Abstract

Intelligence, by its very nature, is an elusive concept (Lundborg,2021,p443; Cornish,2021,p224; Deeks,2016,p599; Tucker, 2014,p10). As a result of its seemingly intangible characteristics, its positive application has gone under-recognised, and its creative application, largely neglected (Stone, 2012; Breakspear, 2012, p. 678). A significant focus on its function through espionage has left the public, and actors alike, hesitant to invest or study further, into its innovation (Glassman, 2012, p. 673; Potter, 1996; Richards, 2010, p. 4). The state-centric focus of literature and observations relating to the intelligence sector, means that its private-sector function is largely neglected, even though it is a fast emerging, and powerful sector (Gill,2013, p93; Lin, 2011, p10;Puyvelde,2019,p21;Adriana,2021, p8). Taken in the context of global governance issues, outlined by the UN Sustainable Development goals, we will see how far that private sector intelligence has come already outside of the remit of the state, and its transformative capacity (UNCD, 2014, p. 4). With any fast-expanding sector, comes its own issues. Lack of regulation of the industry, has contributed to the absence of a universal accountability mechanism, which this dissertation will look to create through an originally developed ethical framework (Yu, 2018; Omand, 2012, p. 38; Rittenburg, 2006, p. 235; Rosenbach, 2009; Crane, 2011, p. 233). 5 private sector companies will be assessed through the ethical framework, displaying the ultimately benign capabilities of the sector. This will show that private sector intelligence helps to balance the asymmetry of the world stage, acting as a key part of global governance itself, and taking on a self-regulatory capacity (UNCD, 2014, p. 4).