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The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies.
By Michael V. Hayden. New York: Penguin Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-525-55858-3. Notes. Index. Pp. 292. \$ 28.00.

Retired Air Force General and former director of the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency Michael V. Hayden crafts a mostly measured and generally evidence-based indictment of President Donald J. Trump's relationship with and influence on the United States Intelligence Community in his new book, *Assault on Intelligence*. Hayden leads the reader along a chronological path beginning with the 2016 campaign through the first hundred days of the Trump Administration, and concludes with an assessment of the way forward for the remainder of Trump's first term. Along the way, Hayden discusses Trump's public castigation of the intelligence community through Twitter, but balances it against Trump's tolerable behavior toward selected professional members of that community both during the later campaign and between Election Day and the Inauguration. Hayden's picture is grim and pessimistic and generally agrees with the views of the mainstream Republican foreign policy and intelligence community. His book is extensively footnoted and maintains a mostly measured tone. The few times Hayden permits his emotion to momentarily color his prose lends an appropriate degree of intensity to his words, reinforcing the fact that Hayden is not only a consummate intelligence professional, he is a relatable person who is as equally at home among spies and diplomats as he is among Pennsylvania farmers and steelworkers.

Hayden reminds readers of Trump's many contradictory statements about his relationship with Russia, and he connects those to the actions and statements of his associates to present in measured, logical, and evidence-based fashion, his thoughts on the enormous influence Russians wielded over the 2016 election. Key is Hayden's analysis of Russian global information operations and their early tests of American resolve and reaction in the face of Russian aggression against targets tangential to American core interests.

This work examines two ideas: Donald Trump's assault on the Intelligence Community and its unified assessment regarding the efforts of Russia to influence the 2016 election; and the assault on voter intelligence. Director Hayden discusses the foundation of intelligence analysis on the principals of Enlightenment thought: recognition of objective truth, the pursuit of evidence, rules of logic, and respect for facts. Hayden contrasts these elements with the President's expressed attitude toward all these elements in his speeches, tweets, and interviews. Hayden applies Enlightenment rules of evidence and analysis to the IC assessment of Russian influence and to contrasting facts and findings with the President's statements. Hayden clearly shows the gap between empirical and subjective perceptions of this issue.

In his concluding chapter, Hayden returns to the issue of Russian interference, citing evidence from Twitter analytics linking the use of prominent hashtags with known Russian

agents that influenced digital conversations and drove extreme and conspiratorial news stories to Trump-friendly audiences. Hayden shows how the politically-polarized environment exacerbates these divisive stories and that Russian information domination operations divide the United States from its allies, its alliances, and within itself more effectively than any previous Russian efforts, and they have fulfilled Vladimir Putin's greatest geopolitical goals.

The Assault on Intelligence captures a critical moment in American history and politics. Its measured and balanced tone provides a reliable and well-supported analysis of a national problem that illustrates the roles of culture, politics, history, and the bureaucratic process. Students of American culture, politics, intelligence, and history will find Hayden's book both well-researched and a welcome change from the partisan shrilling that characterizes the current case of President Trump.

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