

Abstract

This thesis examines the structure and effects of the various Stay-Behind networks in the countries where they were established. Using historical research and analysis of these covert operations all over Europe in the first two chapters, this paper seeks to examine how the construction of those secret networks impacted the economic, political, and social equilibrium of the concerned territories. The case studies contained in the first two chapters of France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Denmark, Turkey, and Italy will demonstrate how those structures, even if established in different countries, had common elements and shared the same objective. In the third chapter, a study on the definition and application of hybrid warfare will be effectuated, and various examples will be furnished, with the objective of giving the reader concrete examples of how the modern conflicts that we are facing are usually far from the regular battles faced in the past. This thesis argues that even if the Stay-Behind networks are part of an operation that happened decades ago, a connection between them and methods of hybrid warfare could be effectuated. This connection will be represented by two different approaches, an offensive and a defensive one, and it will be supported by examples showing the impact that those approaches had and could have on our modern society.