the book very personal and conversational in tone, rather than a lecture. Must-read for anyone interested in intelligence, diplomacy, military, and long-term viability of the United States.

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