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# Secret History

State Surveillance in New Zealand, 1900–1958

The History of Security Intelligence in Twentieth-Century New Zealand, Volume I

**Richard S. Hill and Steven Loveridge**

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**The first volume in a history of spies and spying in New Zealand.**

In 1900, a handful of New Zealand police detectives watched out for spies, seditious and others who might pose a threat to state and society. The Police Force remained the primary instrument of such human intelligence in New Zealand until 1956 when, a decade into the Cold War, a dedicated Security Service was created. Over the same period, New Zealand's role within signals intelligence networks evolved from the Imperial Wireless Chain to the UKUSA intelligence alliance (now known as Five Eyes).

The first of two volumes chronicling the history of state surveillance in New Zealand, *Secret History* opens up the 'secret world' of security intelligence through to 1956. It is the story of the surveillers who – in times of war and peace, turmoil and tranquillity – monitored and analysed perceived threats to national interests. It is also the story of the surveilled: those whose association with organisations and movements led to their public and private lives being documented in secret files.

*Secret History* explores a hidden and intriguing dimension of New Zealand history, one which sits uneasily with cherished national notions of an exceptionally fair and open society.

## ENDORSEMENTS

'Hill and Loveridge give us a fascinating examination of the underbelly of the New Zealand state, always alert to the tension between our assumptions of a tolerant society and the realities of "political policing".... Co-author Richard Hill is an established master of the art.'

— James Belich, Beit Professor of Imperial and Commonwealth History, University of Oxford

'Fascinating revelations about both New Zealand's secret history and the origins of today's most important international intelligence alliance.'

— Professor Christopher Andrew, Cambridge University, author of *The Secret World*

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Richard S. Hill** is the author of four books on the history of policing in New Zealand and two on Crown–Māori relations in the twentieth century (including *State Authority, Indigenous Autonomy* and *Maori and the State*, Victoria University Press, 2004, 2009). He has also written numerous articles, book chapters and papers, and has edited books and academic series. His research interests have focused on the interactions between the state and its subjects in New Zealand and empire. He is a Life Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge University, and Emeritus Professor at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies at Victoria University of Wellington/Te Herenga Waka.

**Steven Loveridge** is a historian whose research focuses on governance, security intelligence and war and society. The author of several books, he has been published in various scholarly journals and anthologies. His recent publications include the co-authored *The Home Front* (Massey University Press, 2019), an authoritative examination of New Zealand's social, political, economic and diplomatic experiences in the First World War, and content within *New Zealand's Foreign Service* (Massey University Press, 2022) and *Histories of Hate* (Otago University Press, 2023). He is a research fellow with the Security and Surveillance Project at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies at Victoria University of Wellington/Te Herenga Waka.

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