

# The Contention of U.S Intelligence Manipulation and Political Surveillance: A Post 9/11 intelligence Diagnosis

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**Abstract** — This paper attempts to demonstrate the nature and functions of US intelligence operations in the contemporary world while juxtaposing their compatibility and consistency with relevant international legal frameworks. It has explored whether these operations of intelligence and counter-intelligence dynamism is being confined within the national issues of United States or time to time moving beyond opportunistically. After simultaneous and vigorous intelligence failure of 9/11 terrorist attacks and Iraq WMD intelligence failure (controversially intelligence propaganda), the intelligence communities of United States have undergone extensive major reforms since 2005 when President George W. Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. But this diagnosis sheds light on the debate that in spite of being modified and revised these intelligence agencies have still remained the same prejudiced, arrogant and tyrannical institutions prioritizing national interests rather than civil, national and international laws. To exemplify such illiberal attitude and gross intelligence manipulation numerous issues of Abu Ghraib Prison, Guantanamo Bay detention camp and more recent ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Levant) patronization can be highlighted as concrete evidences. Again, covert but authentic sources like WikiLeaks, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange have revealed sensitive contended issues that US intelligence is being used as a political instrument to sustain unauthorized and extrajudicial surveillance violating individual as well as collective rights. They have strongly argued such manipulated entities patronize new threats to international terrorism to continue systematic extremism against the well-portrayed religious fundamentalism. Thereby, this paper tries to examine whether all forms of international terrorism is backed by religious fundamentalism or to some extent ironically being patronized by the ‘countering intelligence communities’ to sustain their political interests and dominance. Finally, considering all such extremely controversial determinants this paper advances to ascertain current international stature and credibility of these intelligence institutions and prescribes several plausible reform initiatives to redesign these entities in a value-neutral, dispassionate and objective manner.

**Keywords:** U.S intelligence community, propaganda, national interest, international law and extrajudicial surveillance.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Intelligence service is considered to be one of the ancient practices of nation-states to protect themselves from external threats and to sustain their secure existence. And in

terms of contemporary world, intelligence agencies have emerged as a prerequisite fashion to practice modern state behavior. Every independent state owns its own intelligence service to secure its safe existence and rarely depends on or collaborates with others to share intelligence functioning. Thereby, it is obvious that in the eve of 21<sup>st</sup> century, the ‘most compatible clamant’ of ‘super power’ status United States of America represents one of the best efficient intelligence agencies of the world. But to dive a bit deeper, in this contemporary world specially after the dramatic attack of September 11,2001, there is prevailing severe ‘credibility crisis’ among these reputed agencies. Thereby this paper has been concentrated its focus on three major central research questions to unfold the crux about persisting deficiencies of US intelligence agencies. The paper has considered three prime intelligence institutions of USA along with other subordinate agencies to assess their credibility as well as to investigate their contemporary inefficiencies.

TABLE 1

Table I: Major concerned US Intelligence Agencies, Source: Self-compilation.

Name of Intelligence Agency	Intelligence Gathering Discipline	Year of Establishment	Headquartered In
FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)	Domestic Intelligence	1935	Washington DC.
CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)	Foreign Intelligence	1947	Langley, Virginia
NSA (National Security Agency)	Signal Intelligence	1952	Maryland

## II.CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

For a better understanding of the significant issue several central research questions have been developed in this study.

- How far intelligence agencies of USA have responded to encounter the surge of post 9/11 international terrorism?
- To which extent the operational activities of US central intelligence agencies have been compatible with national law and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL)?

- Do national interests jeopardize the surveillance system of US intelligence agencies in the contemporary world?

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper incorporates mainly secondary data collection method but in a structured way.

The intentness of the research is to explore a multilayered and multidimensional problem and thereby data collection focuses broadly on qualitative methods of secondary data collection including several expert observations rather than a large scale field survey. It has examined the trend of US intelligence efficiencies and its overtime transformation mainly focusing on post 9/11 era. To examine and explore the inherent issues it has depended on both conventional as well as critical literatures. The paper mostly reviewed scholarly compositions, books, journal articles, online articles, newspaper, magazines and authentic video clips. It has assessed and analyzed data of a specific timeline. It has used Microsoft tool kit and excels software to analyze and incorporate these data in order to complement the findings of the paper.

### IV. EXISTING LITERATURE REVIEW AND PREVAILING GAPS

While venturing onto the terrain of existing literatures on US intelligence manipulation and political surveillance, the most crucial relevance has been drawn that the issue has been highlighted repeatedly since post 9/11 intensification of manipulation activities but still systematic and scholarly compositions have remained noticeably limited on the issue. Among a vast number of literatures few significant ones are reviewed here.

#### ❑ The Stagnation in Terrorism Research

Author's Name: Marc Sageman, Independent Consultant and former CIA official.

Published By: Routledge, Mortimer Street, London, UK, 28 March, 2014

Key Arguments (Sageman, 2014):

- 9/11 has been considered by the author as a dramatic threshold. After that incident US government stimulated massive funding in terrorism intelligence. But self declared scholars and laymen started to dominate the field and of course they were politically motivated and did not pose enough caliber and rigor to continue objectivity. They remained confined to biased sensationalism and exaggeration in dealing with persisting threats.
- The so-called politically motivated experts are too ignorant about global neo 'jihadi ideology' and thereby have blindly employed :
- 'Blame it on Islam; you will get the terrorists'

- Lack of comprehensive data and intervention of political motives have seized the teeth and nails of intelligence entities and confirmatory notification about Iraq's WMD possession needs no more explanation.
- 'Cooking the Intelligence to fit the decision maker's recipe' is the best quote to justify policy world drawbacks.
- False Alarm and exaggeration are more than frequent due to typical American terrorism hysteria.
- Intelligence community 'Plays it safe' and keep going on 'Politics of fear'
- Intelligence Communities have failed significantly to distinguish between 'wannabes' and 'actual'. Ironically, most of them turn to political violence after being arrested which they would have never been done otherwise.

#### ❑ Intelligence and U. S. Foreign Policy: Iraq, 9/11, and Misguided Reform

Author's Name: Paul R Pillar

Published By: Columbia University Press

Key Argument (Pillar, 2005):

- Intelligence reforms, especially measures enacted in USA since 9/11 have remained deeply misguided.
- They often miss the sources that underwrite failed policy and misperceive the ability to read outside influences.
- They also misconceive the intelligence-policy relationship and promote changes that weaken intelligence-gathering operations.
- Highlights the limited role intelligence played in Cold War decisions
- Demonstrates the negligible effect that America's most notorious intelligence failures had on U.S. policy and interests. He then reviews in detail the events of 9/11 and the 2003 invasion of Iraq, condemning the 9/11 commission and the George W. Bush administration for their portrayals of the role of intelligence. Pillar offers an original approach to better informing U.S. policy, which involves insulating intelligence management from politicization and reducing the politically appointed layer in the executive branch to combat slanted perceptions of foreign threats. He concludes with principles for adapting foreign policy to inevitable uncertain

### V. CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

Conventional Wisdom has admitted the failure of 9/11 threat assumption and to some extent Iraq War misinterpretation.

And thereby it has advocated for necessary reform alike 2005 reform initiatives and counter intelligence and counter terrorism initiatives adoptions. But it has accepted the existing system of intelligence functioning and arthur advocates to promote its efficiencies to in order to bridge the prevailing gap. It has identified several reasons to be responsible behind such inefficiencies:

☐ *Rise of religious fundamentalism and International terrorism :*

Traditionally the rise of international terrorism and religious fundamentalism is accredited to be the prime example behind intelligence deficiencies. Online radicalization and newer and smoother techniques are making traditional intelligence agencies handicapped which need extensive equipment and more perfect surveillance to combat insurgencies.

☐ *9/11 failure needs extensive reformations to make up the shortcomings :*

It addresses the shortcomings behind threat assessment and urges for better equipment and technological

- Intelligence response to pacify national security threat
- Intelligence inefficiencies to combat threats from within and beyond

☐ *Threats from religious fundamentalism should be pacified for unlimited time being.*

Dependent-Independent Variable Nexus (A traditional Perception):

Conventional wisdom argues that dependent variable ‘post 9/11 intelligence failure’ is dependent on independent variable ‘rise of extensive religious fundamentalism’ and ‘international terrorism’ which threatens US national security from within and beyond and ‘inefficiencies of intelligence communities’ to respond to the emerging and comprehensive threats. Thereby it suggest for extensive reform programs, capacity building and strengthening national surveillance to filter national security against any kind of unnecessary penetration.

TABLE II

Table II: Dependent-Independent Variable Nexus, Source: Self-Compilation.

Conventional Wisdom	
Dependent Variable	Independent Variable
Post 9/11 intelligence failure	Rise of extensive religious fundamentalism inefficiencies of intelligence communities international terrorism

So, the hypothesis may be designed in a manner that, if there persists inefficiencies and lack of surveillance in the intelligence management then it may facilitate the rise of

national security threat through rise of religious fundamentalism and international terrorism.

*A Case Study: Overtime Inefficiencies of FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation):*

The FBI today is considered one of the world’s premier security and crime fighting forces which is an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused national security organization belonging to the United States Department of Justice with both intelligence as well as federal criminal investigation and law enforcement responsibilities. It is the leading U.S. counterterrorism and counterintelligence agency whose mission is to protect and defend the United States against terrorism, espionage, cyber attacks, major criminal threats and foreign intelligence threats to uphold and enforce the criminal laws and to provide criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners (U.S Department of Justice,2013).The bureau was established in 1908 as the Bureau of Investigation (BOI) and eventually emerged as the FBI in 1935 yet historically headquartered in Washington, D.C. The FBI has investigative jurisdiction over violations of more than 200 categories of federal crime under the Major Crimes Act however over the years paradoxically has subjected itself with significant successes as well as controversial failures of faulty and biased operational activities. For instance : 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York, Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and the arrest of the Unabomber in 1996 are proclaimed to be the success cases of FBI operational swiftness and credibility and contrarily the FBI was criticized for its investigation of the Centennial Olympic Park bombing During the1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. But significant claims of FBI’s failure of intelligence and intelligence manipulation has been recurrently connected with the cases of 9/11 terrorist attack of 2001 and 2003 U.S invasion of Iraq respectively. The 9/11 Commission's final report on July 22, 2004 concluded finding the FBI to be partially responsible for not pursuing intelligence reports that could have prevented the incident and similarly Amy Zegart's (Professor of University of California) book “Spying Blind: The CIA, the FBI, and the Origins of 9/11” indicated that the CIA and FBI missed 23 potential chances to disrupt the 9/11 terrorist attacks (Seper, 2003; Shovelan, 2004; Zegart, 2007).

VI. ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION

Alternative Explanations do not completely reject conventional wisdom. It addresses the factor that the intelligence community has severely failed to counter terrorist attacks of September 11 and threat assessment of Iraq’s WMD Possession but it examines the reasons behind such failure through a different investigative lens.

Well, the event of 9/11 attack can certainly be entitled as a dramatic threshold. It is considered so far the greatest strategic surprise for United States of America which resulted in extensive change and reconsideration about national security and intelligence performance. Americans could no longer felt

secured and overnight it converted into ‘A Security State’. Thereby, the condition of relevant intelligence communities can easily be interpreted, Millions of ‘if ‘and ‘would that be’ phrases were being annexed repeatedly with the nature and function of such reputed agencies. As a result, an extensive reform became imminent and unavoidable naturally. US government left no single stone unturned. To ensure national security through effective counter terrorism and counter insurgency program it historically accelerated its intelligence and defense budget. The mighty state has never experienced such dramatic escalation in intelligence budget as well as transformation in intelligence program. But this paper has actually identified and highlighted the query that even after employing such envious amount of finance, human and technological intelligence the particular field has been significantly subjected to subsequent failure and most importantly manipulation.

TABLE III

Table III: Diverse Intelligence Collection Disciplines employed in post 9/11 USA, Source: Self Compilation inspired from Johnson, 2007.

- HUMINT : Human intelligence gathered from a person on the ground
- GEOINT: Geospatial Intelligence :satellite, aerial photography or mapping
- MASINT: Measurement and Signature Intelligence
- OSINT: Open Source Intelligence
- SIGINT: Signals Intelligence :gathered from interception of signals
- TECHINT : Technical Intelligence : analysis of weapons and equipment
- CYBINT/DNINT : Cyber Intelligence / Digital Network Intelligence : Cyber Space
- FININT: Financial Intelligence : gathered from analysis of monetary transactions

As mentioned, US government after 9/11 terrorist attack has unprecedentedly increased the intelligence budget and interestingly the amount has ever increased and still is increasing in the subsequent fiscal years. But still ironically intelligence communities have remained incapable of dealing with newer security threats like international terrorism and its variant phases which are currently being dominated by ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Levant) terrorist groups. While tracing the reasons behind such inefficiencies the paper has investigated several controversial determinants. Firstly, although the government has annually released its overall level of extensive intelligence spending since 2007, it has not divulged how such huge amount has been allocated and used. A snapshot detail has been designed below to explain the extensive budget transformation in the intelligence communities:

TABLE IV

Table IV: Massive expenditure in US Intelligence Budget

Fiscal Year	Intelligence Budget :Comprises of both National Intelligence Program (NIP)+Military Intelligence Program (MIP)
2014	67.9 billion \$
2013	71.9 billion \$
2012	75.4 billion \$
2011	78.6 billion \$
2010	80.1 billion \$
2009	76.2 billion \$
2008	70.4 billion \$
2007	63.5 billion \$

Source: US Intelligence Budget Data 2015 (Intelligence Resource Program, 2015).

The intensity of intelligence budget escalation will be more apparent if we analyze a graphical scenario of this overtime budgetary plan:

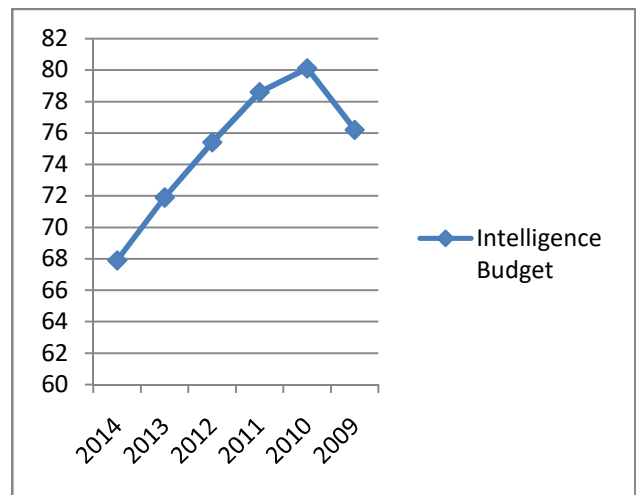


Figure I: US Intelligence budget indicating line chart, Source: Self Compilation.

Now, considering the fact of extensive budget allocation and reform initiatives, this paper altercates with the reasons behind such failure. Even after having the highest possible ever increasing budget and best available technologies the intelligence communities are being evidently subjected to failure and manipulation in dealing with national as well as international security due to some interesting as well as shocking realities: Here, it has explored several reasons to be responsible behind such inefficiencies of the wealthiest and best equipped intelligence communities of this contemporary world.

- ❑ *Incompatibility with national and international laws:* Gross violation of International Humanitarian Laws, Prisoners of War (POW) and basic human rights due

to extra judicial inhuman torture by these fierce agencies. National interest is unofficially being prioritized upon International Humanitarian Law and individual rights being subjected to unnecessary surveillance, brutal and extraordinary treatment.

- ❑ *Intelligence agencies are being used as an instrument to sustain unauthorized political surveillance:* Post 9/11 US agencies have compromised public privacy in the name of securitization and protectionism. It has employed and still employing constant and continuous shriveling program which not necessarily remained confined within USA but surprisingly subjected all people of the entire world. It has grossly violated citizen’s rights and more extensively has been used in order to accomplish US national and political interests overtime.
- ❑ *Patronizing international terrorism intentionally to continue domination and hegemony:* The most shocking feature which has been argued and later revealed using confidential sources in the secret patronization of international terrorism which is publicly highlighted as the top most countering priority by the intelligence agencies. To some extent the paper has revealed secret patronization , financing and assisting such radicalization to sustain their credibility and to curb
- ❑ *Self-created Threats for motivational threat pacification:* Massive recruitment of fewer experts and more politically motivated lay men whose lack of enough caliber led them to misinterpret real threat and inject panic motivationally.
- ❑ *Vigorously manipulated by national and political interest:* Massive intervention of political and regime interests have been revealed through the nature, function and application of intelligence communities.
- ❑ *Capacity Gap and Analytical Deficiencies*

The inadequate and inappropriate intelligence initiatives of course reveals functional void but first the threats need to be readdressed. Massive reform initiatives have remained apparently ineffective. And it will remain so unless the real threats have been clearly redefined. To dive a bit deeper it reveals that the underlying problem is not the failure to interpret threats but here the cruxes are the threats themselves. Because the threats are being created in order to pacify willingly. Seems controversial but can be proved overtime evidently.

In terms of causal relations, the paper argues that the dependent variable ‘post 9/11 intelligence failure’ is dependent on independent variable ‘ incompatibility with national and international humanitarian law’, ‘intervention of political interest’, ‘motivational patronization of international terrorism’,’ domination of politically motivated intelligence officials and scholars’, ‘unauthorized political surveillance ‘and ‘Self-created threats’ . The paper reveals the hidden

intervening variables ‘hegemonic domination’, and ‘arrogance and ambition’ to define the intervention of political interests. It further strengthens the argument with the fact that ‘failure of addressing the threats’ should clarify and redefine the nature and extent of threats itself. Thus, this paper argues from a different lens to assess the credibility of US intelligence communities.

TABLE V

Table V: Alternative Dependent-Independent Variable Nexus, Source: Self-Compilation.

Alternative Explanation		
Dependent Variable	Intervening Variable	Independent Variable
Post 9/11 intelligence failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Hegemonic domination</li> <li>☞ Arrogance and ambition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Incompatibility with national and international humanitarian law</li> <li>☞ Intervention of political interest</li> <li>☞ Motivational patronization of international terrorism</li> <li>☞ Domination of politically motivated intelligence officials</li> <li>☞ Unauthorized political surveillance</li> <li>☞ Self-created threats</li> </ul>

So, here the hypothesis has been harnessed with the argument that, if there persist the intervention of political interests and dominative aspirations in the intelligence management then it might violate national and international humanitarian law and facilitate international security threat.

VII.CENTRAL RESEARCH FINDINGS

The research paper has investigated with an alternative lens to examine and highlight the real features of intelligence functioning in the post 9/11 era. While analyzing several official as well as confidential sources of data along with scholarly compositions and expert interviews, the paper has incorporated several surprising as well as alarming findings to be responsible behind significant intelligence deficiencies. The paper has alternatively presented its arguments about contemporary US intelligence features and has tried to justify the arguments with plausible explanations and authentic evidences. Finally, this paper has tried to inaugurate the microscope or further detailed research in an alternative way.

- ❑ *Incompatibility with national and international laws:*  
The paper here differs from the conventional idea that rise of religious extremism and international terrorism to be prime culprits behind intelligence deficiencies. Rather it argues that US intelligence communities specially after the 9/11 terrorist attack have responded in such an ambitious and motivational manner that many innocent youngsters or civilians who had merely demonstrated rough and tough attitude have remained subjected to extreme abuse of national and international

humanitarian law. Ironically in a noticeable number of cases suspected individuals have turned into terrorists after being victimized by intelligence officials through extreme torture, interrogation and bodily mutation which they would never had been done otherwise. Again, those who were convicted and even just suspected as Iraq and Afghanistan war criminals have experienced extra judicial treatment apparently inconsistent with both national and international legal frameworks. Thereby, such extensive manipulating inconsistency has emerged as the most crucial orbit of altercation of this paper to be responsible behind contemporary US intelligence drawbacks. The paper has harnessed three especially evident cases to make the argument plausible.

→ *Abu Ghraib Prison: The hub of US intelligence manipulation*

Inaugurating from the era of Iraq War, Abu Ghraib, twenty miles west of Baghdad has emerged as one of the world’s most notorious prisons, with torture, weekly executions, and vile living conditions by reputed US intelligence agencies. As many as fifty thousand men and women although no accurate count is possible were jammed into Abu Ghraib at one time, in twelve-by-twelve-foot cells that were little more than human holding pits. And ironically most of the captives of Iraq War experienced extra-judicial treatment and inhuman torture without being ‘convicted guilty’ which was later justified as ‘Harsh-interrogation method of CIA’ (Sontag,2004). Most of the prisoners, however there were several thousand, including women and teen-agers were civilians, many of whom had been picked up in random military sweeps and at highway checkpoints. They fell into three loosely defined categories: common criminals; security detainees suspected of “crimes against the coalition”; and a small number of suspected “high-value” leaders of the insurgency against the coalition forces.

Abu Ghraib scapegoats started their ironic life from March 2003. And from the very beginning of overseas counter

terrorism strategy United States Army and CIA committed a serious of known and invented techniques of human right violation against detainees in the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. The violations included not only conventional but also innovative techniques of tortures by ‘trigger happy officials’ including- Physical and Sexual Abuse ,Torture, Rape ,Bodily Mutilation ,Sodomy ,Harsh Military Interrogation, Crucifying Captives ,Murder, Water boarding ,Harsh Military Interrogation, Extra –Ordinary Rendition : Extra judicial transformation of people from one country to another ,Stress Positions, Hooding, Sleep Deprivations to the Point of Hallucinations, Deprivation of food and drink, Walling, Subjection to Extreme Cold or Hot, Nakedness, Targeted Killing ,Confinement in Small Coffins like Small Boxes, Continuous Beating and Enhanced Interrogation Techniques : Systematic Torture of Captives. The abuses came to light with reports published in late 2003 by Amnesty International and the associated press. The documents are generally known as “**Torture Memos**” came to light a few years’ later.

→ *The Recent Crux of Guantanamo Bay*

Guantanamo Bay Is a Military prison camp In Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. The Prison Camp was established to detain extraordinary dangerous prisoners and to interrogate them in the same inhuman manner mostly captives of War on Terror from Afghanistan, Iraq and others are still undergoing through such extra-judicial treatment of US intelligence community. It incorporates similarly Torture, Murder, Sexual Torture, Water Boarding and Attacks on Religious Sentiments which remain apparently contradictory with international legal frameworks. For Instance: Even a few months ago several newspapers reported that Guantanamo Bay staff sergeant claimed 3 men believed to have committed suicide were actually tortured to death (Nazaryan, 2015).

A profile Analysis matrix (random selection) of a number of victimized captives in both the notorious places would justify the plausible claim of US Intelligence treatment’s inconsistency with concerned legal frameworks.

TABLE VI

Table: Victim profile and nature of torture analysis to justify compatibility with international law, Source: Self –compilation

Name of The Captive	Convicted / Not Convicted	Year	The extra-judicial treatment	Compatibility with Legal Framework	Judicial Responses
Abu Zubaydah	Not Convicted, Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp /GTMO since 2006.	2002-2014	Water boarded 83 times, forced nudity, sleep deprivation, confinement in small dark boxes, and stress positions and indefinitely detained which ultimately led to lose his left eye. (Worthington,2010)	Geneva Convention III Relative To The Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949 (International Committee of the 1949).	Justified by Department of State as EIT (Enhanced Torture Techniques).(Ross,2009).
Khalid Sheikh Mohammed	Convicted on account of ‘9/11 War Crimes’, held in GTMO camp since 2006 (Brown, 2007).	2003-Present	Being tortured in the name of Enhanced Torture Techniques	Violation of V and VI amendments of US Constitution	Awaiting prosecution

Mohammed Mana Ahmed Al Qahtani	Convicted on numerous courts since 2008 and held in GTMO camp.	2001-Present	Isolation, sleep deprivation, forced nudity and exposure to cold threatened his life severely while interrogating. (Worthington, 2009).	Violation of V and VI amendments of US Constitution	Justified by Department of State as EIT (Enhanced Torture Techniques). (Ross, 2009).
Manadel Al Jamadi	Not Convicted, Abu Ghraib Prison.	November 4, 2003	Physical Torture and Strappado Hanging	Geneva Convention 111: Treatment of Prisoner of War (POW)	The Practitioner was not charged, although death was labeled as homicide (Mayer, 2004).
Ameen Saeed Al Sheik	Not Convicted, Abu Ghraib Prison.	October 7, 2003	Nakedness and Sexual Torture	Geneva Convention 111	Justified by Department of State as EIT (Enhanced Torture Techniques)
Abu Al Mustafa	Innocent Iraqi Civilian, Abu Ghraib.	2003	Tortured to observe religious books burning and sexual torture (Ross, 2009).	Geneva Convention 111	Not Charged
Name not revealed	Not-Charged, Abu Ghraib.	2004	Crucified	V & VI amendments of US Constitution	Justified by Department of State as EIT (Ross, 2009).
Abdul Jaleel	Convicted, Abu Ghraib Prison	2003	gagged and shackled to a cell door with his hands over his head	Violation of V and VI amendments of US Constitution	Justified by Department of State as EIT (Enhanced Torture Techniques) and claimed that died due to smothering and chest compression (Ross, 2009).
Kasim Mehaddi Hilas	Suspected Captive, Abu Ghraib Prison.	2003	He was forced to strip, put on a hood and to wear rose colored female underwear and brutally tortured through nakedness. (Higham, 2004).	Geneva Convention 111	Not Charged
Hiadar Sabar Abed Miktub al-Aboodi.	Not Available, Abu Ghraib Prison.	2003	Forced to bark like dogs, sleep deprivation and sexual tortures (Higham, 2004).	Geneva Convention 111	Justified by Department of State as EIT (Ross, 2009).

#### *A Case Revealing the Story:*

In May 2004, the Washington Post reported evidence given by Ameen Saeed Al-Sheik, detainee No. 151362. It quoted him as saying;

"They said we will make you wish to die and it will not happen, they stripped me naked. One of them told me he would rape me. He drew a picture of a woman to my back and made me stand in shameful position holding my buttocks." They said 'Do you pray to Allah?' And I said YES!

They said, '[Expletive] you. And [expletive] him.' One of them said, 'You are not getting out of here health[y], you are getting out of here handicapped. And he said to me, 'Are you married?' I said, 'Yes.' They said, 'If your wife saw you like this, she will be disappointed.' One of them said, 'But if I saw her now she would not be disappointed now because I would rape her.' [...] "They ordered me to thank Jesus that I'm alive." [...] "I said to him, 'I believe in Allah.' So he said, 'But I believe in torture and I will torture you". (Ross, 2009).

The point of argument is here that US Department of Justice has authorized most of the cases in the name of 'Enhanced Interrogation Techniques' and just overlooked their incompatibility with International Humanitarian Law and even US constitution. Thereby, this paper argues about the

'prioritization of national interest through politics of fear' and 'psyche of brutality' through these case studies to be responsible behind intelligence deficiencies.

→ *Iraq War Intelligence failure : The weapons that were not there*

Conventional wisdom, supported by a detailed Senate Intelligence Committee report advocated that George W Bush went into Iraq because the C.I.A. told him that Saddam Hussein was vigorously developing weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. It was an immediate response of the fact that the terrorists of Al Qaeda successfully crashed airliners into the World Trade Center because the intelligence agency failed to 'Connect the dots' between events and an extensive manner of 'Intelligence Reform' was inevitable.

'We have firsthand descriptions of biological weapons factories' in Iraq: Secretary of State Colin Powell at the United Nations Security Council on February 5, 2003 (Power, 2011).

But this paper argues in an alternative manner trying to unravel the skein of misinformation. It has found that Bush administration's role in turning a blind eye to the dangers of terrorist attack before 9/11 and its determination to whip up fears of Iraqi W.M.D.'s allowed the president to send an American army into the heart of the Middle East with a political motivation indeed. The illusion of WMD possession

in a country where 112 billion barrel crude oil was well reserved represented 12% of world's crude oil reserve had a significant geo-strategic interest. To declare a war in the name of WMD possession and with the help of intelligence manipulation, it was easier to get access to such huge amount of oil reservations (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, 2014).

Eloquent scholar and intelligence expert Paul R Pillar has supported the argument in his scholarly composition 'Intelligence and U. S. Foreign Policy: Iraq, 9/11, and Misguided Reform'. Pillar was an intelligence analyst for 28 years, mainly at the C.I.A. but latterly for the N.I.C., On the basis of his practical intelligence experience he has revealed in his composition interestingly about the overheated fears of terrorists armed with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Both the administration as well as C.I.A. was responsible for the initial failure which was followed by a second one the invasion of Iraq to shut down secret weapons programs that did not, in fact, exist. Pillar frankly acknowledges a full measure of blame for the intelligence agency. National Intelligence Estimate identifying Iraqi W.M.D. programs with 'high confidence'. Examined in retrospect the estimate was wrong in every finding; the nothing the administration did in response to terrorist warnings before 9/11 matched the nothing that was found on the ground in Iraq.

Finally, Pillar argued in favor of his scholarly findings which was the 'politicization of the whole effort' in a 50-page chapter describing this process, Pillar stresses that the administration made abundantly clear it wanted a finding for Iraqi W.M.D.'s. The C.I.A. works for the president and which means that politicization was not also some 'innocent mistakes'. 'The politicization of intelligence tested new depths'. In the run-up to the Iraq war, such politicization was 'blatant and extensive'. Involving 'misleading rhetorical artifice' and 'duplicity' through 'tenuous and unverified reports' from 'unproven sources.' 'The pro-war wind that the Bush administration policy makers had generated was strong, unrelenting and inescapable' (Pillar, 2005).

'That the administration was determined to invade Iraq is now well established; W.M.D.'s were the excuse for war, not the reason'.

☐ *Intelligence agencies are being used as an instrument to sustain unauthorized political surveillance:*

The National Security Agency(NSA) is a specific type of US intelligence agency primarily responsible for global monitoring, collection, decoding, translation and analysis of information and data for foreign intelligence and counter intelligence purposes operate through a discipline known as Signals intelligence (SIGINT).It is a special as well as specific intelligence-oriented and threat-focused agency which is charged with protection of U.S. government communications and information systems against penetration and network warfare. The origin of NSA can be traced by decipher coded

communications during World War 2 and over the years has established its glory as one of the largest U.S. intelligence organizations in terms of personnel and budget, Unlike the traditional intelligence agencies NSA has no authority to conduct human-source intelligence gathering, although it is often portrayed doing so in popular culture mostly with a controversial gesture. For Instance: Spying on prominent anti-Vietnam war leaders, economic espionage In 2013, hacking operations of several important sites, revealing of secret surveillance programs of NSA by Edward Snowden exposing 24X7 ( ever existing) surveillance of NSA over a billion people worldwide and tracking the movement of millions of people using cell phones and other devices. It has also created or maintained security vulnerabilities in most software and encryption leaving the majority of the internet susceptible to cyber attacks from the NSA. The highlighted espionage group The Equation group is suspected to be originated from and to be a part of NSA.

Several Case Studies can reveal the plausible claims of political surveillance:

→ *Non Consensual Human Experiments :*

'MK-ULTRA' coded mind control human research programm of 1950 conducted by CIA which projected chemical, biological, radiological and other drugs stimulation on both willing and uninformed subjects.

→ *Wiki Leaks Revealing :*

Wiki-leaks which have emerged as the most controversial nonprofit organization run by Julian Assange an Australian internet activist by revealing a number of significant documents that have become front-page news items. Early releases included:

- ☞ documentation of equipment expenditures and holdings in the Afghanistan
- ☞ corruption investigation in Kenya
- ☞ In April 2010, Wiki Leaks published gun sight footage from the 12 July 2007 Baghdad airstrike in which Iraqi journalists were among those killed by an AH-64 Apache helicopter, known as the Collateral Murder video.
- ☞ In July of the same year, Wiki Leaks released Afghan War Diary, a compilation of more than 76,900 documents about the War in Afghanistan previously remained confidential (Poulsen, 2010).
- ☞ In October 2010, the group released a set of almost 400,000 documents called the 'Iraq War Logs' in coordination with major commercial media organizations. This allowed the mapping of 109,032 deaths in 'significant' attacks by insurgents in Iraq that had been reported to Multi-National Force – Iraq, including about 15,000 that had not been previously published.



- ☞ In April 2011, Wiki Leaks began publishing 779 secret files relating to prisoners detained in the Guantanamo Bay detention camp.
- ☞ Assassination attempts of Fidel Castro by CIA was also highlighted

→ *Edward Snowden :*

US intelligence agencies have successfully cracked much of the online encryption relied upon by hundreds of millions of people to protect the privacy of their personal data, online transactions and emails, according to top-secret documents revealed by former contractor Edward Snowden. The files show that the National Security Agency has broadly compromised the guarantees that internet companies have given consumers to reassure them that their communications, online banking and medical records would be indecipherable to criminals or governments. The agencies, the documents reveal, have adopted a battery of methods in their systematic and ongoing assault on what they see as one of the biggest threats to their ability to access huge swathes of internet traffic – ‘the use of ubiquitous encryption across the internet’. Those methods include covert measures to ensure NSA control over setting of international encryption standards. Through these covert partnerships, the agencies have inserted secret vulnerabilities – known as backdoors or trapdoors – into commercial encryption software (Ball, Borger and Greenwald, 2013).

- A 10-year NSA program against encryption technologies made a breakthrough in 2010 which made ‘vast amounts’ of data collected through internet cable taps newly ‘exploitable’.
- The NSA spends \$250m a year on a program which, among other goals, works with technology companies to ‘covertly influence’ their product designs.
- The secrecy of their capabilities against encryption is closely guarded, with analysts warned: ‘Do not ask about or speculate on sources or methods’.
- The NSA has been working to develop ways into encrypted traffic on the ‘big four’ service providers, named as Hotmail, Google, Yahoo and face-book.

This certainly violates personal liberty and threatening not only national but international security.

→ *Post 9/11 Acts :*

Post 9/11 Patriot Act , and the Department of Homeland security severely threatened civil liberties as it permitted FBI to access information from liberties, banks, extensive data-mining of e-mail, telephone, credit cards ,academic records constituted a formidable violation of Fifth Amendment. It resulted extensively (Mckay, 2009).

- ☐ The arrest of primarily 1200 Arab descent
- ☐ Refusal to release name of these people
- ☐ Deportation of around 600 individual on a suspicion of linking with terrorists

- ☐ Extra ordinary treatment who spoke against Iraq War policy
- ☐ Violation of Fourth Amendment through unauthorized searching
- ☐ Harassment for immigrants like humiliating ‘strip-search’ at airports

→ Besides, Robert Hanssen’s leaking of classified information to Russian government for about 22 years along with his 9/11 attack involvement suspicion, covert operations on political groups, shooting of 150 people from 1993-2011 by FBI agents which all have been found to be justified by internal investigation, the survival of organized crime proprietor Whitey Bulger as an informant for the FBI for about 12 years and thereafter his concealment of 16 years till his 81 and contemporary conviction of funding the bedeviled terrorist group ISIS ( Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.) are undoubtedly among the most controversial accusations against this reputed organization.

☐ *Patronizing international terrorism intentionally to continue domination and hegemony:*

A more recent threat of terrorist group ISIS is being claimed to be US intelligence backed ,financed and facilitated through a strategy can be harnessed as -

‘Self-created Threats for motivational threat pacification and Vigorously manipulated by national and political interest’

In our estimation the spread of ISIS terror is directly linked to certain imperialist powers and collaborator governments, that fund, mobilize, train, and provide safe havens & weapons. These terror gangs are then deployed to achieve their strategic objectives of global hegemony & control over natural resources, namely Oil and Gas. In terms of the rise of the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq & Syria) the question that must be queried is it possible for a terrorist organization to grow as powerful as on view, without the backing of certain nations & intelligence agencies?

Firstly there are 4 key regional & geopolitical reasons behind Middle East to Eastern European global crisis:

☐ In the year 2007 large Oil & Gas finds were discovered in the Eastern Mediterranean region, mainly to enrich the countries namely Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel & Cyprus. The volume of Gas finds for both Iran & Qatar also showed increased proportions.

☐ The battle over the competition & control of the Pipeline routes between, namely the Iran-Iraq-Syria Pipeline & the Qatari pipeline that needed access via Syria to reach the Mediterranean coastline.



Figure II: ‘ISIS –An American-CIA-Mossad-Saudi Intel Covert Operation’ Retrieved from <http://www.countercurrents.org/mithiborwala130914.htm>

□ If Russia & Iran were to have sovereign control over their Oil-Gas resources which they transported via their pipelines, then Russia & Iran would effectively control up to 50% of Gas exports to Europe challenging the hegemony of the USA (Mithiborwala, 2014).

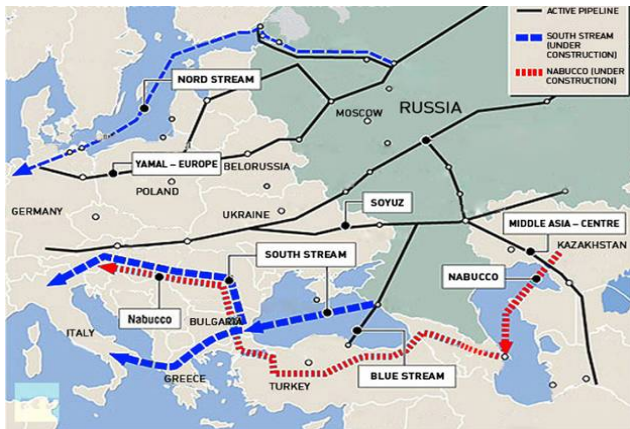


Figure III: Pipeline diplomacy retrieved from <http://www.countercurrents.org/mithiborwala130914.htm>

Russia is building the South-Stream pipeline effectively countered the Western backed Nabucco pipeline.

□ *US-Saudi-Israel axis to counter threat adopting new strategies.*

Post 9/11, we then had the revelation by General Wesley Clark that the Neoconservative Lobby had plans to target ‘7’ countries in ‘5’ years, namely Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan and ending with Iran. The ideological and strategic alliance evolved during the Bush regime when in 2007 a new doctrine, referred to as the “Redirection” emerged. The current crisis that we are witness to, unfolded in Libya in early 2011 where US led NATO forces armed the most fanatical elements amongst the Islamists, including the al Qaeda. Thus there were Iraqi fighters who fought in Libya, amongst myriad others. The heavy weapons from the Libyan war theatre were transported to Southern Turkey and smuggled across the Syrian border to be supplied to the Free Syrian Army (FSA), the Jabhat al Nusra (Al Qaeda of Syria) and others. On the ground the FSA, Nusra, as well as the ISIS,

function together & are interchangeable. The FSA Commander Jamal Mahrouf (April 2014) stated that FSA & Nusra worked together. In June 2014, for all practical purposes the Jabhat al Nusra (al Qaeda of Syria) & the ISIS had merged together.

□ *Capacity Gap and Analytical Deficiencies:*

Even after having such mountainous budget and equipments such problems arise ironically due to over estimation of threat ,terrorism phobia, ambition and arrogance, lack of coordination, politics of fear and demonstration of narrow motives.

### VIII. THEORETICAL IMPLICATION

The paper has investigated and revealed with evidences that several reasons are most likely to be responsible behind contemporary US intelligence deficiencies. ‘Intervention of political movement’ and ‘inherent brutal aspirations towards domination’ is two most important intervening variables that led significant impetus towards current situation. Thereby this paper concludes with the theoretical assumption that penetration of extensive political motivations’ actually weakens any ‘functioning agencies’. And ‘too much ambition and dominating nature’ among officials remains inconsistent with existing legal frameworks and would be enough to undermine the ‘credibility’ as well as ‘legitimacy’ of any reputed institution.

### IX. POLICY IMPLICATION

Considering the current status of US intelligence agencies this paper prescribes for several plausible initiatives.

Firstly, before embracing extensive reform program, the prerequisite task would be authentic threat management.

Secondly, penetration of political and regime interests threatens both national as well as international security so such interventions should be pacified.

Third, Intelligence officials’ recruitment should be on the basis of their expertise and caliber in dealing with issues rationally.

Fourth, Apart from spending mountainous amount of intelligence budget the government should adopt a moderate and influential resource management program.

And finally, personal ambition and brutal instincts should be controlled for the sake of humanity, humanitarian law as well as to avoid further global crisis.

### X. CONCLUDING REMARKS

It has been evident that intelligence agencies of United States of America; considerably some of the most powerful institutions of current time has undergone through massive shortcomings and controversies in the contemporary world. ‘Capacity gap’ and ‘rise of international terrorism’ has been repeatedly convicted to be responsible behind such failures. But this paper through plausible evidences has attempted to

demystify the existing theories about their drawbacks and also rejects the popularly prescribed solutions. Rather it has critically questions about the threat perception and countering strategies of these agencies. Analyzing practical issues this paper has revealed ‘extensive penetration of political intervention’ and ‘dominating motivation’ to be real culprits behind existing deficiencies. Thereby, it has prescribed about ‘personal and political instinct control’ which could be effective for the better functioning and reassuring credibility of these institutions. Finally, the paper concludes with the urge of promoting functional compatibility with national and international humanitarian law and basic human rights.

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