



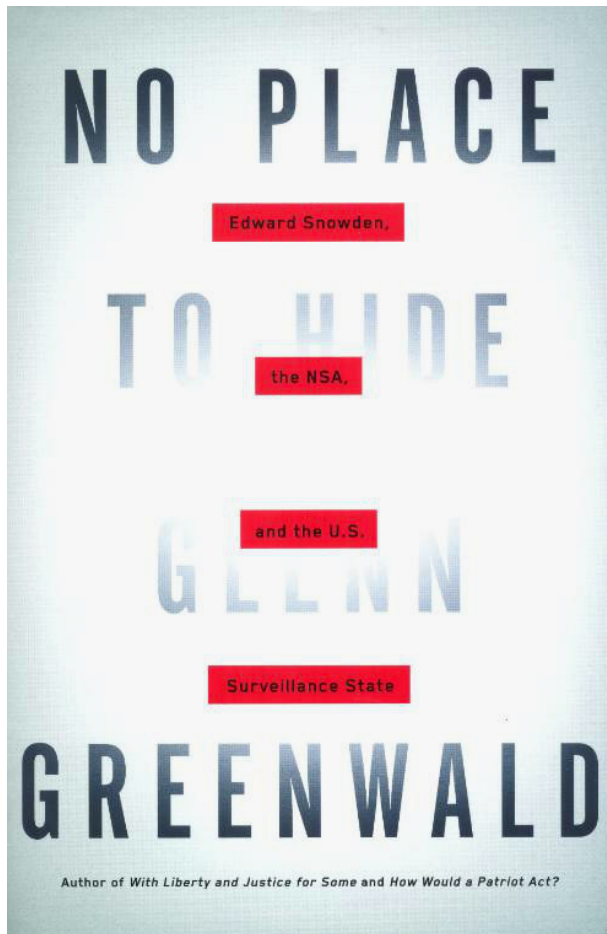
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# DAILY NEWS

## 'No Place to Hide' a cautionary tale

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*"No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA and the U.S. Surveillance State"* by Glenn Greenwald. New York, NY: Metropolitan Books (an imprint of Henry Holt and Company), 2014, 259 pages, \$27.00.



"No matter the specific techniques involved, historically mass surveillance has had several constant attributes," Glenn Greenwald explains in the Introduction to "No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA and the U.S. Surveillance State," his new bestseller about the events precipitated by Edward Snowden over the past year.

"Initially, it is always the country's dissidents and marginalized who bear the brunt of the surveillance, leading those who support the government or are merely apathetic to mistakenly believe they are immune," Greenwald continues. "And history shows that the mere existence of a mass surveillance apparatus, regardless of how it is used, is in itself sufficient to stifle dissent. A citizenry that is aware of always being watched becomes a compliant and fearful one."

"No Place to Hide" is extensively researched, with sixteen pages of source notes. One interesting feature I discovered -- and perhaps this is a precursor of things to come in the publishing world -- was that the references and index were not included with the book. At the conclusion of the introduction, five chapters and epilogue that

constitute the main text, there was a page that provided the address of the website where these items could be found: [www.glenngreenwald.net](http://www.glenngreenwald.net). This obviously shaved several pages off the length while simultaneously encouraging the reader to visit the online companion site, which contains a lot of supplemental information and multimedia content relevant to the author's primary thesis.

Greenwald's volume shares some obvious similarities with Luke Harding's comparable effort, "The Snowden Files: The Inside Story of the World's Most Wanted Man," which was published this year and reviewed March 23rd in the Daily News. Both writers were affiliated with The Guardian at the time the story broke so they shared a front-row seat to the events as they unfolded. And although both journalists deal ostensibly with the same facts, it was nonetheless revealing to see how Greenwald and Harding have different interpretations of several of the key episodes they recount in their separate versions of the overall significance and consequences stemming from Snowden's massive disclosure of classified documents. It should be noted that Greenwald has been publically

critical of Harding, who he clearly sees as a literary lightweight; he does not even mention him in “No Place to Hide.”

One glaring difference between the two accounts is the different approach each author takes in telling the story. Whereas Harding was concerned more with Snowden’s personal life and his motivations for revealing the documents, Greenwald is more interested in using what was provided by Snowden to explain how the NSA operates. Toward this end, “No Place to Hide” is much more of a cautionary tale than a narrative about one man’s struggle against a corrupt organization, although it does illuminate that perspective in several places.

An aspect of the book I found particularly enlightening was the lengths to which Greenwald goes to meticulously explain the NSA’s methods of data collection. It becomes increasingly apparent on page after page how the culture of surveillance in the United States took on a life of its own after 9/11. Snowden was careful to include several e-mails and internal memos demonstrating the enthusiasm which came to characterize the NSA staff members who were engaged in domestic spying.

“To collect such vast quantities of communications, the NSA relies on a multitude of methods,” Greenwald notes in “Collect It All,” the third chapter. “These include tapping directly into fiber-optic lines (including underwater cables) used to transmit international communications; redirecting messages into NSA repositories when they traverse the US system, as most worldwide communications do; and cooperating with the intelligence services in other countries. With increasing frequency, the agency also relies on Internet companies and telecoms, which indispensably pass on information they have collected about their own customers.”

Greenwald is a former constitutional lawyer and columnist for The Guardian. He has won several prestigious awards for his work in journalism and his articles have appeared in The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and The American Conservative. His previous books include “With Liberty and Justice for Some,” “Great American Hypocrites,” “A Tragic Legacy” and “How Would a Patriot Act?” Earlier this year he cofounded “The Intercept,” a new global media outlet.

One of the passages that struck me as profound, and there were several scattered throughout the book, came from “The Fourth Estate,” the last chapter. Here, Greenwald succinctly captures the true significance and importance of Snowden’s revelations:

“Those who thrive within the structure of large corporations tend to be adept at pleasing rather than subverting institutional power. It follows that those who succeed in corporate journalism are suited to accommodate power. They identify with institutional authority and are skilled at serving, not combating it. The evidence is abundant. We know about the New York Times’s willingness to suppress, at the White House’s behest, James Risen’s discovery of the NSA’s illegal wiretapping program.”

By the way, the person who made the decision to suppress the story was later promoted to managing editor. Eternal vigilance is indeed the price of liberty. I highly recommend “No Place to Hide” to anyone who is seriously concerned about the future of our democratic way of life. The NSA needs to be held accountable for its actions, and the kind of detailed transparency Greenwald provides could eventually make that happen.

— Reviewed by Aaron W. Hughey, Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, Western Kentucky University.