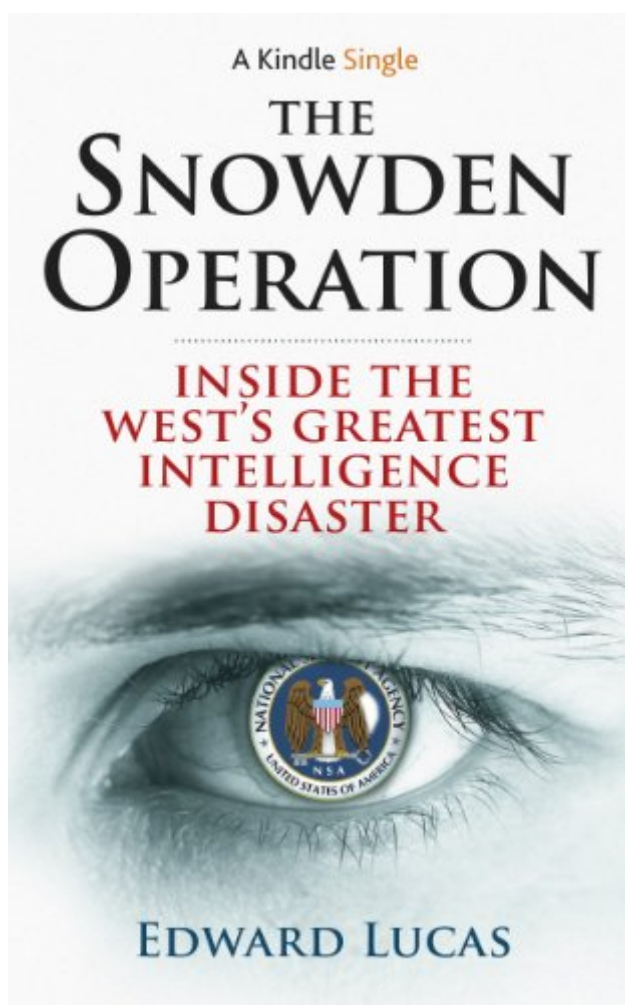


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The Snowden Operation: Inside The West's Greatest Intelligence Disaster (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

In his sensational new book, Economist senior editor Edward Lucas lays bare the naïveté, hypocrisy and sinister background surrounding Edward Snowden, the fugitive American intelligence contractor now living in Moscow. "The Snowden Operation", demolishes Snowden's claim to be a whistleblower. Drawing on 30 years' experience observing the world of intelligence, Lucas depicts Snowden as at best reckless and naïve, and at worst a saboteur. He stole far more secrets than were necessary to make his case and did so in a deliberately damaging matter. Any benefits to the public debate about issues such as meta-data and encryption are far outweighed by the damage done to the West's security, diplomacy and economic interests. "The Snowden Operation" highlights the inconsistencies and puzzles in the account of events given by the "Snowdenistas". It explains how Russia could have sponsored Snowden's data heist -- the greatest disaster ever to hit Western intelligence, and one whose effects have neatly suited Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Edward Lucas throws a counter weight on the public idol fixation on the personality of Edward Snowden. The author does not seek to discredit Snowden's personality, but rather aims to draw

criticism on his methods of disclosure. At 99 cents, it's hard to argue against reading a well cited and reasoned opinion that goes against the grain.

Saw editorial in Wall Street Journal and decided to read this book. Deals with damage to intelligence community but helpful to understand process. He is not complimentary of Snowden but defends NSA process. It is more conservative than I am about secrecy but I liked his logic and writing.

It was quite interesting but it devolved into a technical discussion and was a bit more academic than I expected a story like this to be and it tended to fade away from the middle when there was less emphasis on Snowden. A learned writer who has done an earnest job but I was hoping for more current information on what is going on,

A good summary of what has been leaked so far along with an estimate of the damages this has entailed. Makes a strong case that if Snowden was a whistleblower, his releases would have been limited to just the (allegedly) illegal domestic spying and not exposed US and allied capabilities against Russia, China, and Iran. The argument that Snowden was being worked by the Russians is generally weak and unnecessarily damages the credibility of the rest of the book. It borders on conspiracy theory with all of the attendant "of course, I can't prove any of this..."

If you're looking for a book that cuts through all the political and ideological nonsense around the Snowden issue, you would be well served with a copy of "The Snowden Operation". My only complaint would be that it's really more of a pamphlet than a book, but then again some of the greatest nonfiction works in history have been pamphlets or (like this) pamphlet-length, so that's not an unforgivable sin. Another downside is you will be very unpopular at dinner parties because no matter which side somebody comes down on this book has arguments against their position, and nobody likes an argumentative dinner guest. If you can look past those two shortcomings, though, this book provides a well researched analysis of the Snowden incident which is more or less free of ideological bias.

When Lucas published "The New Cold War" in 2008, he was criticised as an "alarmist" and worse. The events in Ukraine show him to be a prescient observer of geopolitics. In this new work, Lucas correctly analyses the effect of Snowden's disclosures. He strips away the fig leaves of

"whistle-blowing" and "privacy" and shows that Snowden's actions have caused incalculable damage to the intelligence services of the "The Five": US, Canada, UK, Australia, and New Zealand. Snowden has done this by revealing methods, techniques, procedures, intentions, goals, successes, and failures. All of this is invaluable information for Russia and China and constitutes the greatest intelligence disaster since Philby.

I'm a career experienced developer/integrator of Federal (mainly DoD) IT systems. My direct experience aside, I wanted to hear both sides of the Snowden story. After reading Luke Harding's *The Snowden Files*, then Edward Lucas's *The Snowden Operation*, Lucas is-- by far --the superior writer. That aside, Lucas has it Right!!! Harding, a 'Snowdenista' and a clearly biased (IMHO) blogger, gushed profusely over Snowden and his actions. So, I got both sides, and, as I expected, Lucas's side resonated with my values and my experience.

I think anyone who wants a different perspective other than the "Snowden is the persecuted whistleblower" meme, then read this book. It offers some great insight into how much damage was actually done by his actions. The timeline of Snowden's history, his actions and consequences, and decisions brings about many questions to doubt Snowden's sincerity regarding his excuses for leaking the information. Highly recommended for those wanting more information.

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