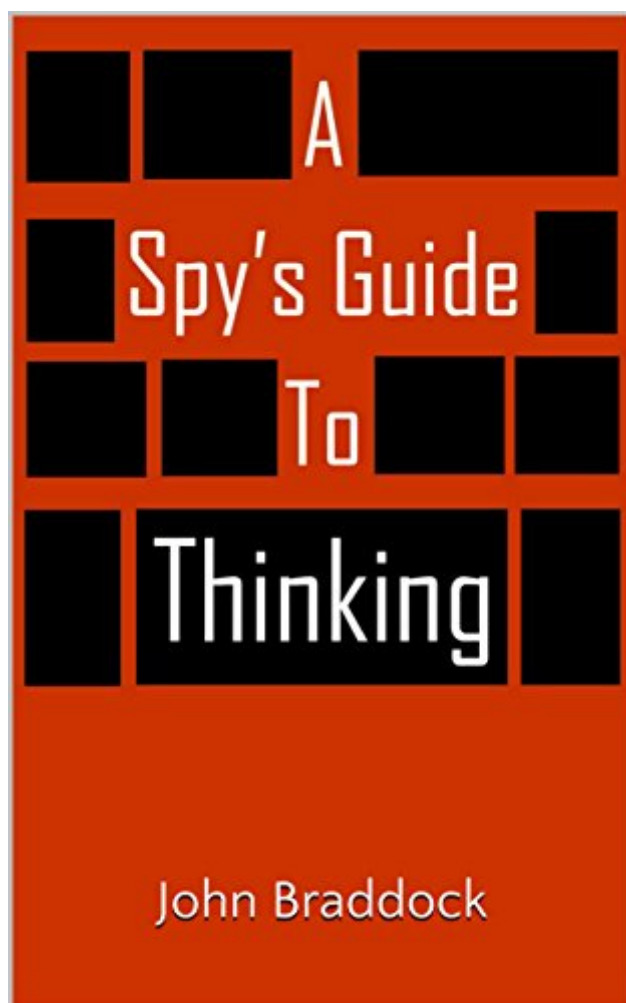


The book was found

A Spy's Guide To Thinking (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

The #1 Kindle Single. In a 45 minute read, a former spy spotlights two thinking tools. The first is how we think. The second helps us think ahead. — Braddock uses the tools face-to-face with a new enemy. And gives insights into CIA intelligence-gathering. Finally, he uses the tools to show how Saddam Hussein was thinking about WMD. These thinking tools are simple. Simple so you make quick decisions. Because quick decisions lead to action. And action is the only thing that matters. —

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A subtle message lies within this book, namely, that "structure" equals "behavior." When circumstances require action, having a habitual method (i.e a structured approach) to quickly analyze the situation and select the best response gives you an edge over your opponent. The author shows how the US Air Force analyzed ace pilots to determine why they won more dogfights, and how that discovery was generalized into a powerful behavioral approach to rapid decision-making for spies in stressful situations. The method doesn't guarantee success, but it does improve your chances and builds confidence. Spies play a dangerous game. The movie portrayals of

the espionage game are not far off, says the author. Novel gadgets rarely win the day. Spies want proven technologies, including the best ways to think in stressful situations. This book uses the author's thought process during an attempted robbery where he, the spy, is victim as an example of his structured thought process, one that major spy agencies and the military actually use. Those who employ it benefit from better decisions and faster response times. In other words, this structured method of thinking, applied repeatedly in a repetitive or "looping" fashion, is more effective than the less structured, more improvisational thinking that most of us use to deal with the situations that life throws at us. The robbery's outcome may not be what you expect; but no spoilers here. I particularly like the author's writing style and his sharp focus. This book has a message to deliver. There is no fluff or filler. Happily, there is a thread of suspense as he weaves his story about the attempted robbery through the explanation of the method. Near the end, he analyzes the thought process he went through in deciding to write the book in comparison to a reader's decision to purchase it. At first this seemed disingenuous. On reflection it makes perfect sense as an example of the game theory outcomes he uses to frame strategy in a stressful situation. This book is a starting point. Anyone wishing to employ these methods likely requires both practice and further reading. The book does not have suggestions for other books on the subject or a bibliography. One star deducted on that account.

I bought the book, without much thought to its purpose. I found it to be enjoyably frustrating. There was a story mixed with a tutorial (refresher course) on thinking. Deep into the plot? Then the tutorial would intercede. At the end I felt okay, I got my money's worth. Win-sum.

John's book is short and to the point (a format many other books would do well to copy). This is going to be a book I recommend to many of my friends due to the ease of understanding and the short amount of time required to digest it fully (1-2 hours at most).

Complexity derived and presented as simple frameworks explained with examples of their implications indicating the depth and flexibility of the concepts. The subtle nuances of thinking at the interpersonal interaction level (albeit in the setting of interaction with a stranger in a threat situation) illuminate the speed at which the thinking frameworks can operate when mastered.

I really liked the way the author keeps you reading by interpreting a story line with the different aspects of decision making. He thoroughly describes the OODA Loop and other decision making

processes. A very fast read!

I thought it was going to be more than it was so I kept turning the page. I was surprised when it was over. Some of the anecdotes were entertaining. Bottom line is that I don't think I got the message...which is maybe why I needed to read a book with this title in the first place.

This is a strange book. This isn't the kind of book I will read multiple times. It's nothing like what I anticipated but that's not a bad thing for me, however I think the average reader interested in "spycraft" might be better served reading novels about Jason Bourne or James Bond.

Good, simple strategy for daily interactions on all levels. Useful info on Saddam Hussein and his attempted strategy of dealing with various threats to his leadership and how it relates to WMD and eventually the USAs invasion of Iraq. Puts to rest persistent conspiracy theories regarding same.

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