

day/date

Brainstorming.



Government surveillance.



No freedom of expression.

Hampers trust in government.

Bad.

racial bias.

Privacy Concerns.

violation of rights.

abuse of private data for personal benefit.

Data / personal info. breach.

Fear of being constantly watched (psychological impact).

↳ examples of countries.
↳ China
↳ North Korea.

Government surveillance.



Good

Enhanced national security

Aid in crime prevention & detection.

Government Surveillance: Good or Bad

Outline

1. Introduction
 - 1.1. Background / Hook
 - 1.2. General statements
 - 1.3. Thesis statement
2. Government surveillance is harmful for citizens.
 - 2.1. Violation of privacy rights and civil liberties
 - 2.1.1. Invasion of privacy
 - 2.1.2. Exploitation of personal data
 - 2.1.3. Perpetuates racial biasness
 - 2.1.4. Evades freedom of expression
 - 2.2. Enables abuse of power
 - 2.2.1. Misuse of surveillance for personal gains or to suppress
 - 2.2.2. Using private data for political or social control
 - 2.2.3. Abusing surveillance to target individuals
 - 2.3. Psychological impact of government surveillance.
 - 2.3.1. Fear of being constantly watched
 - 2.3.2. Ruins sense of autonomy & personal space.
 - 2.3.3. Creates an atmosphere of suspicion & fear
 - 2.3.4. Hampers public trust in government's intentions.
3. Advantages of government surveillance.
 - 3.1. Enhanced national security
 - 3.2. Aids crime prevention and detection.
4. Conclusion.

The Essay

History indicates that the origin of government surveillance goes back to the 19th century with wiretapping as the earliest forms of surveillance. However, today, the world of surveillance is much different and harmful. Governments, with the advent of technology, have modernised surveillance methods. Now, they use surveillance tools such as surveillance cameras, web bugs, thermal scanners, GPS transponders etc to track, observe and monitor its citizens. The government surveillance is harmful for the public as it breaches privacy, exploits personal data, enable governments to abuse their powers & creates a chilling effect in which citizens spend their daily lives in constant scrutiny. Although if positively used, government surveillance can enhance national security and aid in crime prevention and detection. ~~but the governments are using surveillance~~ Therefore, there is a dire need to create a balance where surveillance is used for the betterment of citizens & ensure all kinds of civil liberties.

In today's world, government surveillance is invading privacy rights as well as civil liberties of its citizens. Government surveillances violates privacy as it collects personal information from the citizens. One such example is the use of

facial recognition softwares, licence plate readers, cameras at every corner & even mobile x-ray vans which create an environment of suspicion. Similarly, personal data (especially from mobile phones & social media sites) is often exploited. A recent report informed the interior ministry that in a serious data breach, personal information of as many as 2.7 million Pakistanis was compromised from the national database authority (NADRA) from 2019 to 2023. Surveillance also leads to racial biasness where personal information can be used to discriminate citizens on the basis of their race, creed or colour. Moreover, government surveillance creates an environment where the freedom of expression is compromised. A quantitative study on the chilling effects of surveillance & human rights on the participants from Uganda & Zimbabwe reported that the citizens of these two countries were under severe government surveillance. The citizens reported losing freedom of expression such that they refuse to express their opinions, their social media activity is monitored, they are cautious about the language they use to speak & write. Citizens also reported in being in a constant fear & chose to stay quite for the sake of their own protection. Such examples show how government surveillance is breaching privacy of everyone.

Government surveillance also enables the

authorities to abuse ^{their} powers. Instances of a misuse of surveillance has been reported by citizens where private data was used for personal gains, political and social control. One huge example is the government of North Korea that actively spies on its citizens & abuses its powers through massive surveillance programs. North Korea also censors online media, curtails information about North Korea and filters the information that it intends to reach its citizens to ensure full social control over them. Similarly, China also uses surveillance as a means of domestic social control. Statistics indicate that there are at least 416 million surveillance cameras around China that use AI facial recognition technology to surveil its citizens. Furthermore, this surveillance is also used to target individuals, monitor their movement & track their locations. Governments also abuse this power to intimidate activists and journalists for their personal gains.