

A Short History of Spying Against the United States (1920-2011)

Prelude

This project started as a simple reply on a blog of the North County Times to a subject of Nazi espionage. I had intended to compare and contrast the two efforts of the Nazi's and the Communists to infiltrate the United States, but there was so little Nazi success and that was "rolled up" so quickly, and so much Communist success for so long, for entirely different reasons and with different effects, that what began as a 100 word reply turned into a project.

I compare it to the Eureka moment I had when, after racing sports cars and having to quit "cold turkey" I discovered that in my absence, there was an incredible physical, monetary, and psychological battle that went on between Henry Ford II and Enzo Ferrari.

Similarly, I thought I knew something about the political and espionage of the 30s, 40, 50s and even more recent because I had lived part of that, read extensively, and was politically active.

I didn't.

Relatively recent releases of information – since 1995 – from code-breaking and Russian archives, have vastly improved the base of knowledge and told us that what many of us believed was simply not so.

Unfortunately, the more recent information was released so late that it never caught the wave of Communist infiltration interest that held the nation in its grip for so long, but rather the new information was made public to a population sick and tired of the subject and to whom their minds had already been made up.

Some wit, whom I can't Google, said, "It not what you don't know that can kill you. It's what you think is absolutely true, nut it is not so, that can kill you."

That is where I was, until I began my research – and in the following more than 8,000 words you can see where I learned, what I learned, and how my knowledge then changed with even newer and greater revelations.

I am indebted to several books – *Venona – Decoding Soviet Espionage in America* by John Earl Haynes & Harvey Klehr and *Spies, The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America* by the same authors with Alexander Vassiliev, and both books from Yale University Press. John Hayes is a modern historical Historian in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, and Harvey Klehr is the Andrew Mellon Professor of Politics and History at Emeroy University. Alexander Vassiliev is a former KGB agent and

journalist, given access to many Moscow files by the KGB in an agreement with Crown books, to provide retirement funds for former KGB agents.

Additional information came from *Red Spy Queen, A biography of Elizabeth Bentley* by Kathryn Olmsted, University of North Carolina Press, and *Confessions of a Spy, the Real Story of Aldrich Ames* by Pete Earley and published by Berkley Trade.

Other sources include newspaper articles, and those are cited, and Wikipedia.

Part One:

Studying the history of Communist infiltration of US government in the 30s and 40s is really interesting.

The US simply had no counter intelligence in place in 1930. The FBI had a total of 300 agents in 1930 – nationwide. There were only 900 FBI agents, nationally, in 1939 – and counterintelligence was not an FBI mission until the Nazi’s invaded Poland in 1939..

Primarily, the Nazis and the Russians espionage had different aims. The Germans built primarily a military intelligence group, and a “boom and bang” capability to destroy US plants, and steal military secrets in case of hostilities.

The Russian Communists on the other hand, were seeking military and political intelligence, and their aim was political influence with the eventual aim to overthrow the government. That meant placing bright people in high places of influence – something not even considered by the Nazi’s who intended to keep the US out of the war or to defeat the US in the field, if necessary. (Few in the German High Staff thought that was possible.)

Communists didn’t infiltrate defense plants nearly so much as they did the Treasury Department, the White House, the State Department. They had no interest in destroying the plants because the plants were eventually delivering them Lend Lease – but they wanted to steal aircraft plans to boost their production internally.

The Nazis “spies” were middle class, the Communists were intellectuals, many with Ivy League and Oxford diplomas. The Nazis were new to the spy business because Hitler was new – but the Communists had been studying and implanting themselves for decades before the Nazis began. Literally, decades.

The 10 Russian “illegals” (Russian citizens operating undercover) arrested on July 28, 2010 were merely the latest issue of this saga. Obviously, they were in no position to influence political issues, so they must – as always – be in contact with those who do. In the past, the recruiters had recruited Congressmen, Assistant Secretaries of the Treasury, Senior White House Advisors, atomic scientists, journalists...

Both Nazi and Communist agents who were American citizens were driven by ideology.

When given the orders, the FBI smashed the Nazi infrastructure in weeks, not completely destroying it but making it much less operable. Of course, initially there was a pact between Hitler and Stalin so we didn't think the Communists were part of the active problem and eventually they became our allies against Hitler. We intuitively knew there were Communist spies, but they were not considered more than annoyance.

(We had expected an atomic attack from the Nazi's on or as early as Christmas Day, 1943, in Chicago! Obviously, we feared the Nazi's more than we did the Communists!.)

It is similar to the fact that we know there are Israeli spies today – but we are not actively rooting them out. If we run across one, that is different story.

Meanwhile, university socialist and progressives clubs had been quietly recruiting their most radical members for the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), and in turn the CPUSA had been cooperating with the Communist International (COMINTERN), the KGB(Russian intelligence) and the GRU(Russian Military Intelligence). (Actually, the Naval GRU was also very active and was competing within the GRU for intelligence.)

There were three intelligence operations going on (four if you included CPUSA, who eventually developed their own rings, and five if you include the Naval GRU), each recruiting for decades and sharing little between them. The only overlapping entity was the CPUSA. Their head, Earl Browder eventually went to jail – they were NOT just a political party. That was their cover.

(I am particularly surprised by the husband and wife; brother and sister spy teams working for the Communists.—in some cases it was entire families.

About which more in due course.)

Part Two:

Using their intellectual abilities, their college networks and their secret cells, each Communist individual rose through the governmental bureaucracies to the very top echelons of government, and when the FBI got wind of the possibility of a person having some past college Communist sympathy, other unsuspected high government members of the CPUSA would call and vouch for the suspect. They had a great protection network.

This was back when the “Old School Tie” held power, so being vouched for by someone in power was common, and expected. It was also successful.

The Nazi's were simply not so smart, and they need not be because they had different aims. Britain found and hanged seven Nazi spies – then “turned” the rest. Given the choice of hanging, or turning, every Nazi agent offered the opportunity turned. The most obvious case was the huge structures built for beaches like Omaha, to act as temporary

harbors (because the Nazi's had REALLY armored the harbors like Cherbourg). The structures, which were five stories long, but when stood up in Britain made the assembly look like "the skyline of Chicago" were hard to hide from the German spy planes.

The turned Nazi agents were used to try to convince the Nazi's that they were grain storage silos, to be used to feed the population when the Allies landed in Europe.

We did not "turn" many Communists. Hell, we didn't even find them! (Not until too much later – and they were EVERYWHERE! There was even two elected Congressman, one from Minnesota, John Bernard of the Farmer-Labor Party, and a Democrat from New York, Congressman Samuel Dickstein of New York. Talk about a bizarre twist -- Dickstein was a founder and co-Chairman of the Dies Committee – the House Un-American Activities Committee and Dickstein was on the payroll of the KGB—as were more Congressional staffers than you can imagine.

The predecessor of the CIA, called OSS (Office of Strategic Services) even recruited Communists in WWII, because, as Wild Bill Donovan was reputed to have said, "I would recruit Stalin if it would help defeat Hitler." He denied recruiting communists, but he actually did so with relish, even though he denied doing so before a Senate Committee, because they were willing to do anything to defeat Hitler – who had attacked Russia!.

(Fortunately, there was a gap between the ending of the OSS and the founding of the CIA and not many Communists were able to make the transition.)

The two great intelligence sources were Whittaker Chambers who ran a Communist cell but went silent in 1938 and confessed in 1941, and Elizabeth Bentley who confessed in 1946, but Chambers went to ground for several years before he turned himself in and had little current information (although he "outed" Alger Hiss, and that was a treasure and will be addressed later), and Bentley was turned for a few weeks, but KGB got wind quickly and the whole network went silent for several years.

It might be instructive to review the Whittaker Chambers/Alger Hiss situation.

Appearing before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1948, Chambers accused Hiss of being a Communist. Hiss denied it under oath and the newspapers took Hiss's side. Hiss had been a Washington favorite and insider for decades and the press simply could not believe it.

Hiss demanded a retraction, or that Chambers repeat the charges in public where he was not protected by Congressional immunity, and so Chambers could be charged with slander.

Chambers repeated his charge on Meet the Press, and Hiss sued. Since the initial charges made before HUAC had not been particularly specific, the press again sided with the injured Hiss, whose reputation had taken a hit from the "Red Scare" HUAC charge by Chambers.

What Hiss did not know was that Chambers had not told everything he knew when appearing before HUAC – he had kept many pages of notes typed on Hiss’s typewriter and handwritten notes in Hiss’s hand, copying State Department documents for the Russians. There were also both developed and undeveloped photos of State Department documents. (Google “Pumpkin Papers”)

(<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/hiss/pumpkinp.html>)

A grand jury indicted Hiss for perjury because the statute of limitations had expired for espionage in the 30’s. His was sentenced to three years plus in jail. (Subsequently released GRU cables, Russian documents, and Venona decryptions showed that Hiss had been an active spy as late as 1943.)

Hiss had been a star at the US State Department. He had headed the State Department of Special Political Affairs and PRESIDED at the San Francisco Conference for the FOUNDING of the UN in 1945! He had accompanied FDR to Yalta, to negotiate the final terms and plans for Europe with Churchill and Stalin. He resigned from government in 1946 (by which time Truman had good information that Hiss was a spy working for GRU – through a defector in Canada, Igor Gouzenko, and Hiss had been sidelined) to head the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for International Peace – so when he was accused, it was BIG!

Guilty as sin!

Had the Venona decryptions been available, Hiss could have been tried for espionage in 1943 – the last KNOWN date.

Part 3

Elizabeth Bentley was a piece of work. All of the adjectives written about her appear to be correct – “slut” “drunk” “brilliant” “manipulative” “confused” etc. etc. etc.

But she was also underestimated, and woefully underreported by historians. Yes, she was a naïve Communist waif who inherited her Soviet lovers’ espionage contacts but she also successfully managed them for years.

Elizabeth was influenced by her Vassar instructor, who was a fervent Communist who wrote after a trip to Russia: “Oh, I was right. Russia is what I thought it was, only infinitely more. It is a land of free men. It is a land of workers. They exist to help each other.”

Being an emancipated woman in a still sexually repressive world, Elizabeth celebrated her sexual freedom widely, drank excessively, and threw herself into everything, including Communism (having flirted with Fascism at the University of Florence), with a

religious devotion that only waned when the Soviets decided to take away her successful but amateur management of American espionage agents in an effort to “professionalize” what had been a relaxed U.S. Communist Party-run exercise.

Although personally flawed, she was obviously bright having attended Vassar, Columbia University and the University of Florence at a time when women did not do such things. She successfully managed a shipping firm funded covertly by the Soviets through the Communist Party, USA back when women managed little in commerce.

Spurned, desperately (and rationally) afraid of being assassinated by the KGB for not turning over her network quickly and quietly, Elizabeth turned to the FBI and gave them both the names of her agents, and more problems than the FBI could handle with her morals.

But she changed history, and her admissions closed down the Soviet Unions’ espionage apparatus for several year. A lonely, neurotic woman of obvious skill, she gave rise to massive changes in the politics of United States and she is generally unappreciated by history, overshadowed by the defection of Whittaker Chambers.

Elizabeth was shorted by circumstances in 1945. If she could have been successfully “turned” she could have made the case against a number of people she accused, but when she came into the FBI, the FBI (naturally) told their most trusted partner – British Intelligence – about their good fortune.

The head of the British counter-intelligence, tasked with catching Russian spies in Britain, was Kim Philby – on the payroll of the KGB! The KGB instantly put their U.S. agents on the alert, destroyed everything, took down the entire network overnight and Elizabeth could not get them to cooperate with the FBI.

Unlike Chambers, who had squirreled away evidence, Bentley only had her word against the denials of well-placed and well-defended KGB agents in the U.S. governments.

Slowly, it all came out but even then the proof was largely in decrypted documents, and the FBI could not admit we had broken the code!

So, although few of those she accused went to jail, all were successfully shut down as agents. It was a powerful time.

Part Four

I have noted that when Elizabeth Bentley defected to the West, her sources and agents working for her in the Perlo and the Silverman groups both dried up and she was not able to be “turned.”

How did the Communists discover her defection to the FBI so quickly?

That is an interesting question, and the short answer is Judith Coplon, a 1943 graduate of Barnard, who belonged to communist groups in her college days.

She first was employed by the government in a low position, and her background check noted her communist sympathies – but in 1943 the FBI was only concerned with Nazi sympathizers. Communist sympathy was not disqualifying, and in fact her record was not even flagged.

Judith then acquired a job in the Justice Department -- and proceeded to make contact with a Communist spy ring by being recruited through a close friend and fellow Barnard graduate Flora Wovschi.

(Flora is worth note all by herself – she is known to have recruited three good spies. When Elizabeth Bentley defected, and the Venona decryptions were being done in 1948, the FBI went to look for Flora. She had left for Moscow, renounced her American citizenship, married a Russian, and later died as a nurse in North Korea.)

But back to Judith. She worked her way into the Foreign Agents Registration division of the Justice Department, studied Russian language at night, and had access to many FBI counterintelligence files. It is believed that it was she who alerted the KGB that Bentley had defected.

But Venona decryptions had alerted the FBI to Judith, and the FBI caught Judith actually passing classified documents to a known Soviet Agent working for the United Nations. (Valentin Gubitchev)

Now the problem was convicting Judith. The defense demanded that the files she was reputed to have tried to hand over be produced in open court!

Those documents included the information that the FBI was on to still another Soviet agent, Philip Levy, -- but in order to get a conviction it was necessary to reveal the documents. They did, at a high price and a conviction of Judith Coplon was achieved.

It was overturned! No probable cause had been shown. Nothing in the record showed why the FBI was tailing her to begin with!

Why? Because the genesis of the search for Judith was the super-secret and still on-going Venona decryptions! The FBI and NSA were not willing to reveal that. (And, they didn't until 1995!)

A second trial ensued, and a second conviction – and a second conviction overturned! No probable cause shown.

To protect the Venona project, which would have revealed the US had broken the KGB code which the KGB thought unbreakable, a highly successful Soviet spy walked free.

Well, not exactly. She lost her government job.

The only witness against Coplon was Elizabeth Bentley, but Elizabeth was an admitted spy.

Two other spies then left the country before they could be called before the committee, and four more denied being spies – but left the country before they could be tried for perjury.

Apparently the much maligned question: “Are you now or have you ever been a Communist,” was having a salutary effect.

Part Five:

While cherry-picking the cases because there are simply too many to enumerate, Laurence Duggan needs to be mentioned because he was one of those who famous people defended as innocent.

Laurence (graduate of Phillips Academy and Harvard) was the head of the State Department Office of the American Republics (South America) from 1935 to 1944, and then a representative to the United Nations, and subsequently headed the Institute for International Education. He was a close advisor to presidential candidate Henry Wallace.

Laurence was driven to commit suicide from a high building, the theory went, because he was being hounded as a Communist when in fact he was not one.

Eleanor Roosevelt defended him. Sumner Wells, Under Secretary of State defended him. Archibald Macleish, the Librarian of Congress defended him. The Attorney General (Tom Clark) defended him,. Famous radio newsmen of the day Drew Pearson and Edward R. Murrow defended him

Duggan was a firm member of the Washington establishment, much admired in the inner circle.

There was much concern when Duggan committed suicide, and the press blamed the anti-Communist crusaders for his death.

Just one problem. Duggan WAS a KGB agent!

The Venona decryptations of nine messages, and the files of the KGB made available in Moscow in the late 1990's confirmed the Duggan conspiratorial actions.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurence_Duggan

Other Communist spies simply left the United States when they were exposed.

Margaret Dodd Stern, daughter of an FDR Ambassador to Germany in the 30's and who was a famous novelist, fled when she was exposed. In her youth she had numerous public affairs with such luminaries as Carl Sandburg, and Thomas Wolfe, and had also bedded the head of the Nazi Gestapo in Berlin in her pro-Nazi days, and the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy (a KGB agent) in her subsequent pro-Communist days.

This from the NY Times:

“In the early 1950's she and Mr. Stern became persistent targets of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy in his anti-Communist investigations. The couple moved to Mexico City in 1953, and four years later Boris Morros, an American counterspy, testified to the House Committee on Un-American Activities that the Sternses were part of a Soviet spy network.

When they were indicted on espionage charges in 1957, the couple fled to Prague, where they settled. They later traveled to the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries and to Cuba but never returned to the United States. Mrs. Stern did translations of books and articles. Mr. Stern died four years ago at the age of 88.“

<http://www.nytimes.com/1990/08/29/obituaries/martha-dodd-stern-is-dead-at-82-author-and-an-accused-soviet-spy.html>

The cast of characters in the era of Communist infiltration of the US government is astonishing to consider.

Part Six:

Among the efforts of the Communist party (CPUSA) was media, including Hollywood. CPUSA was successful. Where they could not get a big name, they were active to get the staff – in the case of Walter Lippmann, they placed a highly-prized agent, Mary Price as Secretary. That was the object in many places, because journalists always know much more than they write, protect some information they know, and are famous for developing “sources.”

It was during the time when Whittaker Chambers was Time Magazine's tenure as head of the foreign desk for Time Magazine that he had his views changed from a leading KGB agent to become an anti-Communist. There were still two Communists working for him at Time (he had just lost his favorable view of Communism, he had not yet gone to the FBI -- but John Scott and Richard Lauterbach were still Communists, as was Stephen Laird.. Joseph Barnes, Foreign Editor of the New York Herald Tribune was identified in decrypted KGB messages as a Communist sympathizer, who remained outside the official CPUSA ranks, but still useful. The Deputy Chief of Latin America for CBS radio was a courier of CPUSA funds, and a researcher of recruits.

There were many more in media and one of our advantages in finding them is that people in media tend to write memoirs.

And that holds true as well for the “Hollywood 10” – those who were “blacklisted” as a result of their Communist affiliation. While they are still feted in liberal circles for refusing to answer the question about their Communist affiliation, in fact we now know that they were, indeed, Communists.

“ The other ten refused, citing their [First Amendment](#) rights to freedom of speech and assembly. The crucial question they refused to answer is now generally rendered as "Are you now or have you ever been a member of the [Communist Party](#)?" Such membership was not and had never been illegal.^[a] In fact, each had at one time or another been a member; most still were, while a few had been in the past and only briefly. These ten were formally accused of [contempt of Congress](#) and proceedings against them began in the full [House of Representatives](#).”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Blacklist

Now, in my reading of media and Hollywood types, I find no accusations that anyone committed espionage. In effect, they were the propaganda arm of CPUSA, not cloak and dagger types..

Part Seven:

Looking at the motivation of the players is interesting.

Most of those at the lowest level were ideologically interested in communism (small “c”) and they were naïve to an extreme. One of the liberals on a Blog referred to them as ‘flirting with Communism.’”

That is pretty accurate for the rank and file. Those are the great majority of those who in the 20’s and 30’s – mostly naïve college students looking for a perfect world where everyone was equal.

That large group were the lake in which the Communist Party, USA recruited. In WWII there were more than 50,000 members of the Communist Party, USA. (CPUSA)

From that large pool, the Russians in several groups recruited agents – the NKVD (KGB), the Comintern, and the GRU separately recruited those CPUSA who, in addition to their interest in economic socialism, were activists who loved the experiment going on in Russia,

These people, hundreds of them, in addition to a love of Communism were willing to betray their own country – a major step. Espionage requires that a person reject their

country, their family, their friends – their culture. That does not come easily, even for those who aspire to some perfect world.

But hundreds went from Communist sympathy, to espionage. Willingly. Some were recruited – some sought out Russian and Soviet-Bloc agents.

Many of those who were brought into the CPUSA camp were attracted to the impression that it was Communism vs. Fascism, and many even fought in the 30s in Spain with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The non-aggression that Stalin signed with Hitler was disillusioning to many, but others persisted with hope of a “better world” in spite of purges that killed millions of people and even hundreds of their fellow agents.

(Many people first start by selling corporate secrets, thinking they are helping a competitor and never thinking they are helping a foreign nation. Of course, one in, they are trapped.)

Of course by then, the agents were immersed deeply into espionage and could not quit – begun with large payments for unclassified material some were in no position to say “no” when they were faced with demands for classified material. Some who quit were murdered, so there was an incentive to keep on keeping on. And, it was not just semi-pro spies who earned assassination – Stalin purged HUNDREDS of his professional KGB agents in 1938 to 1941..

When I was in Moscow, the Guide showed us the hotel where the agents were brought before execution. The Russians, who apparently have seen our old TV advertising, called it the “Roach Motel” – if you recall the old ad it was that roaches checked in but never checked out. That happened to a lot of KGB agents!

And there were as many stories as there were people. Robert J. Oppenheim, the head of the Los Alamos atomic project, was a Communist in the 30s, and into the 40s, but there is no evidence that he ever was engaged in espionage. There is evidence that an attempt to recruit him was made – he admitted that – and his answers to FBI questions were vague and contradictory, but the best guess unless future evidence in KGB files is to the contrary, Oppenheim changed in 1943 and the KGB never got anything from his. There is evidence that he was not forthcoming about the Communist infiltration of his project, out of loyalty to his Communist friends – but that is all.

Part Eight:

Surprise!

We are still learning things we never knew or even suspected.

In a 2007 front-page article in the New York Times, George Koval was reported to be one of the most important spies for the Soviet Union in World War II.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/12/us/12koval.html>

The subject was elaborated upon in May of 2009 in an article in the Smithsonian magazine:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Iowa-Born-Soviet-Trained.html>

Koval had joined the US Army in 1942, and as a brilliant engineer, had been sent to the engineering-hungry Manhattan Project.

Then the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, in 2007, announced that Koval was posthumously awarded the Russian highest medal “Hero of the Soviet Union” – and that George Koval was a famous and very successful spy for the Soviet Union.

Many of the names of spies for the Russians has been known – the Rosenbergs, Klaus Fuchs, David Greenglass – but George Koval?

Koval was unlike the rest. The others who had spied for the Russians had been ‘walk-in’ spies – people who were Americans but secret Communists. Koval was also an American but who lived in Russia, and who had been trained in spy tradecraft by the military intelligence agency, GRU, and sent back to the United States.

He is the only known Russian-trained spy to have penetrated the US atomic agencies, and Russian President Putin credited him as such.

Having been raised in Iowa, and with a degree from City College of New York, Koval was a brilliant student and fine baseball player. He spoke both Russian and idiomatic American with ease, since he was raised in the US. CCNY students knew he was older than the norm, but what they did not know is that he had already graduated from Moscow’s prestigious Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology with honors. (After his spy days, Koval returned to get his Ph.D)

Koval was the son of Russian parents who had immigrated to Sioux City, raised their children, and then returned to Russia to live in a semi-autonomous region of Russia designated for Jews. (Birobidzhan, a Siberian city, designated as a secular Jewish homeland.)

Koval stole many secrets on US atomic weapons, and then in 1946 told friends that he was going on a European vacation -- but was never heard of again.

In the FBI spy hunts of the early 50s, his name came to the attention of the FBI as a possible spy, and some of his friends and colleagues were interviewed, but they all considered him an “All-American kid.”

By then, Koval was serving in the Soviet Army, got out, and lived a normal, low-level life in the Soviet Union until he died in 2006 at the age of 92 – unknown and unheralded until the President of Russia awarded Koval Russia’s highest honor.

Putin said Koval’s work, ““helped speed up considerably the time it took for the Soviet Union to develop an atomic bomb of its own.”

Who knew?

Of course, the FBI knows the names of many hundreds of spies who were suspected, but there was never enough information to bring charges against them and they live their lives, even today in obscurity. It is doubtful that there is anyone as successful both at spying and at covering his trail as GRU agent, George Koval.

Some day, the files of the KGB and the GRU will be available for historians and we will learn the names of many more agents who worked to overthrow the US government.

Part Nine:

And the Russians were not just spying on the American government, and our defense industry – they were spying on dissident Communists, Trotskyites, and the Socialist Workers Party of the 30s, and the Zionists – and not just in the U.S. but around the world!

The records are voluminous – not just FBI reports, but autobiographies, Comintern records in Moscow, and the testimony of many agents. Some agents turned, some testified, some refused to testify and then changed their minds, and many subsequently wrote books admitting to lesser crimes. .

Of course, by the time Daniel Patrick Monahan finally convinced the government to admit to the Venona decryptions in 1995, all of the heat had gone out of the Communist movement, and the anti-Communist movement as well. But the Venona decryptions and the opening of some Russian files documents the full extent of SOME of the action, and caals the hand of those who tried to cover up by claiming lesser offenses.

Communism had been thoroughly discredited, even socialism was on the wane, and – while the Russians had not ended their attempts at spying and espionage, they found capitalism to be a better tool.

They simply bought traitors.

Aldrich Ames was paid \$2+ million to betray America, with a promise of \$2 million more. Ames, a CIA operative for 30 years, gave the Russians the names of more than a dozen American contacts in Russia – all of whom were summarily shot.

But the Communist spies in the 20s, 30s and 40s were ideologues – working for an extra \$35 a week or so, with some getting a bonus for particularly important information -- \$500 or \$1,000!

The spy vs. spy game continues in a more technical venue – computers and the internet. Spies no longer sneak physically into darkened offices and, and, using tiny cameras, photograph documents. The no longer linger outside café's in Cancun holding copies of Life Magazine, while cleaning their glasses, and replying to passwords: “Are you Arthur?” “No, I am Dilbert” sort of things.

The Russians are still spying, the Chinese are spying more, and there are believers in all sorts of Islamic beliefs that are plotting espionage in the old Nazi era “boom and bang” sort of way – a throwback to the bad old days, but with plans made via the internet.

And espionage is very much with us, as potential enemies prepare to shut down our communications systems, and the internet, both of which are necessary for making an attack or defending from an attack.

While the old Soviet Union sent hundreds of spies into the government, and the Nazi's sent hundreds of espionage agents into plants and harbors, our current potential enemies employ thousands of hackers and just a few people actually on the ground to commit mayhem, and their effort is to spread panic, not death.

The methods have changed. The end game has not. A weakened enemy is a vulnerable enemy, and a democracy is, by nature already weakened and already vulnerable. Because a democracy has holes designed in its defense, it must by nature be stronger where it can be strong to overcome its inherent weakness.

History tells us that we are just plain lucky. FDR seriously considered taking the Chicago Tribune to court, or even shutting it down in WWII because the Trib had hinted that we had broken the Japanese Naval Code (June 7, 1942). Only the rollup of the Nazi spy network to which the intelligence arm of the Japanese had been outsourced kept the Trib out of court, because the Japanese had not read the Trib, knew nothing about the breaking of the code and a court case would have just emphasized that which we did not want the Japanese to know.

The Pentagon Papers may be the breaking of government trust in newspapers that sticks in people's minds, but there have been many such instances. Just after WWII, the US was funding an Army of 5,000 dissident Chinese in Burma, using foreign aide as a cover. When the NY Times published that, the Chinese Army, no longer able to pay their men, became the Drug Lords of southeast Asia, spurring a 50-year drug trade that severely damaged the world.

The careless outing of the Soviet UN diplomat by the Washington Post has already been mentioned, and the NY Times disclosure of the CIA monitoring of phone traffic caused

the radical Islamists to change their methodology – severely limiting US access to information.

Being an “open society” has inherent disadvantages when it comes to defending against espionage..

Part Ten:

Much of the previous information had, as it Genesis, a book published by the Yale University Press, called Venona, but there is a great deal of further information made available since the Russians permitted some access to their files.

In the early 1990s, Crown Books signed a book deal with the Russians to co-author five books between American and Russian authors. The proceeds from these books was to be put in a fund for retired KGB agents, because the Russian economy was a shamble and retirement in the old Soviet Union was nothing to speak of even in good times!

Subsequently, another book by many of the authors of Venona but with the cooperation of Alexander Vassiliev– former KGB agent and now international journalist – has been published. Vassiliev had great access to many KGB files, including the full transcript of only partially decrypted Venona messages for two uninterrupted years, and he filled 11 notebooks with information, eight of which he got out of Russia.

((Crown Books subsequently canceled the book deals because of economic reasons in US publishing, but writers write, so much of the research and writing continued – looking for new publishers.)

What the Vassiliev notes revealed was a change to what has been mentioned before – the 179 cover names of Communist agents unconnected by association with the actual names were reduced by 55 names. That leaves us with only 124 “mystery” people. Of course there are many more than that for whom we know neither cover name nor actual names, but we have no current clue.

Those 124 actual names, and the names of those for whom we have neither cover name nor real name are likely to remain in obscurity for many more years. Russia has always had the policy of never revealing the names of any of their agents – even after their deaths – unless the agent has, during their life, revealed the information. Hence, the Rosenbergs have never been acknowledged although dead for more than half a century and the presence of documentary evidence in KGB files that have been revealed, but the conspicuous medaling of Koval by the Russian President, because he admitted his work.

Part Eleven

One of the interesting things I have learned is that in 1941 the KGB had not developed their technical espionage rings fully, primarily because there was no push yet for the atomic bomb.

Consequently, the KGB had been emphasizing their non-military assets. The KGB reports in Moscow show that the KGB had 49 Engineers, 22 Journalists, eight Professors and four Economists.

(Note that these are not sympathizers, or even public or covert members of the Communist Party, USA, but actual agents for the KGB.)

The 22 Journalists interested me and it includes some names you might remember – although a few were not really agents but knowingly cooperated with the soviet Union and some were second-hand used and never knew they were helping the Soviets.

Just as an example, Ernest Hemmingway KNEW he was helpful, but Walter Lippman did not because it was his personal secretary that was a KGB agent, and Drew Pearson didn't know that his partner was a KGB source!

Why Journalists? Simply because they knew much more than they ever published, were friends and confidants of people in high places, and were expert at finding people who were sympathetic with Soviet aims – in effect they could be “talent scouts.”

Those mentioned above were not among the 22 Journalists in the KGB ranks, but at least you would recognize them if you were of a certain age.

One famous name from the day was I.F. Stone, a well-known, rabid leftist writer but it was not acknowledged that he was an agent of the KGB, and his defenders contended that he was just a leftist curmudgeon. KGB archives tell another story 00 that he was a KGN agent and his cover name was Pancake in the 1936-38 period. The KGB files note that an attempt to reestablish relationships took place in the mid-1940s, but there is not sufficient information yet as to whether that was successful. (Stone has his admirers who contend that the KGB admissions are subject to further examination – as indeed everything in the nether world of spy tradecraft is.)

The remaining actual agents you would not know by name, but one was the Moscow Chief for CBS News, Robert Allen, who was Drew Pearson's partner in his widely-read column; Art Kallet, who founded the still widely read Consumer's Union; the son of the Founder of the New Republic, who himself became the Publisher and Editor of that still famous magazine, but was both a GRU agent in the 30s and a KGB agent in the 40s; and a lot of people who were well-known at the time, writing for publications that no longer exist.

Part Twelve

While human intelligence (humint) is the sizzle (particularly for the rest of the world, including Russia), much of the steak (particularly for the US) is electronic intelligence (elint).

That “elint” includes code-breaking and electronic eavesdropping. For that purpose the US employs NSA – which was a group so secret that even their name was classified, even though their budget was (and is) larger than that of the CIA. It is NSA that operated the USS Pueblo (AGER-2), and most submarine surveillance operations.

The Venona decryptions were NSA, and therein lies part of the explanation for how valuable NSA really is. When Bentley defected in 1945 (as previously noted), the KGB promptly deactivated their networks (as also previously noted). Unfortunately for them, during the deactivation, NSA has broken the code for the Soviet military logistics branch, and that meant that the US knew what parts, what trucks, what planes were being sent where. Worse, for the Soviets they had a great spy inside NSA who could not tell them that their logistics code was broken!

Then things changed, as they do. The Soviets reconnected with their spy and he gave them the information they needed – they promptly altered their code to a much more secure system in 1948. That change obviously takes a long time for our code-breakers to catch up – and before we caught up (assuming we ever did), the Soviets sent their logistics effort into high gear to support a North Korean sneak attack on South Korean and American troops.

Had we not been blinded, we might have thwarted the North Korean attack by a massive build-up or our own. Instead, we were caught blind, and that war cost us 35,000 American war dead.

That US citizen who betrayed the fact that we had broken the code was William Weisband, and although his name is hardly a house-hold name, he was one of the KGB’s six most prized assets. When Elizabeth Bentley defected, the KGB issued instructions to do whatever was necessary to protect their six best-placed spies – and Weisband was one of those. He was such a dedicated Communist that he wanted to defect and live in Russia, but the KGB had no interest in letting him abandon his NSA post. So they made him a Russian citizen in absentia to keep him happy while they kept him in place.

Part Thirteen

How was espionage organized in the 30s, 40s and 50s?

There were Soviet nationals who were spies of course (some “legal” with diplomatic cover, some “illegal” just living amongst us), but the domestic arena was organized around the Communist Party, USA, which appeared on the surface as a political

organization. It had two parts – a visible CPUSA which encompassed your every-day, liberal and leftist element recruited from the universities where the Young Communist League was prominent.

The CPUSA also had a covert membership recruited from among prominent Americans, who, through their government work or their social standing did not want their membership in the CPUSA known.

Some visible members of the CPUSA, when they desired to go into government or industrial work, were convinced to vocally quit the CPUSA, renounce and denounce Communism, and take up membership in the covert CPUSA.

While not all US born KGB agents started this way, this CPUSA is the largest lake in which the GRU and KGB fished. Some of these “assets” believed, or wanted to believe that their work was to benefit the CPUSA, and to assist the communis of the US. They would be shocked to believe that they were assisting the Soviet Union.

But most were fully aware that their work went to Russia. That was just fine for them, and they knew that their “handlers” were Soviet KGB agents with Russian diplomatic cover.

Most did their traitorous work for purely ideological reasons; some accepted a small stipend; and a very few were in it purely for the money. (Congressman Dickstein (D-NY) was in it purely for the money – he was being paid the equivalent of \$200,000 a year in modern money, and for not much!)

(Our greatest traitor was Aldrich Ames, a CIA agent who headed the CIA Eastern Europe and Russian CIA desk. He gave the Soviets the names of EVERY CIA spy in Moscow, about 25 people, half of whom were immediately shot. Ames was paid \$2.5 million, with a promise of \$2 million more. He was worth every penny to the Soviets, except that he can't spend it in prison.)

Some assets were recruited, some volunteered, but ideological recruits from among the faithful was the primary methodology – certainly more than 90%. Some agents were paid monthly stipends that were more symbolic than substantive --- and “rewards” of as much as \$500 (\$6,000 in today's money), for a breakthrough set of plans for a radar, or an aircraft.

The one area that was dominated by money was the “X/Y Section” – technical espionage, at least in the 30s. Engineers and scientists who were even the slightest interested in their trade and could not get sufficient funding for their research were willing to turn to whatever funding was available – including Russia. Engineers and scientists were probably less political – they just wanted their “idea” put into practice – by whomever, wherever.

Part Fourteen

While we do not have a similar situation today that is analogous, in the 20s, 30s, and 40s there was a world-wide socialist movement with the promise of a “better world” – more just and with “Christian charity” without religion. That concept attracted intellectuals and young college students by the tens of thousands, of which there were hundreds who were then willing to betray their country for the concept, and the nation epitomizing that concept was Russia (in their minds.)

Stalin was, of course, a tyrant, but many believed that the end product of the Soviet Experiment would be fairness – and the route taken was less important. Stalin’s purges of opponents, and his peace pact with Hitler disillusioned many of his American communist followers, even some of his agents, but others simply looked for the end product to be a fair and just society of people who were equal, and the end justified the means in their minds.

The closest thing we currently have is the radical Islamic problem – the radicals fish among the faithful but only attract a very few of the most radical faithful to betray their country or commit espionage.

Most of the members of the CPUSA were garden-variety liberals, progressives, socialists and communists – it is all one continuum but some people are further along the line than others.

Another important source for agents were those Americans who had fought on the side of the Socialists against the Nazis in the Spanish Revolution. These were dedicated socialists, willing to die for socialism – obviously they were prime targets for recruitment but usually as couriers because they did not usually have political or scientific positions where their knowledge or their access to others could be utilized.

Part Fifteen

While we do not know (and may never know) the full story, it is likely from the information we currently have that the 10 Russian “spies” were simply recruiters and couriers. Spying cannot exist without networks of talent scouts and contact points outside the “legal” or diplomatic service. Those in positions to actually steal secrets need to pass them to one set of contacts, who usually pass them to still another “cut-out” before they actually reach a “legal” contact in some diplomatic or commercial agency who is legally in the U.S.

So, how do spies get caught? A good 90% of the time, it is from defectors from the opposite side who have intimate information on who is spying.

One glaring exception was the Stasi (East German Secret Police) who deduced that “flag cards” (ID cards) of CIA Agents were numbered consecutive!

But usually, even DEEP moles are outed by defectors – although Aldrich “Rick” Ames simply overspent in obvious ways. (He had convinced the CIA that his wife, the daughter of a Columbian politician, was rich. He wasn’t – the money came from the KGB. Lots of it!)

But it was Ames who outed EVERY CIA operative in Moscow – one of them TWICE. In some way, that CIA double agent escaped execution, or even jailing (he had in-laws in HIGH political places) and was re-assigned to Canada where he defected to the US and eventually taught at the Naval War College.

When an agent defects, the FIRST thing that the hosts want to know is who do they know is working for each side!

Since in the 30s, 40s and 50s there were good defectors for both sides, both sides kept updating their books.

When Soviet agents defected, Chambers, Bentley, Gouzenko, each triggered parts of the networks shut down for months – or even years.

It appears that the Russian 10 were not espionage agents, but logistics people – recruiting. Doing talent searches, picking up material from US people who thought they were selling business information for other competitors. I don’t know this, but it is easier to fly a “false flag” operation than to get people to sell information to Russia.

(It was not until 1996 that selling business or technical information to ANYONE was illegal!)

Since these Russian 10 look, act, and speak like Americans, that is not difficult. They then transfer the information to Russia.

I am just guessing here. Time will tell, but I do know the usual process.

My question is: Who are the Americans they have recruited? If the FBI has been on their trail, tracking them individually (some for more than a decade), the FBI should have a real handle on their US contacts.

Those are the people I am interested in. I suspect most will be shocked that the material they provided was going to Russia instead of some US corporation.

I also expect that this is just one of several Russian networks in place.

Part Sixteen

It might be noted that this case of “illegals” is not something out of the 50s.

Spying goes on constantly.

Harold James Nicholson may not be a household name, but just this past year his son was tried for spying, and agreed to testify against his father – who was already in federal prison as the highest-ranking CIA agent to ever spy for the KGB!

James Nicholson delivered material, and the names of other CIA agents to the KGB for money – in his case \$300,000 – and then recruited his son Nathaniel (an Army vet) to contact the KGB to see if he could recover any money the KGB had in escrow for him! (He returned with at least \$45,000.)

Last year!

Nathaniel was also accused to delivering more information to the KGB for his father while his father served prison time! Nathan pled guilty and agreed to testify against his father (probably with his father's good wishes) in order to get a reduced sentence.

Now we have the most recent spy swap with Russia.

It is an on-going “game” in which those who have died are not reported – or mentioned.

A 2011 Update of recently released material follows:

2011: As time grinds slowly on, still more information is gathered that shows that Joe McCarthy was right. Oafish, overbearing, but right. Unfortunately, both for him and for us, he didn't know he was right. His blustering and blundering had masked the reality of his correctness.

In 2008, Morton Sobell, fellow spy in the same small ring with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, finally broke partial silence by admitting to a NY Times reporter (Sam Roberts) that indeed he had spied for the Russians, although, he refused (even in 2008) to call what he and the Rosenbergs did "spying." He contended that since the information he and the Rosenbergs provided to the Russians was not designed to help Russia attack the United States, it was simply "sharing."

Four months ago (December, 2010), at the age of 93, Sobell got more specific in an interview with Steven T. Usdin.

This is important because there has been among the Left a lingering refusal to even admit that the Rosenbergs were guilty – there are still websites contending they were innocent, and executed through some right-wing conspiracy.

Sobell spent 19 years in a federal prison, always contending he was innocent.

Sobell was a "Red Diaper Baby" the son of a couple who were both members of the Communist Party, and Communist Party meetings were held in his home as he matured so he came about his Communist leanings naturally.

Finally, just four months ago, he began filling out some of the details of his espionage – espionage he had not just denied but that had not come to light because the early evidence used to convict him was largely circumstantial.

In 1948 or 1949, Sobell and others (including William Perl, a known spy who worked for the predecessor of NASA) pilfered many secrets of U.S. aviation from the safe of Theodore von Karman at Columbia University, and photographed them in a 17-hour photo spree before returning the documents. (Two others who were in the "photo party" subsequently fled to Russia.)

The information was sent to the Soviet Union by courier on a merchant ship and included U.S. studies on the feasibility of nuclear-powered aircraft, and jet-fighter design. The nuclear information let the Soviets end their research on a dead-end product without wasting valuable scientific and engineering efforts, and the jet design showed up on the MiG fighters that faced our troops in Korea.

When Sobell was asked in December, 2010, when he had stopped spying for the Soviet Union, he replied, "I didn't," meaning he had not voluntarily stopped spying. Although he had never left the U.S. before, in 1950 he and his family fled to Mexico, where he was observed trying to book passage on Soviet merchant ships. The Mexican police cracked his head with a pistol butt, bundled him into a car and drove him to the waiting arms of the FBI at the Texas border.

The December, 2010, interview showed that Sobell was not concerned with studies of Lenin or Marx, he simply wanted to help the Soviet Union. Since the photography session took place long after the war, it could not have been because of the claimed “hatred of the Fascists,” since that threat had long since been defeated.

That his actions were not just pro-Soviet, but anti-American, cannot be questioned. Sobell wrote a book about his prison life, “On Doing Time,” in which he said that it was inevitable that the U.S. and the Soviet Union would someday go to war and that it would be the fault of the United States,