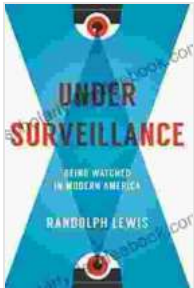


# Under Surveillance: Being Watched in Modern America



## Under Surveillance: Being Watched in Modern America

by Ronald W. Toseland

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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In modern America, we are constantly being watched. From the cameras on our streets to the sensors in our homes, it seems like there is no escape from surveillance. But what does it all mean? And how does it affect our lives?

## The Rise of Surveillance in America

The rise of surveillance in America has been a gradual process that has been accelerated by the development of new technologies. In the early days of the 20th century, the government began to use wiretaps to investigate suspected criminals. In the 1950s, the National Security Agency (NSA) was created to monitor foreign communications. And in the 21st

century, the Patriot Act gave the government broad new powers to collect data on American citizens.

Today, the government has a vast array of surveillance tools at its disposal. These tools include:

- **Cameras:** There are now over 50 million surveillance cameras in the United States. These cameras are located in public places, such as streets, parks, and schools. They can be used to track our movements and identify us.
- **Sensors:** Sensors are used to collect data on our environment. These sensors can be found in our homes, our cars, and even our clothing. They can be used to track our activities, our health, and our emotions.
- **Data mining:** Data mining is a technique that is used to analyze large amounts of data. This data can be used to identify patterns and trends. It can also be used to predict our behavior and our future actions.

## **The Impact of Surveillance on Our Lives**

The rise of surveillance in America has had a profound impact on our lives. This impact has been both positive and negative.

### **Positive Impacts**

- Surveillance can help to prevent crime. Cameras and sensors can be used to deter crime and to identify criminals.
- Surveillance can help to protect national security. The NSA's surveillance programs have been instrumental in preventing terrorist attacks.

- Surveillance can help to improve public safety. Sensors can be used to monitor traffic flow and to identify potential hazards.

## **Negative Impacts**

- Surveillance can erode our privacy. The government's vast surveillance powers can be used to track our movements, identify our associates, and collect data on our thoughts and feelings.
- Surveillance can be used to discriminate against certain groups of people. For example, the government's surveillance programs have been used to target Muslims and other minority groups.
- Surveillance can create a chilling effect on our freedom of expression. People may be less likely to speak out against the government or to express unpopular opinions if they know that they are being watched.

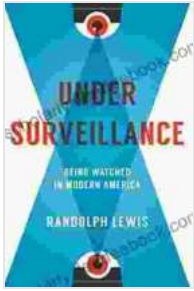
## **The Future of Surveillance in America**

The future of surveillance in America is uncertain. Some experts believe that the government will continue to expand its surveillance powers. Others believe that the public will eventually demand greater privacy protections. It is likely that the debate over surveillance will continue for many years to come.

Surveillance is a complex issue with both positive and negative implications. It is important to be aware of the potential risks and benefits of surveillance so that we can make informed decisions about how we want to use this technology.

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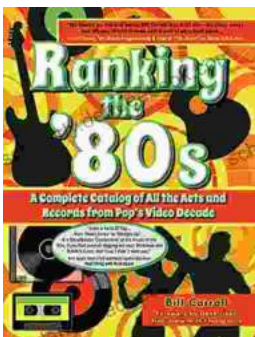
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