



Discussions of the Espionage Act usually focus on the public's conception of "spying." Spies steal information that their government seeks to keep secret and disclose that information to other governments. A common acronym, "MICE," describes the common motivations for spying: money, ideology, compromise, and ego.

The Espionage Act, however, covers a broader set of conduct that can compromise U.S. national security. The original Act, enacted as the United States entered the First World War, included the precursors to prohibitions against undisclosed foreign-government activities in the United States.

[Read the full article on *Journal of National Security Law and Policy*.](#)

Authors



David Aaron

Senior Counsel

DAaron@perkinscoie.com

Explore more in

[National Security](#)

[Privacy & Security](#)

[Data Security Counseling and Breach Response](#)