DECLASSIFIED:

CIA's Suggested Reading list

This previously classified <u>document</u> was declassified and approved for release in 2009 under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an interesting list of books compiled by CIA. It focuses on suggested intelligence literature that are about history, key personalities, analysis and technology. As the document states, it is an incomplete bibliography that may be updated if needed and nevertheless it provides readers and researchers both personal, insider and academic views on intelligence, its role in national security, and the forces that have shaped it over the years.

The disclaimer of the document states that the inclusion of a work on the list does not imply endorsement by the US Government or any of its agencies or branches. It can be said that many authors would be proud to be included in this list at least for PR value and at most for legitimacy as a source. The list has, what some may call, mainstream books and, at the same time, some less popular but very interesting books too. Some of the books reveal so much that it appears as though CIA is proud to admit, rather than deny or hide, to have conducted these covert operations successfully. It can be concluded that not all of the books are interesting or valuable while others are so good that for the most part they either predicted and/or directed the upcoming future of spycraft right. This can now be verified since many of these books were first published in the 80s and 90s. It, of course, makes a researcher curious on what the current or latest suggested reading list of CIA is, especially in a time when the production of literature and information on this subject both offline and online has grown exponentially since then. One of the interesting book is by Robin Winks and it's called 'Cloak and Gown: Scholars in the Secret War, 1939-1961'. It is an historical account of the beginnings of the link between the American academic community and the Intelligence Community, which also led to the creation and running of the Research and Analysis Branch of the OSS, the predecessor of CIA. Another interesting book is by Charles E. Lathrop and its title is: 'The Literary Spy: The Ultimate Source for Quotations on Espionage and Intelligence.' It has curation of 3,000 quotations on the intelligence profession arranged in 64 categories. It would also be interesting if CIA, one day, compiled and released a suggested reading list in the fiction literature category as well.