

David Habakkuk lives in London, and is a former television current affairs producer. After studying economics and history at Cambridge, he lived in Mexico, and then worked on the Liverpool Daily Post newspaper and the Financial Times. Subsequently he produced programmes for London Weekend Television and the BBC, and as an independent television producer. Among his editors at London Weekend was Greg Dyke, later forced to resign as BBC Director-General in the wake of Lord Hutton's report on the David Kelly affair – one of the series of official reports which seem to betray a bewildering insouciance about the state of British intelligence. Among his researchers was Peter Mandelson, who later taught the Labour Party spindoctoring, twice lost his Cabinet position due to sailing too close to the wind, but has survived to become a European Commissioner. He lost faith in the neocons' intelligence abilities when making programmes on Gorbachev's 'new thinking' – as they continued to insist that it was a deception operation, long after it was clear that this was patently not a tenable interpretation of the facts. His father worked, at the beginning of World War II, on codebreaking at Bletchley Park – a fact of which when growing up he was quite unaware.