

Americans Are The Most Spied On People In World History

More Spying On Citizens than in Stasi East Germany

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

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According to the Wireless News [TechDirt](#):

In a [radio interview](#), Wall Street Journal reporter Julia Angwin (who's been one of the best at covering the surveillance state in the US) made a simple observation that puts much of this into context: the US surveillance regime [has more data on the average American](#) than the Stasi ever did on East Germans.

Indeed, the American government has more information on the average American than Stalin had on Russians, Hitler had on German citizens, or any other government has ever had on its people.

The American government is collecting and storing virtually every [phone call, purchases, email, text message, internet searches, social media communications, health information, employment history, travel and student records](#), and virtually all other information of every American.

Some also claim that the government is also using facial recognition software and surveillance cameras to [track where everyone is going](#). And – given that your smartphone [routinely sends you location information](#) back to Apple or Google – it would be child's play for the government to track your location that way.

As the top spy chief at the U.S. National Security Agency [explained](#) this week, the American government is collecting some 100 billion 1,000-character emails per day, and 20 trillion communications of all types per year.

He says that the government has collected all of the communications of congressional leaders, generals and everyone else in the U.S. for the last 10 years.

He further explains that he set up the NSA's system so that all of the information would automatically be encrypted, so that the government had to obtain a search warrant based upon probable cause before a particular suspect's communications could be decrypted. But the NSA now collects all data in an unencrypted form, so that no probable cause is needed to view any citizen's information. He says that it is actually cheaper and easier to store the data in an encrypted format: so the government's current system is being done for political – not practical – purposes.

He says that if anyone gets on the government's "enemies list", then the stored information will be used to target them. Specifically, he notes that if the government decides it doesn't like someone, it analyzes all of the data it has collected on that person and his or her associates over the last 10 years to build a case against him.

As we've previously documented, the spying [isn't being done to keep us safe ... but to crush dissent](#) and to [smear people](#) who uncover unflattering this about the government ... and to [help the too big to fail businesses compete against smaller businesses](#) (and [here](#)).

And as we point out at every opportunity, this is not some "post-9/11 reality". Spying on Americans – and most of the other attacks on liberty – started [before 9/11](#).

Senator Frank Church – who chaired the famous "Church Committee" into the unlawful FBI Cointel program, and who chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee – said in 1975:

Th[e National Security Agency's] capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such is the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter. There would be no place to hide. [If a dictator ever took over, the N.S.A.] could enable it to impose total tyranny

We can debate whether or not dictators are running Washington. But one thing is clear: the capacity is already *here*.

TechDirt points out:

While the Stasi likely wanted more info and would have loved to have been able to tap into a digitally connected world like we have today, that just wasn't possible.

That's true. The tyrants in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia and Stasi Eastern Europe would have liked to eavesdrop on every communication and every transaction of every citizen. But in the world before the internet, smart phones, electronic medical records and digital credit card transactions, much of what happened behind closed doors remained private.

(And modern tin pot dictators don't have the tens of billions of dollars necessary to set up a sophisticated electronic spying system).

In modern America, a *much higher* percentage of your communications and transactions are being recorded and stored by the government.

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