



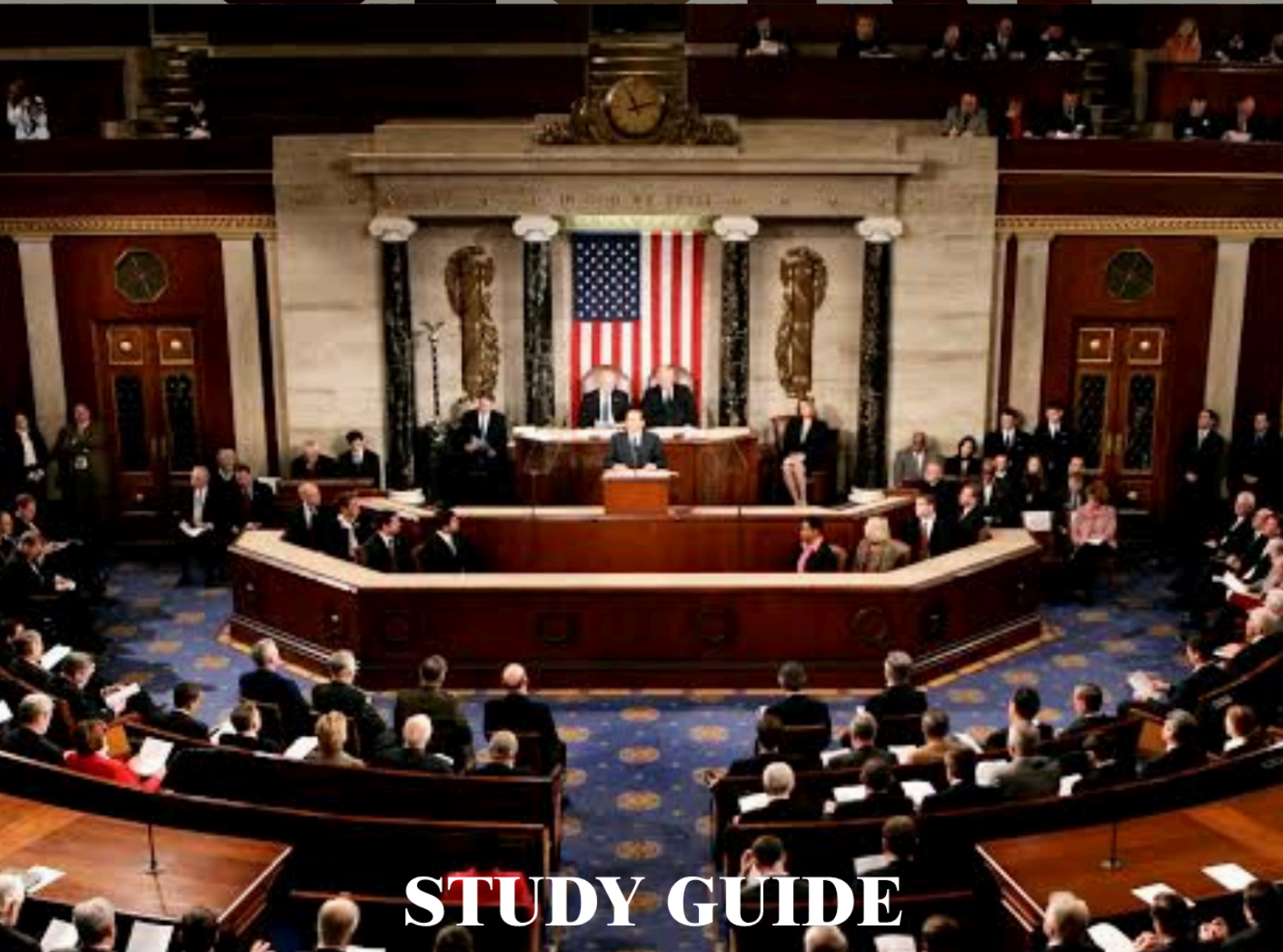
Senetorial Intelligence Organisations Reassessment Trial



AGENDA

Investigating Alleged CIA Overreach, Emphasizing Illegal Actions, Foreign Coups and Abuse of Power.

SIORT



STUDY GUIDE



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LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted and honoured to welcome you to the tenth edition of the Shishukunj Model United Nations and, especially, to the Senatorial Intelligence Organisations Reassessment Trial (SIORT).

This year, SIORT will be undertaking a high-stakes inquiry into the agenda, which is **“Investigating Alleged CIA Overreach, Emphasising Illegal Actions, Foreign Coups and Abuse of Power”**.

Set against a freeze date of January 22, 2025, this committee will act as a tribunal called upon by the president. Ranging from the Director of the CIA to the U.S. Attorney General, the main motive of the committee shall be to question who watches the watchers. From targeted killings and illegal drone strikes to regime changes planned without Senate and government approval, the CIA is currently under the most intense legal and ethical scrutiny the country has seen in decades.

In SIORT, you will not just debate but also determine the future of American intelligence. The country's position on surveillance, secrecy, and international power will be shaped by every question you pose, every action you take, and every truth you discover.

This committee demands clarity of thought, an understanding of U.S. constitutional law, and the ability to engage with issues where facts are obscured, motives are layered, and justice is often delayed. You will be challenged to separate speculation from evidence, security from secrecy, and duty from blind loyalty.

This background guide will provide you with the thematic and procedural foundation for the committee, but it is only the beginning. The depth and quality of your preparation will determine how effectively you can contribute to the trial's outcomes. We expect not only research and understanding but also the courage to ask uncomfortable questions and defend uncomfortable truths.

We look forward to a thought-provoking and intellectually intense committee

Let's make America great again!

Feel free to contact us in case of concerns.

Apurva Acharya, Chief Justice of the United States
Aashi Mehndiratta, Associate Justice



IMPORTANT KEYWORDS

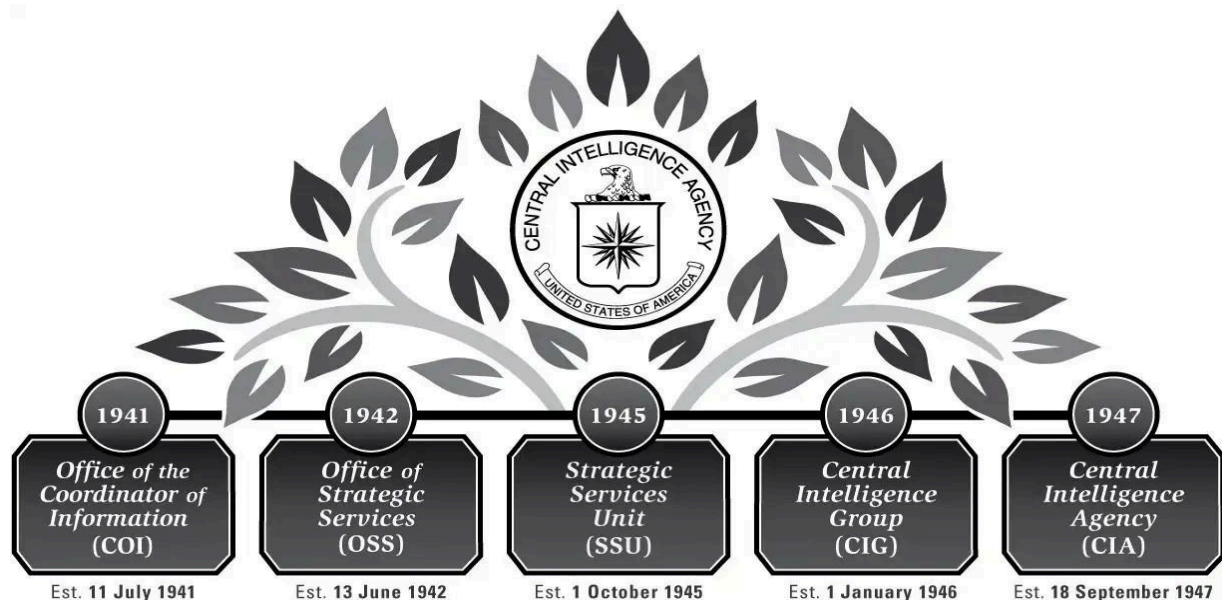
1. **Coup:** When a group suddenly and illegally takes over the government of a country, often using force.
2. **Black Sites:** Secret prisons run by the CIA in other countries, where people were kept and questioned in ways not allowed in the United States.
3. **Rendition:** The CIA secretly moved prisoners between countries to question or detain them under looser rules.
4. **Surveillance:** Watching or listening to people secretly, often using cameras, phones, or computers, to gather information.
5. **Spy Network:** A group of people who secretly collect information for the CIA in other countries.
6. **Whistleblower:** A person who reports illegal or unethical actions within an organisation or government.
7. **Senate Torture Report:** A 2014 U.S. Senate report detailing CIA torture after 9/11.
8. **Drone Strike:** A drone attack on foreign targets that is often controlled remotely.
9. **Intelligence Community (IC):** A group of U.S. government agencies (like the CIA, NSA, and FBI) that work together to collect and analyse information to keep the country safe.
10. **Directorate:** A big section or department within the CIA that has a special job.
11. **Covert Action:** A secret activity by the government to influence events in other countries without anyone knowing the U.S. is involved.
12. **Counterintelligence:** efforts to stop other countries' spies from stealing secrets from the U.S.
13. **Paramilitary:** Groups or activities that act like the military but aren't officially part of the armed forces; the CIA sometimes has its teams for secret missions.
14. **ICRC:** International Committee of the Red Cross
15. **Clandestine:** planned or done in secret, especially describing something that is not officially allowed.



The CIA

Established in 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is a U.S. government agency that provides objective intelligence on foreign countries and global issues to the president, the National Security Council, and other policymakers to help them make national security decisions. It stands as one of the most powerful and secretive arms of the U.S. government, tasked with gathering foreign intelligence and conducting covert operations. The CIA seal features several symbols: an eagle for alertness, a shield for defence, and a compass rose for global intelligence collection

Formation of the CIA



The United States was the last major power to establish a civilian intelligence agency for collecting secret information for policymakers. Before 1942, data was gathered unsystematically by the Office of Naval Intelligence, U.S. Army intelligence, and the FBI. It was rarely shared and sometimes not even given to senior policymakers. For example, due to army–navy rivalries, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wasn't given sensitive information about Japan before the Pearl Harbour attack in 1941.

1941: Frustrated by fragmented intelligence, Roosevelt created the Office of the Coordinator of Information (COI), led by WWI hero General William “Wild Bill” Donovan. The COI's goal was to gather foreign intelligence related to the war.

As WWII progressed, Roosevelt and Donovan reassessed the COI. Donovan, who supported using poisons on enemy targets, suggested reorganising it into a more strategic body.

¹ <https://www.cia.gov/about/>



1942: The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was the first centralised U.S. intelligence agency. It gathered strategic intel and conducted covert operations. Despite its success, the OSS was dismantled after three years.

1945: President Truman abolished the OSS. Parts of it became the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) to temporarily handle intelligence.

1946: SSU's roles moved to the new Central Intelligence Group (CIG), led by Rear Admiral Sidney Souers, the first Director of Central Intelligence (DCI). CIG could now produce intelligence, not just coordinate it.

1947: The National Security Act created the CIA as an independent civilian agency to coordinate and analyse intelligence. The DCI also led the U.S. Intelligence Community and advised the president.

1948: Truman signed the CIA Act, letting the CIA secretly fund operations and manage staff outside regular government systems.



HISTORY OF THE CIA

The CIA has played a central role in shaping US foreign policy since its creation in 1947. However, its history is not merely one of intelligence collection; it is equally a history of secrecy, covert warfare, and alleged overreach. The organisation, once meant for intelligence and national security, eventually became a global powerhouse of covert influence and unchecked power.

1947-1953: Early Formation and Cold War Beginnings

The National Security Act officially established the CIA. Its initial charter focused on intelligence collection and analysis. However, the vague language in the act allowed interpretation as a license for cover action.

The Central Intelligence Agency Act, passed in 1949, granted the agency unprecedented secrecy and budgetary discretion, exempting it from disclosing operations, personnel and funding

1953-1975: Coups, Covert Interventions and the Rise of Overreach

This period marked the beginning of the CIA's aggressive foreign interventions, especially in the Global South, justified as part of the US containment strategy against communism. Some key operations included Operation Ajax, Operation PBSUCCESS, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, MKUltra, etc.

1975-1990: Exposure and Oversight

The Church Committee, led by Senator Frank Church, conducted a Senate Investigation that revealed widespread CIA misconduct, including unauthorised assassinations of foreign leaders like Fidel Castro, illegal surveillance of US citizens, misuse of funds, and lack of executive accountability, which led to the creation of permanent Congressional Oversight bodies

1980-2001: Post-Cold War Uncertainty and Intelligence Failures

With the Soviet Union's collapse, the CIA faced an identity crisis. Resources were redirected towards monitoring nuclear proliferation, countering drug trafficking and organised crime, and supporting American economic and technological advantages abroad. However, this period exposed gaps in counterterrorism and threat recognition. Some notable key failures included the 1993 WTC bombing and the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa.

2001-2014: War on Terror and Institutional Overreach

The events of 9/11 profoundly changed the CIA. The attacks were widely seen as an "intelligence failure," raising questions about what the agency knew beforehand and whether more could have been done. This led to intense public scrutiny.

After 9/11, the CIA shifted heavily toward counterterrorism, which often meant direct and violent intervention. It led special forces operations and played a key role in the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan. Globally, the CIA captured suspects and sent them to secret foreign



prisons, and tortured them. Detainees suffered severe physical and psychological harm through methods like waterboarding, sleep and sensory deprivation, indefinite detention, solitary confinement, sexual assault, and force-feeding.

2014 - present day:

The 2014 Senate Torture Report exposed the CIA's use of inhumane interrogation methods, prompting widespread criticism and limited internal reforms. In response, the agency reorganised its structure and shifted focus toward modern threats like cyber warfare, disinformation, AI, and great-power competition with China and Russia. While overt military actions declined, covert operations remained central. Despite reforms, concerns over secrecy, accountability, and ethical boundaries persist—issues now at the core of the SIORT investigation.

Mission and Vision of the CIA

At its core, the mission of the CIA is to gather and share intelligence to protect the USA from threats. Their mission is to preempt threats and further U.S. national security objectives by collecting foreign intelligence, producing objective all-source analysis, conducting effective covert actions as directed by the President, and safeguarding the secrets that keep the United States safe. The CIA collects, evaluates, and disseminates vital information on economic, military, political, scientific, and other developments abroad to safeguard national security. Its vision is to be the nation's preeminent intelligence agency, recognised for excellence in all that they do and trusted to deliver what the nation needs.

CIA's Relation with the US Government

Since its inception under the National Security Act of 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency has been designed to serve as a central organ for gathering and analysing foreign intelligence, operating under the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI)—later restructured under the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) in 2004—was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, making the agency structurally accountable to both branches.

In its early years, the CIA enjoyed close cooperation with U.S. presidents, especially during the Cold War. Presidents like Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Reagan relied heavily on the CIA for covert operations, from Iran (1953) to Nicaragua (the 1980s), seeing it as a vital arm of foreign policy. The agency operated with considerable autonomy and received bipartisan support, justified by the urgent need to counter Soviet influence.

The CIA partnered with multiple government arms, including the State Department, the National Security Council, and Congressional Oversight Committees.

Over time, however, concerns began to grow about the CIA's accountability, particularly following revelations from the 1975 Church Committee about abuses of power.



The CIA and Trump

Under President Donald J. Trump, the historically cooperative relationship between the White House and the CIA experienced unprecedented public hostility and a breakdown of trust. Unlike previous presidents who maintained at least a formal respect for the intelligence community, Trump openly questioned, mocked, and undermined the CIA's credibility but sometimes thanked it, celebrated it, and collaborated with it, depending on the situation.

1. The Russian Election Interference Dispute

In January 2017, the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies concluded in a joint report that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election to help Trump win and Clinton lose. Trump responded by disregarding their findings by saying, *"I think it's ridiculous. I think it's just another excuse. I don't believe it."*

2. Comparison to Nazi Germany

Following media leaks about his Russia ties, Trump lashed out at the CIA and intelligence community by comparing the CIA's actions with Nazi Germany by saying, *"I think it's disgraceful... That's something that Nazi Germany would have done,"* in a press conference.

3. According to reports, CIA officials were cautious about briefing Trump on sensitive matters, fearing he might compromise classified information or leak it. *"Senior intelligence officials were wary of telling Trump anything that might provoke an angry reaction."*

4. In October 2019, former DNI James Clapper criticised Trump's selective trust in intelligence, stating that *"if the Intelligence Community generates intelligence that the President likes, he praises them. If it generates intelligence he doesn't like, he shoots the messengers."*

Trump's hostility to the intelligence community has been relentless. He talks frequently of the "deep state" and "witch hunts" that are out to get him.²

Past Operations of the CIA

The CIA conducts various missions both on US soil and internationally to conduct surveillance and gather intelligence to protect the nation. Some controversial operations of the CIA are as follows:

- a) **MK-Ultra Programme**—MK-Ultra was a top-secret CIA project in which the agency conducted hundreds of clandestine experiments.



- b) **Operation Ajax**—Iran, a nation rich in oil reserves, was of special interest to the United States, the United Kingdom, and other powers. After World War II, the United Kingdom effectively retained control over Iran's oil through the establishment of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. This arrangement changed abruptly in 1951 when the Iranian parliament, led by Mosaddegh's nationalist and democratically elected government, voted to nationalise the country's oil industry. The United States took the leading role in a covert operation called Operation Ajax, whereby CIA-funded agents were used to foment unrest inside Iran by way of the harassment of religious and political leaders and a media disinformation campaign, leading to the then government being overthrown.
- c) **Operation PBSUCCESS**—The then president of Guatemala had introduced land reforms that would hamper the growth of the then United Fruit Company (a US business). To prevent hampering the growth of the business, the CIA launched a covert operation on June 18, 1954, to overthrow the left-leaning government in Guatemala. The coup, code-named *Operation PBSUCCESS*, deposed Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán, ended the Guatemalan Revolution, and installed the military dictatorship of Carlos Castillo Armas. U.S.-backed invading forces numbered at most in the hundreds, but through psychological warfare operations, the CIA convinced the Guatemalans that a major invasion was underway, broadcasting propaganda messages and jamming Guatemalan radio transmissions. American pilots bombed Guatemala City; the Guatemalan Army refused to fight.
- d) **Project FUBELT**— Track II of Project FUBELT was an attempt by the CIA to foment a coup by making contacts within the military directly, rather than working through the U.S. Embassy. In pursuance of this plan, the CIA made contact with twenty-one officers in the Chilean military and police force. It aimed at destabilising and overthrowing the democratically elected socialist president of Chile, Salvador Allende.
- e) **Timber Sycamore (2012–2017)**— This operation aimed to provide weapons and training to Syrian rebels fighting against Bashar al-Assad's government.

Espionage and Surveillance: Per the law, the CIA is specifically barred from gathering foreign intelligence on the domestic activities of American citizens. Its purpose is specifically to gather information dealing with foreign intelligence and foreign counterintelligence. Over the years, however, the CIA has exploited loopholes like entering into partnerships with other spy agencies (e.g., the 5 Eyes) to spy on its citizens. Under the National Security Act, the CIA has been allowed to spy and gather intelligence in any nation beyond US territory; this authority is mostly abused by CIA officials.



ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE CIA

Funding Mechanism of the CIA

The National Intelligence Program (NIP) is the main source of financing for all intelligence organisations. It is directed by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). In 2025, the NIP asked for \$73.4 billion. The CIA typically gets about 28% of the NIP. A second aspect of CIA financing is the 'Black Budget', which is a term used for classified government spending that finances covert operations, cutting-edge military research, and intelligence activity, exempt from public reporting. These are legally exempted from regular auditing procedures in the 1949 CIA Act to allow "unvouchered" expenditures without explicit receipts. The Congress plays an important role in the authorisation of funds for the CIA. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence are responsible for authorising funds, intelligence programmes, and activities. The CIA's budget is internally distributed among various directorates and activities, including human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), covert action programs, and security and logistics. For example, in 2013, the CIA's budget included \$2.3 billion for HUMINT, \$1.7 billion for SIGINT, \$2.5 billion for security and logistics, and \$2.6 billion for covert action programs such as drone operations and anti-nuclear activities

Economic Destabilisation

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, economic destabilisation is the action of making a government, area, or political group lose power or control or making a political or economic situation less strong or safe by causing changes and problems. The CIA has frequently relied on economic destabilisation as a means of pressuring foreign regimes and defending American interests without the use of overt conflict. By striking at the economy of a nation, the agency aims to destabilise the ruling government, create popular discontent, and instigate political change. Although these methods might have short-term successes, the consequences can be disastrous for the common population. Economic dislocation tends to worsen shortages, unemployment, and the disintegration of public services. In certain nations, these policies have kindled the growth of dictatorships, instigated civil wars, or established cycles of violence that can endure for decades. The tactics used in economic destabilisation are varied. They include involvement in military coups, funding extremists, fuelling terrorist activities or opposition groups, market manipulations, etc. These actions create havoc and mayhem in the country, leading to long-term consequences: The cost borne by such covert CIA operations falls heavily on civilians, as these actions often create widespread havoc and mayhem, destabilising societies, fuelling human rights abuses, and leading to cycles of violence, authoritarianism, and deep mistrust toward the United States.

a) Alleged CIA Ties and Drug Trade

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-23903310>



During the Contra war in Nicaragua, aided by the United States, several investigations reported that individuals and networks working for the Contras were engaged in cocaine smuggling. Although direct CIA participation in drug trafficking was not established, evidence indicated that the agency knew of Contra connections with traffickers and, on occasion, did nothing to prevent it in order not to compromise the covert operation. Drug dealers supplied money, transportation, and other assistance to the Contras, with some of this money used to fund the insurgency when official support was curtailed. In Afghanistan, the CIA-backed Mujahideen relied heavily on the opium trade to fund their fight against Soviet forces. Reports indicate the agency was aware that drug money was being used to support the resistance and largely turned a blind eye, contributing to Afghanistan's rise as a major source of global heroin. Although the most well-known are those of Central America, the same patterns were observed in other areas where the CIA operated. Profits from drug trafficking supplemented or replaced official funding for covert activities, with traffickers' money and networks used to arm and supply U.S.-backed groups, intertwining covert operations with the global drug trade. The charges that CIA-connected networks caused the crack cocaine epidemic in U.S. cities, particularly Los Angeles, had a sharp impact on government credibility. Journalist Gary Webb's 1990s investigations indicated that Contra-connected cocaine profit was a large factor in fueling the crack crisis in South Central Los Angeles.

Even though later inquiries by big papers and government agencies could not find anything implicating a CIA cover-up in causing the epidemic directly, the public's perception of government involvement or apathy lingered, contributing to the widespread controversy and mistrust



LEGAL ASPECT OF THE CIA

Violation of US Law

1. The National Security Act of 1947 established the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as the primary civilian intelligence agency of the United States, defining its mission to gather and analyse foreign intelligence and explicitly prohibiting it from engaging in domestic security affairs. Despite this restriction, the CIA has conducted operations on American soil, such as PROJECT CHAOS, which targeted domestic groups during the Vietnam War era.
2. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 further restricted the CIA by requiring special judicial clearance from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court before any surveillance could be conducted on U.S. citizens, yet there have been documented instances where the CIA engaged in unauthorized surveillance activities involving Americans. This violated the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution.
3. Executive Order 12333, signed in 1981, specifically prohibits any U.S. government agency or employee from engaging in political assassinations, but declassified documents – such as those in the CIA’s “Family Jewels” report – reveal that the agency plotted assassinations using poison, explosives, and sniper teams in direct violation of this order.



4. Fifth Amendment (Due Process), which ensures that no individual shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, as well as the ban on cruel and unusual punishment and the U.S. War Crimes Act of 1996, outlaws torture and other war crimes, yet the CIA's post-9/11 detention and interrogation program at secret "black sites" involved acts such as waterboarding, sleep deprivation, and forced rectal feeding, all of which have been widely condemned as torture and violations of U.S. law. denied individuals due process protections guaranteed by the Constitution
5. The Federal Policy for the Protection of U.S. Subjects mandates informed consent for any human experimentation, a standard the CIA violated during programs like MKUltra, which involved non-consensual drug testing and psychological experiments on unwitting subjects. This also violated the 5th Amendment of the Constitution.
6. The unauthorized search of Senate Intelligence Committee computers by the CIA violated the Speech or Debate Clause, which ensures congressional independence by preventing executive interference in legislative operations and protecting confidential congressional records. This violated Article I, Section 6, Clause 1 of the US Constitution.
7. First Amendment (Free Speech): The CIA's prepublication requirements and secrecy agreements for former employees have themselves been attacked as prior restraints upon speech, implicating First Amendment protections for freedom of expression and the freedom to publish unclassified information.

All of these together indicate that CIA covert activities and internal guidelines have sometimes come into conflict with constitutional safeguards for due process, free speech, congressional autonomy, and constraints on executive authority.

Violation of International Law

The CIA has committed numerous violations of international law in its clandestine operations and detention policies.

1. The Geneva Conventions:
 - a) Common Article 3 of all 4 Geneva Conventions—Common Article 3 forbids "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment", as well as "violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment, and torture." These restrictions were directly broken by the CIA's employment of harsh interrogation techniques like waterboarding, stress positions, sleep deprivation, and others at black sites, as well as by their covert detention of people without due process.
 - b) Article 12 of the 1st and 2nd Geneva Conventions— According to Article



12, protected individuals and prisoners of war cannot be sent to a nation where they risk torture or cruel treatment. Under the CIA's extraordinary rendition program, detainees were sent to nations like Egypt and Syria, which are notorious for torture and abuse, where they endured harsh interrogation.



- c) Article 13 of the 3rd Geneva Convention—Article 13 requires that prisoners of war must at all times be treated humanely and protected against acts of violence or intimidation, as well as against insults and public curiosity. The CIA's harsh treatment of detainees endangered the health and, in some cases, the lives of prisoners. Such actions are clear violations of Article 13's mandate for humane treatment.
 - d) Article 17 of the 3rd Geneva Convention—Article 17 stipulates that no physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure information of any kind. The CIA's interrogation program relied on torture to extract information from detainees. This violated Article 17.
2. The Convention Against Torture prohibits torture no matter what, yet the CIA's application of waterboarding, sleep deprivation, rectal feeding, and other "enhanced interrogation techniques" to terrorism suspects at secret sites contravened this treaty.
 3. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ensures due process, the right to a fair trial, and freedom from torture, all of which were violated by the CIA's rendition programme.

In addition to these fundamental treaties, the CIA's conduct has furthermore violated general international legal standards, such as the United Nations Charter prohibition against intervention, the Hague Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, the Paris Peace Accords, nascent principles against cyber warfare and sovereignty violations, etc.

Accountability Mechanisms

Accountability and oversight for the activities of the CIA are provided through various mechanisms in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and within the agency. The U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence are responsible for monitoring CIA activities and budgets. As per official government reports, "special committees in both houses have the oversight responsibility, acting as a surrogate for their respective body and for the public too. Under the executive branch, inspectors general have been instituted in the agencies themselves or within their parent agencies. Apart from that, the law explicitly compels the president to see that intelligence agencies keep the committees 'fully and currently informed' of their operations. The President's Intelligence Advisory Board counsels the President on the legality and ethics of intelligence operations, suggesting corrective measures if the CIA overextends its authority. The CIA Office of Inspector General stands out from other intelligence agencies because it is "presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed and mandated by law to report



to Congress," independently auditing and investigating CIA operations to prevent wrongdoing. There is judicial oversight as well, with courts having the ability to compel disclosure of information or stop illegal behaviour when challenged under statutes such as the Freedom of Information Act. The Department of Justice may investigate and prosecute CIA misconduct, particularly where the law has been violated. Despite these mechanisms, the CIA has historically proved its independence, often avoiding oversight bodies and taking actions without authorisation.

Loopholes the CIA Uses to Avoid Accountability

The CIA usually manages to work around the rules designed to safeguard Americans' privacy and rights. For instance, rather than obtaining a warrant, it can just purchase your personal information from commercial firms. Legislation such as the CIA Information Act allows the agency to withhold entire classes of its documents from the public behind closed doors. By targeting foreigners under Section 702, the CIA can vacuum up Americans' communications with no judge's oversight. And when U.S. law dictates "no spying on Americans", the CIA can request its close allies in the Five Eyes to do it instead, rendering accountability almost impossible.

Acts of War Committed by the CIA and Their Repercussions

The CIA's drone wars in Pakistan and Yemen caused serious civilian loss of life, with the Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimating hundreds of Pakistani and Yemeni civilians killed during this time. Strikes often missed their targets and killed children and families. For instance, a drone strike on a tribal gathering in Pakistan killed scores of civilians, an incident that badly strained U.S.-Pakistani relations and renewed anti-American sentiment. Civilian deaths from these bombings are estimated to be far more than officially reported, with independent groups consistently determining that the true loss is much higher. Investigations have discovered repeated failures of intelligence, target misidentification, and insufficient oversight, all feeding into these resultant tragedies. In addition to drone strikes, the CIA has engineered assassination plots against foreign leaders like Fidel Castro and Patrice Lumumba and conducted covert operations to overthrow governments in Iran, Chile, and Nicaragua—actions that frequently flout international law and erode the credibility of the U.S. abroad. The consequences of CIA acts of war go far beyond the initial casualties: civilian casualties have fed extremist propaganda, supported terrorist recruitment, and tested diplomatic relationships with allies as well as the target countries. The human toll—families destroyed, communities traumatised, and generations radicalised—highlights the far-reaching costs of secret warfare waged without democratic oversight.

CIA acts of war, ranging from drone attacks to covert operations, have far-reaching implications that extend far beyond the battlefield. The agency's actions are usually justified as a necessary component of national security, yet they often take place without public discussion or clear congressional authorisation, provoking valid questions regarding legitimacy and ethics. The human toll is huge – not just in lives lost among civilians, but also in the damage to buildings, the displacement of people, and the emotional trauma inflicted on survivors. The operations destabilise regions, leave power vacuums that are filled by

**SENATORIAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATIONS REASSESSMENT TRIAL**

radical elements, and feed anti-Americanism around the world. More often than not, the CIA uses proxies or contractors, making it even more difficult to hold anyone accountable and leaving the agency at higher risk of perpetrating human rights violations. Transparency is an ongoing issue since a lot of the details are kept secret, foreclosing meaningful oversight or justice for victims. Internationally, these clandestine actions have consequences as well, sometimes resulting in stepped-up surveillance and the undermining of civil liberties back home. In the end, the tendency to operate beyond set-up legal frameworks and international norms not only undermines the rule of law but also hurts America's credibility internationally. Their legacy is one of muddled moral compromises, continuing debate, and enduring human consequences.



HUMANITARIAN ASPECT

Torture and Inhumane Treatment

Since its founding in 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has conducted numerous covert operations all over the world. Although the CIA's declared goal is to safeguard American national security, a number of documented cases demonstrate that the agency has either directly participated in or encouraged acts of torture and cruel treatment, frequently as a component of counterinsurgency or Cold War geopolitics.

The CIA and the Senate Intelligence Committee would rather avoid the word “torture”, preferring euphemisms like “enhanced interrogation techniques” and “rendition, detention and interrogation programme”. Many of the techniques employed by the CIA after capturing high-value targets have been documented in CIA memos and numerous leaks.

The following are some of the methods used by the CIA and their effects on the CIA:

1. Waterboarding

This is a process of suffocation by water. Water is poured continuously over the cloth to prevent breathing, simulate drowning and induce panic. The process is carried out for about 40 seconds and is known to have been repeated several times during interrogation.

2. Use of Cold Water

Several detainees reported being doused with cold water during interrogations. One described being wrapped in plastic and submerged in cold water for minutes. In 2002, Gul Rahman died of hypothermia at a CIA black site after being left shackled in a freezing cell under harsh conditions. Though these methods weren't initially approved, the CIA later authorized them. The officer responsible faced no punishment and received a cash bonus months later.

3. Beatings and Threats

Many detainees reported frequent beatings soon after capture, including punches, slaps, and having their heads struck against objects while restrained. Some were slammed into walls using a technique called “walling”, designed to create loud noises that made them believe they were injured. In addition to physical abuse, detainees were threatened with severe violence and sexual assault against themselves and their families.

4. Stress Positions

The CIA used various stress positions during interrogations. Ten detainees reported being forced to stand upright while shackled to the ceiling for up to three days, sometimes repeatedly over more than three months. Other stress positions involved being shackled to the floor with arms stretched overhead. These techniques were intended to cause muscle fatigue, physical discomfort, and exhaustion.



5. Sleep Deprivation

Sleep deprivation was often used with stress positions and cold, noisy cells. Though authorised for up to 180 hours, the CIA reported a 96-hour maximum in three cases. Most detainees interviewed by the ICRC experienced it; some were kept awake with water sprays or forced to stand while injured.

6. Sensory Deprivation

By keeping detainees in dark, soundproof cells for extended periods and denying them access to light, sound, and human contact, the CIA practised sensory deprivation. Psychological breakdowns, anxiety, hallucinations, and extreme disorientation resulted from this. In addition, the agency employed sensory overstimulation to induce disorientation, mental fatigue, and insomnia. In addition to causing long-lasting psychological trauma and breaking international laws that forbid torture and cruel treatment, these tactics were intended to reduce mental resistance and boost compliance.

Harsh interrogation techniques, such as dousing suspects in cold water, beatings, stress positions, and sleep deprivation, had serious and long-lasting effects on both innocent detainees and prisoners of war as well as suspected terrorists. These practices became much more severe after 9/11. Without concrete proof or due process, anyone who was even remotely associated with Osama Bin Laden, whether through familial ties, distant associations, or unsubstantiated suspicions, was frequently brutally treated. Many people were wrongfully detained and subjected to torture, leaving them with physical and psychological scars, as precautions were neglected in the haste to stop such attacks. In addition to breaking international humanitarian law, this damaged the legitimacy of intelligence collection and counterterrorism initiatives.



Civilian Casualties

People in war zones are killed in their homes, in markets, and on roadways by bombs, bullets, fire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and drones. Many times more people die from reverberating effects like the destruction of infrastructure and the resulting consequences for population health. The CIA's covert and military operations have had a long list of civilian casualties throughout the years. For example, in Afghanistan, CIA-backed Afghan strike forces have long been a staple of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, but their operations have rarely been subject to public scrutiny. These paramilitary forces have repeatedly killed civilians during night raids, engaged in extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, and attacked medical facilities for allegedly treating insurgents. Night raids conducted by these forces have led to the deaths of entire families, including women and children, and have terrorised communities. The lack of transparency and oversight has made it nearly impossible for victims' families to seek justice or redress.⁵

Human Experimentation

During the early period of the Cold War, the CIA became convinced that communists had discovered a drug or technique that would allow them to control human minds. In response, the CIA began its secret program, called MK-ULTRA, to search for a mind control drug that could be weaponised against enemies. MK-ULTRA, which operated from the 1950s until the early '60s, was created and run by a chemist named Sidney Gottlieb. MK-Ultra's "mind control" experiments generally centred around behaviour modification via electroshock therapy, hypnosis, polygraphs, radiation, and a variety of drugs, toxins, and chemicals. These experiments relied on a range of test subjects: some who freely volunteered, some who volunteered under coercion, and some who had no idea they were involved in a sweeping defence research program. From mentally impaired boys at a state school to American soldiers, MK-Ultra's programs often preyed on the most vulnerable members of society.

Health professionals participating in the torture program were under pressure from the CIA to generate data to justify torture practices. Those health professionals were also used to determine the threshold of pain and suffering of the torture subjects, calibrating levels as they progressed. That data was then used by CIA legal counsel to provide legal cover, with the CIA's lawyers advising officers that such evidence could be used to sidestep criminal prosecution for torture.

⁵ <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/civilians>



The United States Senate

The United States Senate, one of the two houses of the legislature (Congress) of the United States, was established in 1789 under the Constitution. Each state elects two senators for six-year terms. The terms of about one-third of the Senate membership expire every two years, earning the chamber the nickname “the house that never dies”.

Constitutional Framework

The Founding Fathers conceived the Senate as a check on the popularly elected House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 100 members—two from each state, regardless of population size. This unique structure ensures equal representation for all states, contrasting with the population-based allocation in the House of Representatives.

The framers designed the Senate to create a legislative body that would serve as a bulwark for individual states’ rights within the newly empowered federal system. The Senate was also conceived as a safeguard for minority opinions, ensuring less populous states and minority viewpoints would have a strong voice in the national government. ⁶

Powers of the Senate:

1. Legislation is a major function of the US Senate. In the Senate, drafting and introducing legislation begins with an idea, which can come from senators, constituents, or advocacy groups.
2. The Senate presides over impeachments of the president or other high officials and can remove them by a two-thirds vote. An official is impeached once the House votes to approve an article of impeachment. The House then sends an indictment—the articles of impeachment—to the Senate, which forms itself into a jury.
3. The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States.
4. The Constitution empowers the president to negotiate and sign treaties but requires the advice and consent of two-thirds of senators present for ratification.

Leadership in the Senate

The vice president is designated as the ex officio president of the Senate. The president pro tempore presides over the Senate in the vice president’s absence and is third in the line of succession to the presidency, behind the vice president and Speaker of the House. The Senate elects one senator to serve as president pro tempore. Since 1945, traditionally, the president pro tempore of the Senate has been the most senior member of the majority party. The



political party with over 50% of the Senate seats holds the majority and is, therefore, empowered to fill the position of Senate majority leader. The position serves as a spokesperson for the party's positions on relevant issues and works with committee chairs and ranking members to schedule the daily legislative floor agenda. The "right of first recognition" enables the majority leader to speak before any other senator regarding legislation. The minority party, with fewer than half of the senators, has a minority leader position. Like the majority leader, the minority leader represents his/her party on the Senate floor but does not have the right of first recognition or the ability to set the floor agenda. The minority leader and majority are meant to consult one another to agree on floor debate rules and divide debate time between the parties equally. The Senate Parliamentarian serves as the nonpartisan interpreter and guardian of the Senate's complex rules and procedures. Their primary duty is to advise the presiding officer, senators, and staff on parliamentary procedures. The position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Senate majority leader, typically in a nonpartisan manner

⁶ <https://www.thepolicycircle.org/briefs/makes-america-exceptional-u-s-senate-explained/>



The United States Executive Leadership

The executive division of the U.S. government enforces and administers the laws made by Congress (the legislative branch). It is led by the president, who serves as both head of government and head of state. The executive division has a significant role in U.S. politics, deciding matters of foreign policy and national security and overseeing the daily operations of government agencies.

Key roles in the US executive branch:

1. The executive branch's key roles include the president, who is the head of state, leader of the federal government, and commander-in-chief of the United States armed forces. Under Article II of the Constitution, the President is responsible for executing and enforcing laws created by Congress. The President holds significant authority, including the power to veto legislation, negotiate and sign treaties (subject to Senate approval), appoint federal judges and ambassadors, issue executive orders, and grant pardons for federal offences. The presidential line of succession extends beyond the vice president to congressional leaders and Cabinet members.
2. The vice president supports the president. If the president is unable to serve, the vice president becomes president. The vice president also presides over the U.S. Senate and breaks ties in Senate votes.
3. The Cabinet serves as an advisory body comprised of the heads of the 15 executive departments. Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, the members of the Cabinet are often the President's closest confidants. Cabinet members include the vice president, heads of executive departments, and other high-ranking government officials. The president nominates cabinet members, and the Senate must approve them.
4. The executive branch also includes executive departments, independent agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees. Independent agencies such as the CIA and the Federal Reserve operate with some autonomy within the executive branch.



Powers of the Executive

The executive branch carries out and enforces federal laws. Its powers include signing or vetoing legislation, appointing federal judges and officials, negotiating and signing treaties (with Senate approval), granting pardons, issuing executive orders, and serving as Commander in Chief of the armed forces. The executive branch also oversees the daily operations of the federal government, directs national defence and foreign policy, manages federal agencies, and ensures that laws passed by Congress are faithfully executed.⁷

Geopolitical Relations

Strategic Intelligence Alliances

The CIA has relied for decades on a network of international alliances to advance American interests and guarantee global security. Most closely aligned with it are the Mossad of Israel and the MI6 of Britain, with which there has been intelligence sharing and coordinated operations to counter Iranian, Hamas, Hezbollah, and other adversary threats. The Five Eyes alliance, comprising the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, is the most far-reaching intelligence-sharing arrangement in the world. But the strength of these relationships has at times generated diplomatic friction and issues of sovereignty. Examples include the CIA's unilateral action to assassinate Osama bin Laden in Pakistan without prior notification to Pakistani authorities, which resulted in diplomatic strain. Similarly, allegations of U.S. eavesdropping on allied political leaders, such as listening to the phone of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, strained important alliances. Unwanted drone strikes and the establishment of clandestine detention facilities, or "black sites," in friendly countries have also soured the relationship and drawn domestic as well as foreign criticism. These actions, while typically justified on security grounds, have undermined trust within the CIA.

Supporting Intelligence Agencies

The CIA has a long history of exporting its intelligence doctrine and operational expertise to allied and client states. Through training programs, resource sharing, and operational support, the agency has helped establish and shape the intelligence and security services of numerous countries. In the 1950s and 1960s, the CIA played a major role in the creation and management of SAVAK, the Shah of Iran's secret police, which became notorious for its use of torture and repression. These interventions were often justified on the grounds of countering communist influence, but they had long-term consequences for civil society and democracy in the affected countries. The CIA's methods of surveillance and interrogation have been adopted by repressive governments around the world, leading to concerns about the global diffusion of coercive state power and the erosion of civil liberties. In recent years, the export of high-tech surveillance equipment has enabled governments to monitor and

⁷ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-executive-branch/>



suppress dissent more effectively than ever before, further complicating efforts to promote human rights and accountability.⁸

Current Situation

Following President Donald J. Trump's re-election, he has formally requested the Senate to launch a full-fledged investigation into the CIA. Despite the change in administration on January 20, 2025, the previous CIA director remains in office, heightening President Trump's frustration over what he perceives as a lack of oversight and accountability. Determined to scrutinise the CIA's past actions, Trump is convening a trial to reassess alleged abuses and controversial operations. Officially named the Senatorial Intelligence Organisations Reassessment Trial, it has become one of the most controversial trials in recent history. The trial is scheduled for January 22, 2025, and was reported by newspapers including *The Stars* and *Stripes Daily*.

⁸ <https://www.history.com/articles/central-intelligence-agency>

The Stars & Stripes Daily

TRUMP DEMANDS CIA TRIAL

Volume 10, Issue January 21, 2025

"THEY THINK THEY RUN THE COUNTRY. NOT ANYMORE."



Who Watches the Watchers?

On the eve of his re-election as President of the United States of America, Mr Donald J. Trump, frustrated by the CIA's alleged overreach, has attacked the agency in a way never witnessed before. He has demanded a legal trial of the CIA to expose and punish what he calls "decades of lawlessness, betrayal and abuse of power". The trial, officially named as Senatorial Intelligence Organisations Reassessment Trial (SIORT), is starting tomorrow, i.e., on January 22, 2025. Trump has accused the CIA of going beyond its mandate, "a government within the government" and is ready to fight a legal battle with the agency that was meant to serve the Government.



"Langley isn't a security agency anymore but an empire. Secret wars, secret budgets, secret power. While Americans sleep, they pull the strings. But tomorrow, we turn the lights on. And when we do, we'll see just how deep the rot goes," said Trump in a recent White House briefing.

SIORT will consist of leaders of the CIA, US Senate, and US Executive Leadership, among others. The trial shall investigate humanitarian torture done by the CIA, violation of law, involvement in covert foreign interventions, domestic surveillance and involvement in foreign coups. This trial is to determine the future of American intelligence and surveillance. Given the unprecedented scenario, one must question, If they've been lying to us for decades; the real question is what else don't we know?



TIMELINE AND FREEZE DATE

Year	Event/Operation name	Description/Significance
1947	CIA established	Created by the National Security Act, replacing OSS.
1953	Operation Ajax	Overthrew PM Mossadegh, reinstated Shah.
1954	Guatemala Coup	Toppled President Árbenz, installed military regime.
1961	Bay of Pigs invasion	Failed CIA-backed attempt to overthrow Castro in Cuba.
1965–72	Phoenix Program	Campaigns targeting the Viet Cong infrastructure, including assassinations.
1973	Chile Coup	Supported Pinochet's overthrow of Allende.
1981-87	Iran-Contra Affair	Illegal arms sales to Iran to fund the Nicaraguan Contras.
1989	Panama Invasion	Intelligence support for ousting Noriega.
2001	9/11 and Operation Jawbreaker	Post-9/11 counterterrorism and paramilitary operations in Afghanistan.
2001-14	Rendition and Black Sites	Secret prisons and enhanced interrogation techniques were used.



2010	Stuxnet Cyberattack	Joint CIA-Israeli cyberweapon against Iran's nuclear program.
2011	Operation Neptune Spear	The raid that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.
2013	Snowden Leaks	Exposure of NSA and CIA surveillance programs.
2021	Afghanistan Withdrawal	The CIA evacuates assets during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Freeze date: 22nd January 2025

The committee will operate with a freeze date of 22nd January 2025, the day Donald Trump is re-elected as president, while the former CIA director still holds power. All research, speeches, and references must be strictly limited to information available on or before this date. Anything beyond it will not be considered unless a time jump is introduced in the form of a crisis in the committee.



EXPECTATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The CIA is subject to rigorous legal and political scrutiny through the Senatorial Intelligence Organisations Reassessment Trial (SIORT). The delegates are required to conduct comprehensive research on the agenda, comprehend relevant legal regulations and frameworks, and consider ethically, historically, and humanely all of the outcomes of intelligence operations closely. SIORT debate requires sharp analytical skills, factual knowledge, and clear communication. Delegates are expected to adhere to the rules of procedure, engage in proactive engagement, and exhibit diplomatic behaviour.

During dynamic discussions and crises, spontaneity, flexibility, and critical thinking will be crucial.

We will have an eagle's eye for substantive research and logical innovation to maximise the scope for productive participation. While rhetorical arguments may be made in brief to support facts and figures, the Executive Board will look more favourably upon practical, applicable, and relevant exchange of information. All forms of participation—verbal as well as written—will be aggregated towards the assessment of individual performances. We encourage mature, elaborate, and interesting debates throughout the three days of the conference.

All generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT and Gemini) are forbidden. All content must be the original work of the delegate. Each delegate will be expected to answer one basic ethical question throughout the committee's development: Did the CIA violate legal, moral, and trust principles?

The Executive Board anticipates a stimulating, polite, and intellectually demanding committee. Our expectation is that you perform at the highest level and demonstrate your dedication to justice, accountability, and reform.

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