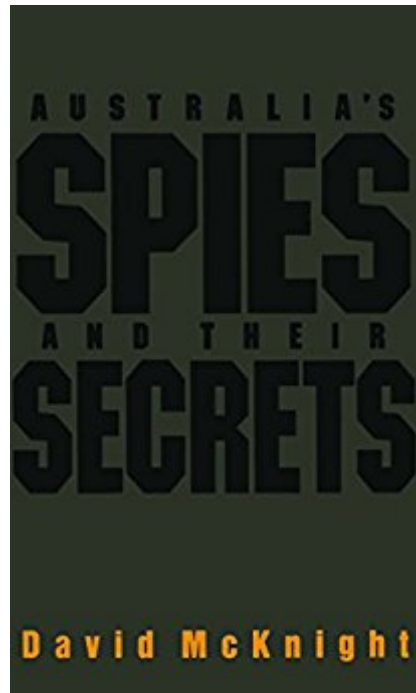


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Australia's Spies And Their Secrets



Synopsis

Australia's Spies and their Secrets tells the inside story of the rise and fall of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) - Australia's premier spy body. Based on thousands of documents never before revealed, along with interviews with over thirty former ASIO officers and many of those spied upon, this fascinating book exposes the secret dimensions of Australia's post-war politics and history. It is certain to provoke debate and controversy. In this ultimate Australian spy story, investigative journalist David McKnight: rewrites the known history of the Petrov Royal Commission; instances actual cases of Soviet espionage in Australia; tells how a gigantic system of security dossiers on ordinary Australians was built up; exposes government and ASIO plans to intern 10 000 people; outlines ASIO's links with the leadership of the NSW branch of the Australian Labor Party; reveals ASIO's extensive use of journalists; outlines ASIO's hidden role in the Vietnam War; and tells how ASIO officers feared that Lionel Murphy was a KGB spy. Australia's Spies and their Secrets is essential reading about Australia and its recent past. 'This book is a fascinating study of ASIO, meticulously researched and destined, no doubt, to become an indispensable source for understanding Australia's spies.' - Jim McClelland, Former Minister in the Whitlam Government

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Customer Reviews

Yes, someone has read this. Probably only of interest to us down here, but it does contain some truisms that was America in the 1950's. The book is written from transcripts and reports that were only recently released from the Secrecy Act (ie: 25 years after). No great surprises, but it does show the level of paranoia shown in Australia that was sweeping the country in reflection from the USA's MaCarthyism in the 50's. It also shows how the US and UK intelligence agencies did not trust us because of leaks. Interestingly enough, they were later revealed to have come from the UK's MI6 'advisers' given to us. Twenty years on, we can look back at how gullible we were, and how we were too isolated to take any great part in the northern hemisphere's cold war.

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