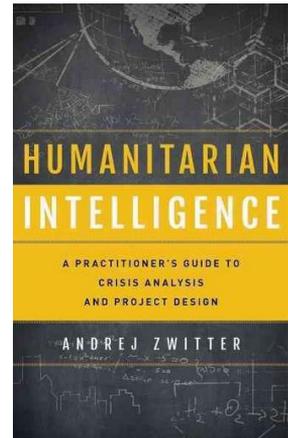


# ***Humanitarian Intelligence: A Practitioner's Guide to Crisis Analysis and Design***

by Andrej Zwitter  
Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, Maryland  
2016, hardcover, 232 pages  
ISBN–9781442249486



Reviewed by Henry Prunckun

Casting my mind back to some of my early readings in the field of intelligence, I recall that the subject literature was dominated by texts that addressed issues involving national security and foreign policy. This international subject focus was reflected in the way intelligence was portrayed in fiction; take for instance works by authors like Ian Fleming, John La Carre, Robert Ludlum, Frederick Forsyth, Ken Follett, Len Deighton, Martin Cruz Smith, and Tom Clancy.

The non-fiction literature was influenced by authors such as Allen Dulles (*The Craft of Intelligence*, 1963) and Professor Harry Howe Ransom's, *The Intelligence Establishment* (1970). There were, of course, dissenting views about intelligence from a cadre of authors such as Snepp, Marks and Marchetti, Wise and Ross, and Agee. But there were also more balanced treatments of intelligence and what it entailed by writers like Copland, Deakin, and Rosezke. This foreign policy dominance in the literature continued through to about the mid- to late-1980s when two things appeared to take place: an organization by the name of the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts formed and launched a scholarly journal, and the publication of a rush of books on *business intelligence*—which has also been called *corporate intelligence*, *competitor intelligence*, and in some circles, the less complementary term, *industrial espionage*.

With the events that unfolded after the al-Qaeda attacks in 2001, intelligence work, and the literature surrounding it, took a turn. It acknowledged what, to some extent, existed before—there is an overlap and interrelationship between foreign policy intelligence, law enforcement intelligence, and business intelligence. That is to say, problems that affect national security can include

unfriendly actors who are the targets of law enforcement; and business that are the targets of hostile actors are of interest to national security and law enforcement agencies.

This weaving of intelligence interests and targets has grown since the 1980s to include the private intelligence firms, and now the non-government sector. Non-government organisations (NGOs) operate in an area that straddles foreign relations, national law enforcement, and the business sector. These agencies are often characterised by the humanitarian work they do. In this regard, it is interesting that acknowledgement of this missing sector of intelligence work has been overlooked for so long. However, Zwitter's *Humanitarian Intelligence* is nothing short of ground-breaking. With the publication of this book practitioners and intelligence scholars can finally incorporate this type of intelligence work into the larger tapestry of intelligence research and analysis.

As the book's subtitle so aptly describes the text's focus—*A Practitioner's Guide to Crisis Analysis and Project Planning*—this book fills the void in how intelligence can be applied to helping NGOs deal with "...criminals, militants, extremists, diseases, and other natural..." hazards (p.1). The book is presented in four Parts—1) Contextualizing Humanitarian Intelligence; 2) Form Data to Context; 3) Actors and Interactions; and 4) From Trends to Operational Plans.

These Parts comprise a number of chapters that logically take the reader from what underpins intelligence research, to how these methods can be applied in practice. Zwitter has provided illustrations of how intelligence can be deployed in the field through examples; allowing students to visualise exactly how intelligence can be applied to the types of issues their NGOs face. In my view, this is an important aspect of the book, because experience shows that discussing intelligence with NGOs is not easy. There is a reluctance for NGOs to associate with agencies that are involved in security, law enforcement, or secret intelligence; yet paradoxically, NGOs need their advice and counsel to plan and deliver their humanitarian services. So, this book is a welcome addition to the literature on intelligence, and hopefully will bridge the gap of reluctance that NGOs have felt about embracing the need to engage in intelligence research and analysis.

#### ABOUT THE REVIEWER

**Dr Henry Prunckun** is a research methodologist who specialises in the study of transnational crime.