Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community

Richard J. Samuels
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Professor Richard Samuels dissects the fascinating history of the intelligence community in Japan. Looking at the impact of shifts in the strategic environment, technological change, and past failures, he argues that Japan has endured a roller-coaster ride when it comes to intelligence gathering and analysis and probes the reasons for that. He illustrates the century-long history of Japan’s struggles to develop a fully functioning and effective intelligence capability, and elucidates how, in his view, Japanese leaders have begun to reinvent their nation’s intelligence community.

Professor Richard Samuels, a renowned and highly honored expert in the field of international relations with a focus on Japan, is Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Among his numerous publications are several award-winning books. Since 2015 he is Einstein Visiting Fellow at GEAS where he directs a research group on East Asian Security with the generous support of the Einstein Foundation Berlin.

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