

IMPORTANT DATES AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE EVENTS

THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS,  
1920-1939

1920	1 January	The “Red Raids,” also known as the “Palmer Red Raids,” and the “Slacker Raids” initiated.
1921	16 January	Public backlash against the “Palmer” raids prompted a Senate investigation.
	6 June	Army establishes Signal Intelligence Service (later renamed the Signal Security Agency (1 June 1943) and 4 Nov 1952 became NSA.
	19 May	Emergency Quota Act restricts immigration to 3% of 1910 census.
	23 December	President Harding pardons Eugene Debs and others convicted under the Sedition Act of 1918 and other measures designed to curb dissent during World War I.
1924	26 May	National Origins Act places strict quotas on European immigration and bars all immigration from Asia.
	1 July	Japanese condemn immigration humiliation in “Hate America” rallies.
	10 May	J. Edgar Hoover is appointed head of Bureau of Investigation.
1928	4 June	Supreme Courts upholds Olmstead Case that use of wiretap evidence in a federal court did not by itself violate constitutional guarantees in the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Amendments against unreasonable searches and seizures and self-incrimination.
1929	29 October	Secretary of State withdraws funding from the “Black Chamber,” effectively abolishing the office.
1933	30 January	Hitler is appointed as the German Chancellor.
	7 June	Congress authorizes use of subpoena power in sabotage cases.
	16 November	US establishes diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.
	27 August	Corp. R. Osman court-martialed for violating Espionage Act. Sentenced to two years hard labor and fined \$10,000. President Roosevelt orders new trial in 1934. He was acquitted on 21 May.
1934	15 December	Japan asks France, England, and U.S. for removal of diplomatic status from Army and Navy language officers in Tokyo as one is suspected of espionage. U.S. grants request.

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1936	12 December	German pro-Nazi Bund societies formed as “Amerika-deutscher Volkbund,” ostensibly devoted to social and athletic pursuits.
	2 July	H.T.Thompson tried on charges of selling U.S. naval information to Lt. Comdr. Miyazaki, Japanese Spy.
	15 July	John Semer Farnsworth, ex-U.S. naval officer, held on charges of selling confidential naval book to Japanese. Found guilty and sentenced to prison.
1938	26 May	Dies Committee established to investigate un-American activities.
	19 August	President Roosevelt, in reaction to Turrou incident, says he favors larger appropriations for military intelligence services to expand counterespionage activities in the U.S. However, he made it clear he would not sanction espionage by American agents abroad.
	16 October	Ernst Kuhrig and Heinrich Schackow, German citizens, arrested on espionage charges in the Canal Zone. Both sentenced to two years in prison in January 1939.
1939	26 June	Interception of Soviet communication between New York and Moscow that would be the subject of the VENONA project begins.
	17 April	Counterintelligence Branch established in Army’s Military Intelligence Division.
	15 June	Mixed Claims Commission finds Germany guilty of both the Black Tom and Kingsland explosions but Germany never pays the \$55 million damage award.
	26 June	Presidential Directive gives investigations of all espionage, sabotage and counterespionage to FBI, Military Intelligence Division and Office of Naval Intelligence.
	1 September	World War II begins as Germany invades Poland.
	2 September	Journalist Don Levine escorts Whittaker Chambers to Asst. Secretary of State Adolph Berle’s home where Chambers reveals intelligence activities of Alger and Donald Hiss.
	4 September	French intelligence informs American Ambassador Bullitt in Paris that Alger and Donald Hiss are Soviet agents.
	6 September	Presidential Directive gives FBI the sole responsibility for investigating espionage, counterespionage and sabotage.