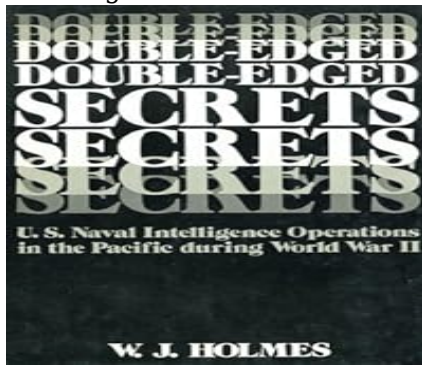


Double-Edged Secrets: U.S. Naval Intelligence Operations in the Pacific During World War II By W.J. Holmes Because of its specific subject and assumption of general knowledge of the Pacific war.

I read this book Double-edged Secrets after Tom Clancy mentioned the title in one of his novels. In the intelligence business they want to know MORE secrets from that same source but if you do something that reveals that source that source (if it is human) can end up dead. This means that even though you may know where the enemy will strike next you may not be able to do anything about it because doing something about it tells the enemy that you knew ahead of time and they will start looking for where the leak is in their organization. It was like the author would write chapters about the progression of the war but a lot of backstory would need to be shared for the reader to understand the significance of the event I wouldn't recommend it for those who don't already have knowledge of the Pacific war and its broader history. The book ends as the author heads for bed with the country once more at peace and the Japanese surrendering In the middle is how the small intelligence office grew into a massive organization distributing reports to the military by the ton literally. That is secrets can kill your own people as well as the enemy when your efforts to keep something secret means that the right information doesn't get to the people who need it in time to do them any good or to save their lives. Holmes was an important part of the naval organization that collected analyzed and disseminated intelligence information and his compassionate understanding of the business of intelligence gathering is unique. Every time the Americans made use of the enemy messages they had decoded they increased the probability that the Japanese would realize what had happened and change their codes thereby causing the U, English I recommend this book for those interested in the narrow subject matter: It has a substantial element of being a personal history of the author's experiences as a participant in those operations as a naval officer, That personal element made it more interesting to me than just a detached account by an uninvolved reporter. It uses that personal history as context for the history of the greater conduct of intelligence operations and issues it faced. After I read this history of World War 2 I felt I understood what a moral dilemma knowing a secret can be: If it is mechanical or electronic that source can be changed so that it becomes impossible to get further information: It was full of information about radio intelligence and submarines from WW2 but it was just too dry for me. I'm not a huge nonfiction fan which is most of the problem. I was reading it to finish it not reading it to enjoy it: There are lots of acronyms a side effect of a naval career. It was interesting for me to see the similarities and difference of the navy and intelligence then vs the navy and intelligence now: I was confused at how the time line of the book kept jumping around: English This is a description of the intelligence effort during World War 2 as coordinated from Pearl Harbor Hawaii: This book is taken from the perspective of one of the leaders of the intelligence effort. It begins when the author is woken from peaceful sleep and heads for his office at Pearl Harbor while the Japanese were bombing, )Note: While the story is reasonably exciting there is not a lot of context provided: The focus is on the intelligence data how it was produced and distributed including the politics that threatened to cripple the effort: Also toward the end of the book the events tend to be presented as one success after another. In the last few pages he makes the point that became the title of the book that secrets can cut both ways like a double-edged sword. This is my second reading of this book and I will probably read it again, English Interesting easy to read insight into naval intelligence of WW2. It clearly tells you how the intel was received and what could and what could not be done with it: English Started this probably 5 years ago as an extra book: About a billion projects later decided to finish it back to the shelf, Published in 1979 by an officer who was there I'd categorize this as somewhat sanitized source material, It goes into no detail about the codes themselves but does provide a modicum of illumination of the problem of using confidential material: Upgraded to five stars the original source firsthand experience is a delight, English Assigned to the combat intelligence unit in Honolulu from June 1941 until the end of World War II author W: Here he not only captures the mood of the period but also gives rare insight into the problems and personalities involved. The reader comes to fully appreciate the painful moral dilemma faced daily by commanders in the Pacific once the Japanese naval codes were broken,

Withholding the information however could - and sometimes did - result in the loss of American lives and ships, This illuminating study reveals not only the difficulties of collecting intelligence but of deciding when to use it: Naval Intelligence Operations in the Pacific During World War II



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But it was confusing to keep it all straight. A timeline diagram may have helped. You want to find enough information to win the war. not just one battle.I'd read this book again. English This wasn't a bad book. (Paper is heavy. One might be tempted to skip ahead but don't do it. Pretty sure Stephenson read it before Cryptonomicon. English Compelling personal history. J.S. Pacific Fleet to lose a vital edge. Double-Edged Secrets: U.S