

RAND Corporation

Organization: RAND Corporation

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Description Project RAND was created by the Douglas Aircraft Company of Santa Monica, California to research and develop military aircraft and spaceships for use in World War II. In May 1948, RAND, whose name derives from the phrase "research and development," became an independent non-profit organization whose main function was to conduct scientific and economic research that would enhance US national security. Starting with a \$1 million loan from the Ford Foundation in 1948, RAND began to diversify its research into space systems, digital computing, and artificial intelligence. The RAND corporation also helped to develop the planning, programming, and budgeting system that was adopted by the US federal government in the early 1960s.

In 1971, Daniel Ellsberg, a RAND consultant with the highest security clearance of any US civilian in Vietnam, released to the press a highly classified history of the war known as "The Pentagon Papers." The documents in these papers, which came from various high level US government agencies, presented a very pessimistic view of the war that conflicted with the official White House contention that victory was achievable in Vietnam. RAND also sent dozens of social scientists to South Vietnam to determine how villagers might be induced to support the government against the communists. Typically, RAND social scientists embraced modernization theory and offered technical solutions that reflected the values of liberal developmentalism.

Suggested Reading: **Ellsberg, Daniel.** 2002. *Secrets: Revealing the Pentagon Papers*. New York: Viking.

Kaplan, Fred. 1983. *Wizards of Armageddon*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Robin, Ron. 2001. *The making of the Cold War enemy: Culture and politics in the military-intellectual complex*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.