

they wanted to preserve—Congress took up the reorganization of the entire national security apparatus. Truman signed the National Security Act on July 26, 1947. The act restructured the nation's military, foreign policy, and intelligence operations at the outset of the Cold War. It set up the National Security Council (NSC) in the White House, created the Department of the Air Force, merged the Departments of War and the Navy into the National Military Establishment (later renamed the Department of Defense), and established the CIA as the nation's first peacetime intelligence agency.

In 1948, the president, through the NSC, gave the CIA the authority to conduct covert operations, and in 1949 Congress exempted it from the usual fiscal and administrative procedures and allowed it to keep its personnel and organizational functions secret. Covert operations soon began, and the CIA was instrumental in defeating communist insurgents in Greece and communist candidates at the polls in Italy. In 1949, after the Soviets detonated their first atomic bomb, the CIA began parachuting agents into the Soviet Union and other Soviet bloc countries.

The CIA and its first director, Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, soon came under severe criticism. Two reports in 1949—the Eberstadt Report of the First Hoover Commission and the Dulles-Jackson-Correa Report by the NSC—both recommended further centralizing the intelligence functions and consolidating covert and clandestine operations within a single directorate in the CIA. Implementation of the suggested reforms began in the 1950's.

**Impact** With the CIA, the United States became the last of the post-World War II major powers to establish a national intelligence agency. The CIA was analogous in some respects to the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Soviet NKVD and MVD (later the KGB), though unlike the Soviet agencies, the CIA had no domestic police powers. Despite its role in coordinating military intelligence activities, the CIA was by law a civilian agency, and Congress specified that it would have no police, subpoena, or law-enforcement powers or internal-security functions.

The CIA was created as an intelligence agency in response to fears of Soviet expansion after World War II. With its subsequent authority to conduct co-

vert and clandestine operations while maintaining budgetary and administrative secrecy, it soon became the U.S. government's primary tool in carrying out the Truman Doctrine of Soviet containment during the Cold War that followed. These operations laid the groundwork for the controversies that would swirl around the CIA for decades afterward.

*William V. Dunlap*

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**See also** Cold War; Department of Defense, U.S.; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Foreign policy of the United States; Hoover Commission; National Security Act of 1947; Office of Strategic Services; Truman, Harry S.; Truman Doctrine; Voice of America; Wartime espionage in North America.

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## ■ Chandler, Raymond

**Identification** American novelist and screenwriter

**Born** July 23, 1888; Chicago, Illinois

**Died** March 26, 1959; La Jolla, California

*Chandler wrote hard-boiled detective fiction that had an enduring significance in American letters and culture.*

With his first novel, *The Big Sleep* (1939), Chandler established himself as a premier practitioner of the uniquely American style of hard-boiled fiction. He eschewed violence as a principal plot device, focusing on the troubled consciousness of his private detective, Philip Marlowe, and his chivalric code of ethics. Marlowe stands in sharp contrast to the modern wasteland that is Chandler's Southern California of the 1940's.

In his four novels from the 1940's, Chandler anatomizes American society, presenting characters from the highest and lowest walks of life and revealing a world of greed and venality through which the



lone-wolf detective must wander and exact some slim measure of justice. While *Farewell, My Lovely* (1940) is arguably his best novel, *The Little Sister* (1949) offers the most revealing, and dyspeptic, view of the film industry, criminality, and police corruption in the wonderland of Hollywood. During this time, Chandler also became one of the most successful American screenwriters. His novels and screenplays represent the acme of noir fictions.

**Impact** Although he gives scant attention to World War II, Chandler is unmistakably a writer of the 1940's. He clearly understood the moral vacancy and cultural confusions of mid-twentieth century America. With the call of the West long vanished, Chandler understood that the American search for the wilderness now resided in its urban centers, where the possibilities for personal renewal and heroism still prevailed.

David W. Madden

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**See also** Black Dahlia murder; Bogart, Humphrey; Book publishing; *Double Indemnity*; Faulkner, William; Film in the United States; Film noir; Literature in the United States; Pulp magazines.

## ■ Chaplains in World War II

*Clergy from all major American religious groups participated in the armed forces during World War II, serving both in battlefield positions and in more permanent installations. Through their presence and willingness to help whenever needed, chaplains proved themselves invaluable to the war effort.*

Since General George Washington's time, chaplains have been part of U.S. military life. Their presence, however, sometimes has been small. Just before the Pearl Harbor attack, the number of regular army chaplains was 140; in the buildup of armed forces that followed, the number grew to 9,111 within a year. For the rapid expansion, the army drew on reserve and National Guard chaplains and on volunteers from among civilian clergy.

Candidates had to be clergy in good standing with their own denomination. After completing a five-week "chaplain school" in army protocol and regulations, new chaplains received orders assigning them to a duty station. This could be a combat unit, a larger base, or a stateside location. Those assigned to smaller units found themselves responsible for the spiritual welfare of soldiers with religious traditions other than their own. Because of this, chaplains usually learned the basic prayers and rituals of other faiths and would use them in emergency situations.

Besides performing religious rites, chaplains' pastoral duties included large amounts of listening, counseling, and trying to resolve servicemen's problems. The many young men newly away from home and facing unknown dangers needed moral and practical support. The civilian population backed the chaplaincy because they saw chaplains as meeting this need of "the boys" as well as providing spiritual guidance.

The Geneva Convention forbade chaplains from carrying arms, but many did face situations of ex-



Roman Catholic chaplain (right) hearing the confession of a young American soldier in Germany in early 1945. (AP/Wide World Photos)