

Human rights in an age of Surveillance and digital Control

1. INTRODUCTION

The 21st century has brought about a significant rise in surveillance and digital control, violating people's right to privacy, freedom of opinion and movement, and citizens' voting rights.

Strong judicial oversight and transparency mechanisms can ensure human rights are upheld.

2. DECONSTRUCTING THE TOPIC

- Understanding surveillance and digital control
- Current global dynamics

3. COMPROMISED HUMAN RIGHTS IN AGE OF SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL

3.1 A mode for states to curb dissent and opposing views

- NSO's Pegasus software employed by governments

3.2 Digital control as a tool for shaping public opinion

- China controls online content using "Great Firewall".

3.3 Unregulated access to live-location data threatens movement rights

→ China's "Skynet" system

3.4 Personal data collection and corporate sharing violates freedom right to privacy

→ Apple shares usage data with advertisers (Amnesty report)

3.5 Manipulation of electoral outcomes through digital influence violates voting rights

→ India's 2019 elections used WhatsApp for misinformation drive (Reuters)

3.6 Selective content censored on digital platforms violates right to free speech.

→ Youtube restricted Pro-Palestine content after 2024 (Human rights watch report)

3.7 Surveillance used for behavioural control through constant observation

→ China's "Social Credit System" of reward and punishment

3.8 AI systems in surveillance reinforce bias and violate equality of citizens

→ Predictive policing in U.S

Day: _____

Date: _____

targets Black neighborhoods (Stanford Policy Lab)

4 REFORMS AND MEASURES TO ENSURE HUMAN RIGHTS UPHELD

4-1 Accountability and transparency frameworks for tech companies to ensure data protection

4-2 Judicial and parliamentary oversight to limit unlawful surveillance systems

4-3 Digital literacy campaigns and encryption adoption

5 CASE STUDY: CHINA'S DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM

→ world's largest surveillance network

6. CONCLUSION

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The 21st century's most decisive battles are not fought on land or sea but within invisible networks of code and data. As modernization and technological advancement grips nations world wide, fears surrounding the adverse uses of such development are also gaining traction. One can relate this concept with Newton's third law.

While technology is promoting freedom and advocating for a borderless society, it is also ^{giving} ~~adding~~ states ^{digital} immense power of control and surveillance. States

in turn, use this to curb dissent, and silence opposing opinions, pressing down on human rights. Similarly, unrestricted access to citizen's private data and location information serves as a huge violation of personal rights.

Furthermore, digital control allows one to make and shape the content that is being consumed, providing a pathway for psychological manipulation.

Such violations poses a serious threat to the freedoms and rights of all human beings. No single entity should have any power to shape or mold behaviour

according to their motives. Certain reforms are thus, essential to ensure human rights are upheld. This includes several accountability frameworks, judicial oversight and digital literacy campaigns. The onset of blatant surveillance and digital control begs some questions. Have human rights been severely compromised in the current age? Is a sustainable solution to the problem a possibility? The 21st century has brought about a significant rise in surveillance and digital control, violating people's rights to privacy, freedom of opinion and movement, and citizen's voting rights. Strong judicial oversight and transparency mechanisms can ensure human rights are upheld.