

# HISTORY: Intelligence as a branch and an outgrowth of magical practices.

The number of patterns and parallels between certain magical traditions and the traditional practices of the intelligence realm are more than we may think. In fact, the intelligence community owes a lot to the practitioners of magic since they made the necessary discoveries and inventions, introduced the necessary methods and techniques that the agents, spies and officers built up on and learned a lot from.

For example, the very idea of hidden knowledge that gives one significant advantage over others or over the environment first came from the secret magical teachings that were passed only to the select initiated individuals within the magical tradition.

Another example has to do with will and agency. Many of the Shamanic teachings and the techniques passed on within the European initiatic societies that focus on Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Zoroastrian, Greco-Roman occult traditions focus on sharpening one's will, clarifying one's agency and finally putting it to use in order to influence oneself, others and the environment. This know-how too was clearly not discovered or invented by the secret intelligence professionals either.

According to Prof. Ioan Couliano from University of Chicago, magic is the precursor of the modern psychological and sociological sciences, and the magician is the distant ancestor of the psychoanalyst and the intelligence agent. Among many other scholars, the great anthropologist Prof. Mircea Eliade agreed with him too.

As Prof. Couliano wrote: "...we ought to know about the activities of those brain trusts, those ministries of propaganda; we should be able to glance at the manuals of schools of espionage (...) The magician of *De vinculis* is the prototype of the impersonal systems of mass media, indirect censorship, global manipulation, and the brain trusts that exercise their occult control over the Western masses. He is not, doubtless, the type followed by Soviet propaganda, for he by no means lacks subtlety. (...) Nowadays the magician busies himself with public relations, propaganda, market research, sociological surveys, publicity, information, counterinformation and misinformation, censorship, espionage, and even cryptography – a science which in the sixteenth century was a branch of magic."