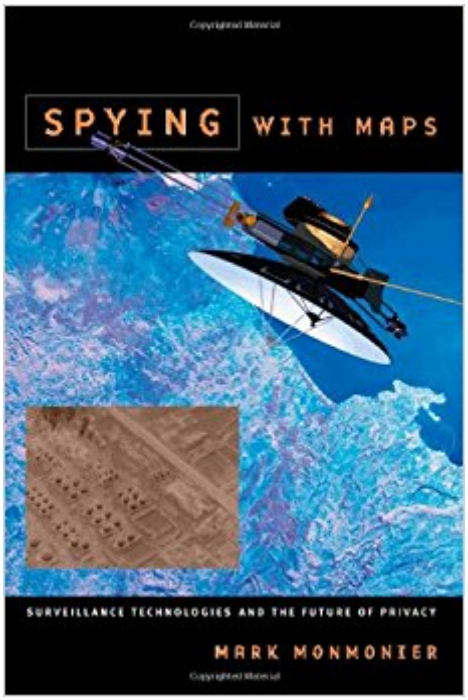
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Spying With Maps: Surveillance Technologies And The Future Of Privacy



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Synopsis

Maps, as we know, help us find our way around. But they’re also powerful tools for someone hoping to find you. Widely available in electronic and paper formats, maps offer revealing insights into our movements and activities, even our likes and dislikes. In Spying with Maps, the "mapmatician" Mark Monmonier looks at the increased use of geographic data, satellite imagery, and location tracking across a wide range of fields such as military intelligence, law enforcement, market research, and traffic engineering. Could these diverse forms of geographic monitoring, he asks, lead to grave consequences for society? To assess this very real threat, he explains how geospatial technology works, what it can reveal, who uses it, and to what effect.Despite our apprehension about surveillance technology, Spying with Maps is not a jeremiad, crammed with dire warnings about eyes in the sky and invasive tracking. Monmonier’s approach encompasses both skepticism and the acknowledgment that geospatial technology brings with it unprecedented benefits to governments, institutions, and individuals, especially in an era of asymmetric warfare and bioterrorism. Monmonier frames his explanations of what this new technology is and how it works with the question of whether locational privacy is a fundamental right. Does the right to be left alone include not letting Big Brother (or a legion of Little Brothers) know where we are or where we’ve been? What sacrifices must we make for homeland security and open government?With his usual wit and clarity, Monmonier offers readers an engaging, even-handed introduction to the dark side of the new technology that surrounds usÃ¢â ¬â •from traffic cameras and weather satellites to personal GPS devices and wireless communications.

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Customer Reviews

The author of many excellent books on cartography, Monmonier explores the ramifications of studding the physical and digital landscapes with tracking equipment. Security cameras, ATMs, tollbooth EZ-Passes, and credit-card terminals archive a person’s movements and transactions, and some of the data are being cached in "data warehouses" for as-needed snooping. Match this with satellite surveillance and the imminent embedding of GPS technology in cell phones and possibly beneath a person’s skin, and Big Brother’s technology looks positively primitive. Monmonier explains the trade-offs of each particular data system, noting their specialized applications for agriculture, forest fires, storms, traffic, tax assessment, electoral redistricting, crime control, and more. But he also explains that "geographic information systems" can integrate separate domains of data, to the delight of marketers. We, whose compromised privacy provokes less joy, can at least be glad of Monmonier’s incisive account of "dataveillance" and its implications for civil liberties. Gilbert TaylorCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

"With electronic spies in the sky, sensors under the streets, and geographic data banks everywhere, it takes Mark Monmonier’s knowledge and insight to make sense of the new landscape of locational privacy. This is fascinating reading, indispensable to watchers and watched alike." - Edward Tenner, author of Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences

Really, I find this book more about surveillance in general than spying as I usually think of the term. Nitpicking aside, this book very nearly changes the meaning of the word ’map,’ giving the concept a far richer meaning than what’s where, printed on a sheet of paper.The surveillance that Monmonier describes goes back at least to the 1920s, at least. Veterans of WWI brought their knowledge of aerial photography to the USDA, where it found peacetime use characterizing soils, forests, and farms. Infra-red imagery, in particular, helped identify moisture and other conditions, so that farmers could tend different fields according to their different needs. Monmonier the traces this history forward, to the side-looking radars and multispectral imaging of today’s satellite imagery. These not only track the heights of mountains and even buildings, they add layer upon layer of different kinds of raw sensor data to the basic plan of the earth and its surface. Although Monmonier discusses civilian applications more than military ones, he also goes into some of the declassified history of deeply classified military reconnaissance, and show how military technology then becomes

commercial technology now.Having added many dimensions of detail to fixed maps, Monmonier adds the dimension of time, as well. On larger scales, this could mean tracing plumes of aerial pollution as they spread with the wind. On smaller scales, it relates to urban microphone networks that identify the sources of gunshots or surveillance cameras tracking potential criminal activity. Wide networks of real-time updates change the game completely. Instead of the relatively static, even boring geographical exercises of my school days, cartography forms the foundation of rich and dynamic data analysis systems that support civic and commercial functions as well as military.For all that, this book's analysis ends with its 2002 publication date. Of necessity, it omits more recent innovations like Google Maps and the open APIs that potentially turn everyone one geographic analysts. Whether it's a kid's map with virtual thumbtacks at friends' houses or an open source effort relating North Korea's satellite images to its news events, geography has come to life. Although Monmonier says relatively little about the military applications implied in this book's title, this book covers everything from agriculture to civil liberties, all in terms of deeply annotated geographical databases - formerly known as maps.- wiredweird

A little dated, but great for what when it was published!

This books addresses some topics on satellite imaging, and other technology fields applied to surveillance.While an interesting reading, and providing very good detail (evolution of satellite resolution over the years) in some areas, it stays on the surface of others, giving the reader (me at least) the impression that there was a lot left outside. Some chapters do not deal with privacy of individuals, but communities.The book is short and easy to read, and will provide with some good "food for thought".

Spying With Maps: Surveillance Technologies And The Future Of Privacy blends an examination of surveillance technologies with a discussion of the nature and future of privacy in a world which is becoming increasingly open to spy apparatus. Spying With Maps could have been featured in our chapter on social issues, but is reviewed here for its intriguing examination of the science of spying, from using geographic data and satellite imagery to location tracking devices.

this is a great book. its easy to read and informative. it gives clear examples and even includes pictures to help the explain concepts its talking about. its a good sampling of what satelite technology can and cant do and what and how its used in our everyday lives. and about how

satelites are used in making maps and mapping and what the maps are used for.

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