

Government Surveillance: Good or Bad?

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement:- The losses of government surveillance supersede its benefits as it violates right to privacy of citizens. Thus, government surveillance is bad and some concrete measures are necessary to address its challenges.

2. A Brief Overview of the Government Surveillance

- Definition by United Nations Security Council

3. How is Government Surveillance Bad?

I - Government surveillance chills the liberties of people

Case study: North Korea

II - It increases risks of co-ercion, discrimination and selective enforcement

Case in point: Surveillance as a tool for political victimization

III - It violates the right to privacy of individuals

Reference: Concerns of Supreme Courts judges of Pakistan

IV - It threatens the ~~personal~~ security of personal data
Case in point: Cameras in bed rooms

V. It also harms the mental health of citizens

Reference: World Health Organization report (2024).

VI. Government surveillance can be used as a tool of exploitation and power abuse

Case study: Internet Crackdown in Pakistan by intelligence agencies

VII. It erodes public trust from government institutions

Case in point: Bangladesh

4. How is Government Surveillance Good?

I. It ensures security of critical data of government institutions

Case study: Surveillance plan of Israel

II. It helps countering deteriorating law and order situation

Case in point: Use of technological tools to counter terrorism

III. It also guarantees prevention of crime from society

Reference: Installation of CCTVs across the cities by district governments.

IV. It also provides robust cyber security

Book: AI in the Age of Technology

5- What are the Measures to Address the Issues of Government Surveillance?

- I - Ensuring surveillance is ethical values in civil liberty is essential for
- II - Limits must be defined concerning government surveillance
Reference: No violation of privacy
- III - Surveillance should not be used as a tool of coercion and exploitation
Case in point: HRCP report (2023)
- IV - Guaranteeing severe punishments in case of personal data theft by any institution
Case study: International Data Privacy Law
- V - Surveillance should not be used for personal goals

6- Conclusion

Golden Shield Project also known as "Great Firewall of China" is operated by Ministry of Public Security to monitor the activities of people especially Uyghurs. Nonetheless, the project has failed to achieve the aim as Uyghurs are still threatening the security of China. It vividly indicates that government surveillance brings more harms than good. It stifles civil liberties along with exacerbation of coercion and discrimination. Security of privacy and personal information also becomes uncertain under government surveillance. Erosion of public trust, mental disorder and exploitation are some other consequences of government's checks on individuals' daily chores and activities. However, there are also some benefits of government surveillance, such as security of critical data. Law and order situation can also be improved through close-watch of government on citizens. Similarly, cyber security can be guaranteed with the help of government's constant regulation of individuals. Nevertheless, the challenges of government

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surveillance can be addressed through ensuring surveillance. governments citizens in this regard. punishments in case of personal data theft is also one of the laudable steps to counter the ill-effects of government surveillance. The losses of government surveillance supersede its benefits as it threatens privacy of citizens. Thus, government surveillance is bad and concrete measures are needed to address its challenges.