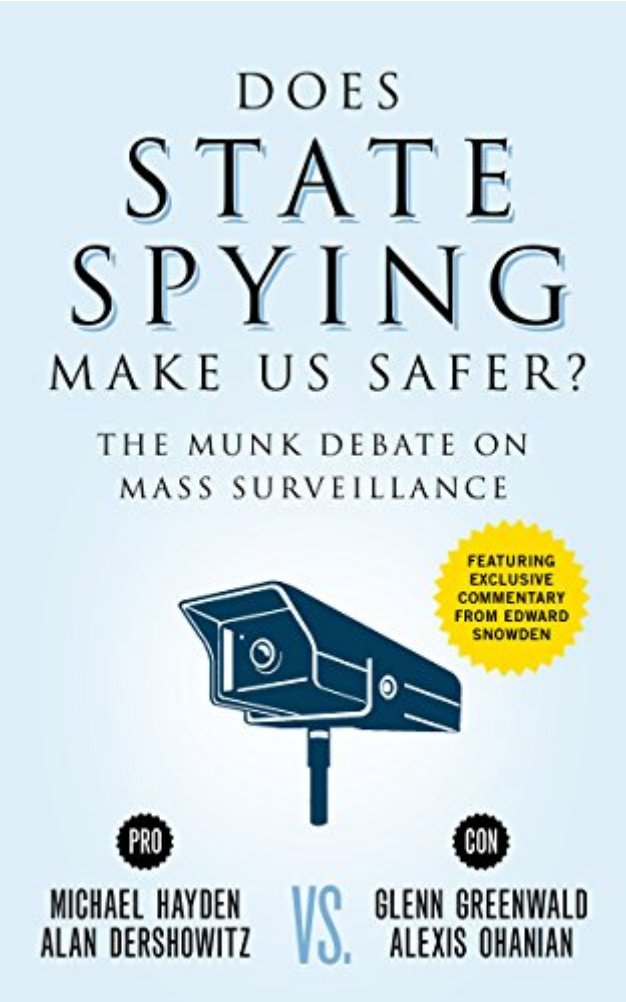
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Does State Spying Make Us Safer?: The Munk Debate On Mass Surveillance



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Synopsis

Does government surveillance make us safer? The thirteenth Munk Debate, held in Toronto on Friday, May 2, 2014, pitted Michael Hayden and Alan Dershowitz against Glenn Greenwald and Alexis Ohanian to debate whether state surveillance is a legitimate defence of our freedom Ã¢â ¬â • the democratic issue of the moment.In a risk-filled world, democracies are increasingly turning to large-scale state surveillance, at home and abroad, to fight complex and unconventional threats Ã¢â ¬â • but is it justified? For some, the threats more than justify the current surveillance system, and the laws and institutions of democracies are more than capable of balancing the needs of individual privacy with collective security. But for others, we are in peril of sacrificing to a vast and unaccountable state surveillance apparatus the civil liberties that guarantee citizensÃ¢â ¬â„¢ basic freedoms and our democratic way of life.In this edition of the Munk Debates, former head of the CIA and NSA Michael Hayden and civil liberties lawyer Alan Dershowitz square off against journalist Glenn Greenwald and reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian to debate the legitimacy of state surveillance. With issues of Internet privacy increasingly gaining prominence, the Munk Debate on the Surveillance State asks: Should government be able to monitor our activities in order to keep us safe?

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Customer Reviews

Transcript of a debate between Michael Hayden and Alan Dershowitz arguing PRO and Glenn Greenwald and Alexis Ohanian arguing AGAINST state spying - remarkably civilized debate, at least it appeared to be in the transcript. The moderator, Rudyard Kipling kept tight control of timing and sequence. The taped remarks by Edward Snowden were shown without offering Hayden/Dershowitz the opportunity to rebut them - although they mentioned them later. Also, material in the summary essay highlights the vast reaching power of the Communications Security Establishment Canada that operates largely without any oversight and remains unmentioned - probably unknown by all those attendees in Toronto eager to defend their privacy. Both sides brought good arguments to the table, although the repeated insistence by Ohanian and Greenwald that the wide open internet offers complete freedom to explore in total privacy was just too starry eyed. I missed the revelation of the post-debate tally - did any side really convince anybody? Did either side gain or 'win"? A fascinating debate.

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