

Cold War Espionage

A War of Spies

After World War II, the United States with its allies and the Soviet Union with its satellite states began a decades-long struggle for supremacy known as the Cold War. During the Cold War, the US and the USSR – the two superpowers of the time – threatened and challenged each other. Yet, although the threat of war was very real, the USA and the USSR never actually went to war with each other. The hardest and most bitterly fought battle during the Cold War was on the espionage front. In this arena, the KGB exchanged blows with its principal adversaries – the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States (CIA) and the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Both sides had sophisticated networks of spies, secret agents and double agents, engaged in gathering intelligence and information.

The Cambridge Spies

In the early 1930s, fascism was on the march in Germany and Italy. There were those who believed that the western democracies would prove too weak to stand up to Hitler and Mussolini and that only the Soviet Union could defeat fascism. So, when a person from Moscow approached four young Cambridge students – K. Philby, G. Burgess, D. Maclean and A. Blunt – to try to recruit them, they agreed to serve the KGB.

The KGB believed that recruiting clever people from a respected university was a good plan, because the chances were that sometime in the future these young men would have prestigious civil service jobs and be well placed to betray their country's secrets. By the time World War Two was under way, Maclean was climbing the ladder in the Foreign Office, Burgess was socializing with prominent politicians, and Blunt was a member of the Security Service (MI5). Astoundingly, Philby worked for the SIS. And all the while they were establishing themselves in these positions, these four men were reporting to Moscow.

It got better for the KGB. Just before the war ended, Philby was appointed head of the SIS's anti-Soviet section, so that the man who was charged with running operations against the Russians was a Russian agent. Then, as the Cold War got under way, Philby became SIS liaison officer with the newly formed CIA in Washington. Meanwhile, Maclean worked at the British Embassy in Washington, sitting on a committee that dealt with atomic bomb matters. Put together, their information should have been of immense value to Moscow. But the KGB files on these dedicated Soviet agents paint a different picture.

A Lack of Trust

Although the KGB had recruited four young Englishmen who appeared dedicated to their cause, was it possible that they were double agents? The KGB files show that many in the KGB believed that this was the case. They argued that it had been all too easy for the Cambridge ring. They could not be sure they were not having disinformation intentionally fed to them.

This suspicion tainted the KGB careers of all four. None of them was entirely trusted. None of the important information they sent to Moscow was accepted at face value, unless it could be confirmed from other sources. All the while, the KGB wasted the agents' valuable time by trying to expose them and prove that they were loyal to Britain, because it really believed that they were playing a treble game and were all traitors to the Communist cause.

Adapted from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>,
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/h/nqresource_tcm4504762.asp,
<http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/The-Cold-War.aspx>

READING

I Choose the correct answer based on the information provided in the text.

1. The Cold War was
 - A) a real war.
 - B) a struggle for power.
 - C) a war in the Soviet Union.

2. The Cold War lasted
 - A) until World War II.
 - B) for a decade.
 - C) for several decades.

3. During the Cold War, the CIA and the SIS worked
 - A) against each other.
 - B) together against the KGB.
 - C) against each other *and* against the KGB.

4. The Cambridge students started working for the KGB because they
 - A) thought that it was impossible to stop the rise of fascism.
 - B) wanted prestigious jobs.
 - C) wanted to help the Soviet Union in the fight against fascism.

5. The expectations of the KGB about the careers of the four Cambridge spies
 - A) were surprising.
 - B) proved to be unrealistic.
 - C) were fulfilled.

6. Some members of the KGB thought that the Cambridge spies
 - A) did not have the right information.
 - B) were loyal to Britain.
 - C) were dedicated to the communist cause.

7. What happened to the intelligence that the Englishmen provided to the KGB?
 - A) The KGB found it to be useless.
 - B) The KGB never read or analysed it.
 - C) The KGB always wanted to check that it was true.

8. According to the text, the KGB
 - A) did not know if the Cambridge spies were double agents.
 - B) proved that the Cambridge spies were double agents.
 - C) proved that the Cambridge spies were dedicated to the Communist cause.

II Decide what the underlined words/expressions mean. Replace them with similar words or expressions.

- Both sides had sophisticated networks of spies, secret agents and double agents, engaged in gathering intelligence and information.
- When a person from Moscow approached four young Cambridge students to try to recruit them, they agreed to serve the KGB.
- Although the KGB had recruited four young Englishmen who appeared dedicated to their cause, was it possible that they were double agents?
- They [= many in the KGB] argued that it had been all too easy for the Cambridge ring.
- Meanwhile, Maclean worked at the British Embassy in Washington, sitting on a committee that dealt with atomic bomb matters.

III Fill in the missing letters of the names and acronyms that appear in the text.

1. The **C**_____ **I**_____ **A**_____ is a part of the US government charged with collecting information about other countries.
2. The KGB was the main foreign intelligence and domestic security agency of the **S**_____ **U**_____.
3. The **B**_____ **E**_____ represents the UK in foreign countries.
4. The **F**_____ **O**_____ is the British government department that deals with relations with other countries.
5. **MI6** is the British government organization that deals with national security from outside Britain. Its official name is ‘the **S**_____ **I**_____ **S**_____’.
6. **MI5** is the British government organization that deals with national security within Britain. Its official name is ‘the **S**_____ **S**_____’.

IV Add one adjective from the box to each sentence to make it more meaningful. In some cases, the article *a/an* in front of the noun will need to change.

**dedicated – principal – prominent – prestigious
sophisticated – loyal – respected**

1. The reason why Janet left the company was the low salary.
2. “You should eat five smaller meals a day,” says Carter, an authority on nutrition.
3. Terrorists now have access to weapons and technologies.
4. As a non-profit organization, we owe everything to our volunteers.
5. A group of supporters followed Johnson from state to state during his campaign.
6. The Nobel Prize is an award.
7. The police haven’t named the suspect, but it is rumored they are a public figure.

V Words with similar or related meanings: fill in the gaps with an appropriate word. More than one answer may be correct.

DEDICATED * COMMITTED * ZEALOUS * AVID * SINGLE-MINDED

1. The government remains completely _____ to clean energy.
2. The world’s _____ focus on wealth has brought the planet’s ecological systems to the brink of failure.
3. Tom and Melissa are _____ readers of nonfiction, mostly modern history or books about languages.
4. We were extremely _____ in our attack on cheating because we wanted to be perfectly clear that it was unacceptable.
5. It was an honour for me to work with a group of such selfless, _____ people.

PRINCIPAL * FOREMOST * LEADING * PREDOMINANT

1. Harry Geist is the UK’s _____ expert on terrorism.
2. Japan has emerged as one of the world’s _____ manufacturers and users of solar power.
3. French is the _____ language in Morocco, then English and Spanish.

4. At the beginning of the 20th century, coal replaced wood as the _____ source of energy.

VI Complete the sentences with the right form of the verbs from the box.

threaten – betray – defeat – establish – appoint run – argue – confirm – expose – gather

1. The agent volunteered to infiltrate the criminal group in order to _____ intelligence on its activities.
2. In his controversial book, the author _____ that man is not responsible for global warming.
3. The neighbour was furious about the noise and _____ to call the police.
4. Thomas Altman has been _____ British ambassador to Poland.
5. The film revolves around a young police officer who decides to _____ corruption in the police force.
6. Mr Chang has _____ himself as the leading expert on international terrorism.
7. Hilary _____ a language school in Belgrade.
8. Becker _____ the defending champion in straight sets.
9. I will call you on Thursday morning to _____ the appointment.
10. Edward Snowden is accused of _____ his country.

WORD FORMATION

VII Fill in the gaps with the appropriate form of the words in brackets.

1. My classmates who work do not have much time to _____ (SOCIAL) with other students.
2. An Ohio man _____ (INTENTION) rammed his car into another vehicle on a crowded street, sending pedestrians flying.
3. Free and fair elections are fundamental in a _____ (DEMOCRAT).
4. There are many powerful countries, but most scholars agree that America is the world's only _____ (POWER).
5. Leaders all over Westeros and Essos keep on fighting one another for _____ (SUPREME), leaving an untold number of bodies in their wake.
6. Our efforts to help the community were met with _____ (SUSPECT) and even open hostility.
7. FBI agents sometimes infiltrate groups that the FBI thinks could _____ (THREAT) national security.
8. Hisaeda attended the _____ (PRESTIGE) University of Tokyo, earned a law degree and entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
9. Facebook was accused of helping to spread propaganda, _____ (INFORM) and fake news.

Some Ways You Can Use Likely and Unlikely

It is *very likely* that next year will be the hottest year on record.

It seems *likely* that next year will be the hottest year on record.

It is *unlikely* that Lewis will play in the final.

It seems *unlikely* that Lewis will play in the final.

Next year **is *likely to be*** the hottest year on record.

Next year **seems *likely to be*** the hottest year on record.

Lewis **is *unlikely to play*** in the final.

Lewis **seems *unlikely to play*** in the final.

fairly *likely* or *unlikely*

very / highly / extremely *likely* or *unlikely*

VIII Rephrase the sentences so that they contain the word LIKELY or UNLIKELY.

1. I don't believe that printed books will disappear in the digital age.

2. Brexit will probably have a great impact on the EU.

3. Members of the post-industrial society are more often the sellers of services than they are producers of goods.

4. There is no reason whatsoever to suspect that the witness is lying.

5. If people can respond to questions anonymously, there is a good chance that they will give an honest answer.

IX Decide if the authors of the sentences below think that the events described in them are probably going to happen or not.

1. **It is doubtful that** the Republican Party can win the elections.
2. If you live in a big city, **(the) chances are** you have to drive or take a bus to get to work.
3. At this point, early elections **seem inevitable**.
4. **It is improbable that** David Allen will be convicted of treason.
5. **The odds are that** the robbers are going to be caught.
6. **There's every likelihood that** we've made a mistake.
7. In a battle between politicians and the people, the people **are bound to** win.
8. The new app **has a slim chance of** commercial success.
9. **In all probability**, we are going to lose this case.
10. **The odds of** dying in a plane crash are about **1 in 5.37 million**.

X Use five different expressions from the two previous exercises to answer five questions. Give an explanation for each answer.

What are the chances...

- | | |
|--|--|
| ...that you will pass all of your exams by next October? | ...that you will do some volunteer work? |
| ...that you will own your own company some day? | ...that you will become a teacher? |
| ...that you will visit Australia by 2020? | ...that you will ever go skydiving? |
| ...that you will visit a country in East Asia by 2020? | ...that you will get a pet? |
| ...that you will visit the UK in the next five years? | ...that someone you know will win the lottery? |
| ...that you will live abroad one day? | ...that someone you know will become a millionaire? |
| ...that you will get a job before you graduate? | ...of being attacked by a shark if you go swimming in the ocean? |
| ...that you will get a job as soon as you graduate? | ...that another world war will take place? |
| ...that you will take part in the Olympic Games? | ...that a nuclear bomb will be dropped somewhere in the world? |
| ...that you will start learning a new language soon? | ...of another language replacing English as the global language? |
| ...that you will work in the civil service? | ...that scientists will find a cure for cancer? |
| ...that you will work in an intelligence/security agency? | ...that all cars will run on electricity by 2020? |
| ...that you will donate blood in the next six months? | ...that Serbia will join the EU? |
| ...that you will become an environmentalist? | ...that the wealth gap will soon be reduced? |
| ...that you will learn how to play a new instrument? | |
| ...that you will speak to a foreigner in English in the next six months? | |
| ...that you will move to a different house/apartment in the near future? | |

XI Rephrase the sentences using the words in capital letters.

1. I'm pretty convinced that students will soon begin taking exams online. PROBABILITY

2. Tim will probably not be able to save enough money for a trip around the world. ODDS

3. It's almost certain that the workers are going to go on strike next week.
BOUND

4. The doctor felt that surgery was the only option.
INEVITABLE

5. I'm pretty sure that the world record won't be broken any time soon.
CHANCES

6. The singer is unlikely to be well enough to perform at the festival tomorrow.
DOUBTFUL

7. The two sides in the civil war will probably not be able to live together in peace.
IMPROBABLE

8. Taxes are almost guaranteed to rise by the end of the year.
LIKELIHOOD
