

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ROBERT DAVID STEELE (for Latinos, Robert David Steele Vivas) is a native of New York, born in 1952, who has lived all over the world, been a clandestine operations officer (spy) for the Central Intelligence Agency, and served as the second-ranking civilian in Marine Corps Intelligence. In the middle of a career as a secret intelligence professional he had a conversion experience. He realized that ninety percent of what was being done by way of very expensive secret intelligence was not useful to anyone, and that we were ignoring ninety percent of the relevant—usually open—information.

Educated at Muhlenberg College (Political Science), Lehigh University (International Relations), the University of Oklahoma (Public Administration), and the Naval War College (Defense Economics), he has spent most of his life in Latin America and Asia—including four years in Viet-Nam—as the son of an oil engineer. He also worked in Latin America as a clandestine case officer under cover,



serving in El Salvador during a time of war, in Venezuela, and in Panama.

As a ghost-writer for the Commandant of the Marine Corps, then General Al Gray, he coined the phrase to explain why intelligence and communications must be managed together: “Communications without intelligence is noise; intelligence without communications is irrelevant.” He went on to author many articles in the field of intelligence, for the *American Intelligence Journal* and the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, and to write, edit, and publish eight books over a decade, ranging from *ON INTELLIGENCE: Spies and Secrecy in an Open World* (2000) to *INTELLIGENCE for EARTH: Clarity, Diversity, Integrity & Sustainability* (2010). His one political book, *ELECTION 2008: Lipstick on the Pig* (2008), contains chapters on The Substance of Governance, Legitimate Grievances, Candidates on the Issues, Balanced Budget 101, and a Call to Arms: Fund We Not Them.

As the #1 Amazon reviewer for non-fiction, reading in ninety-eight categories accessible via *Phi Beta Iota the Public Intelligence Blog* (www.phibetaiota.net), he has created a body of work featuring summary reviews of the public investigation and public intelligence produced by more than 1,700 other minds, which is now a free resource online.

Steele’s “Open-Source Everything” philosophy—unusual for a former spy and senior civilian from the secret world—was presented in 2007 at Gnomedex, an annual gathering in Seattle of techno-bloggers. The keynote speech, “Open Everything: We Won, Let’s Self-Govern,”

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was videotaped and posted to the Web.¹ The full video as well as many remixes of portions of that presentation have become cult viewing within many communities, including Anonymous (the decentralized online community), LulzSec (a group of hacker activists in the public interest), and Occupy Wall Street (“Occupy” for short, the global rebellion against government and corporate corruption). Although this book was written prior to the emergence of the Occupy movement, it was adapted in early 2012 to better address the timeless reality of public protest in the face of great oppression.

In 2011 Robert Steele was accepted as one of two candidates for the Reform Party nomination for the presidential race in 2012, and put into one website for We the People Reform Coalition (<http://bigbatusa.org>) ideas developed by many non-partisan minds since 2000, including four fundamentals: Electoral Reform, Coalition Cabinet and Balanced Budget announced in advance of election day, and a commitment to True Cost Economics.

Robert is married and the father of three boys. The family is based in Oakton, Virginia.

Public Intelligence Blog: www.phibetaiota.net

We the People Reform Coalition: www.bigbatusa.org

About the Author: <http://tinyurl.com/Steele2012>

Author’s Open Everything Keynote at Gnomedex 2007:

<http://tinyurl.com/Open-Everything>