Chinese Spies: A History From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping

Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping



by Natasha Lehrer

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Espionage has been a key part of Chinese statecraft for centuries. In the early days of the People's Republic, Chairman Mao Zedong used spies to gather intelligence on his enemies and to undermine their power. In the present day, President Xi Jinping has continued to use spies to project Chinese power and influence around the world.

This book tells the story of Chinese espionage from its early beginnings to the present day. It draws on interviews with former spies and intelligence officials, as well as on declassified government documents, to provide a comprehensive look at this fascinating and often shadowy world.

The Early Years

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was founded in 1921, and from its earliest days, it relied on espionage to gather intelligence and to undermine its enemies. In the 1930s, the CCP established a secret intelligence agency known as the Central Special Branch (CSB). The CSB was responsible for gathering intelligence on the Kuomintang (KMT), the Nationalist government of China, as well as on other political opponents of the CCP.

After the CCP came to power in 1949, it established a new intelligence agency known as the Ministry of Public Security (MPS). The MPS was responsible for both domestic and foreign intelligence, and it quickly became one of the most powerful and feared agencies in China.

The Cold War

During the Cold War, China was a major player in the global espionage game. The MPS worked closely with the Soviet Union's KGB to gather intelligence on the United States and its allies. Chinese spies also played a role in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

In the 1970s, China began to open up to the West, and its espionage activities became more sophisticated. Chinese spies began to target Western businesses, universities, and government agencies. They also began to develop new technologies for espionage, such as eavesdropping devices and computer hacking.

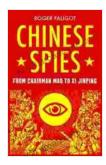
The 21st Century

In the 21st century, China has continued to invest heavily in its espionage capabilities. The MPS has been renamed the Ministry of State Security (MSS), and it is now one of the largest and most sophisticated intelligence agencies in the world.

Chinese spies are active in every corner of the globe. They are targeting Western businesses, universities, and government agencies. They are also playing a role in China's growing military power and its increasingly assertive foreign policy.

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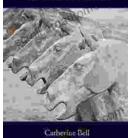


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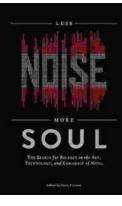


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