

# The Rise of the American Corporate Security State



## The Rise of the American Corporate Security State: Six Reasons to Be Afraid by Beatrice Edwards

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The American corporate security state is a complex and evolving phenomenon. It is characterized by the increasing role of private corporations in the provision of security services, the erosion of civil liberties in the name of national security, and the growing power of the surveillance state.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the American corporate security state. It begins with a historical overview of the rise of private security companies, followed by an examination of the current structure of the corporate security state. The article then discusses the implications of the corporate security state for civil liberties and democratic governance.

## The Rise of Private Security Companies

The rise of private security companies in the United States can be traced back to the 19th century. In the wake of the Civil War, private security companies were hired to protect businesses and property in the rapidly expanding West. These companies often employed former soldiers and police officers, and they were often armed with weapons that were more powerful than those used by the local police.

In the 20th century, private security companies continued to grow in size and power. They were hired to protect businesses, banks, and other institutions from crime and terrorism. In the 1980s, the Reagan administration began to privatize many security functions that had previously been performed by the government. This trend continued in the 1990s and 2000s, and today private security companies provide a wide range of services, including:

\* Armed security guards \* Private investigators \* Surveillance equipment \* Security consulting

The private security industry is now a multi-billion dollar industry, and it is estimated that there are over 2 million private security guards in the United States. Private security companies are often more profitable than government security agencies, and they are not subject to the same level of regulation.

## **The Structure of the Corporate Security State**

The American corporate security state is a complex and decentralized system. It is made up of a variety of public and private entities, including:

\* The Department of Homeland Security \* The National Security Agency \*  
The Federal Bureau of Investigation \* Private security companies \*  
Intelligence contractors \* Law enforcement agencies

These entities work together to collect and analyze intelligence, conduct surveillance, and provide security services. They are also increasingly involved in the development and implementation of national security policy.

The corporate security state is often justified in the name of national security. However, critics argue that it has led to the erosion of civil liberties and the rise of a surveillance state.

## **The Implications of the Corporate Security State**

The corporate security state has a number of implications for civil liberties and democratic governance. These include:

\* The erosion of privacy rights. The corporate security state has led to the collection and storage of vast amounts of data on American citizens. This data can be used to track people's movements, communications, and financial transactions. \* The suppression of dissent. The corporate security state has been used to target and suppress political dissent. This includes the use of surveillance, intimidation, and violence. \* The undermining of democratic governance. The corporate security state has led to the concentration of power in the hands of a few corporations and government agencies. This has made it more difficult for citizens to hold their government accountable.

The corporate security state is a serious threat to civil liberties and democratic governance. It is important to be aware of its dangers and to

take steps to protect our freedoms.

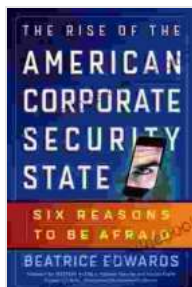
The American corporate security state is a complex and evolving phenomenon. It is a threat to civil liberties and democratic governance, and it is important to be aware of its dangers. There are a number of things that can be done to protect our freedoms, including:

\* Supporting organizations that are working to protect civil liberties. \*

Educating yourself about the dangers of the corporate security state. \*

Contacting your elected officials to let them know that you support civil liberties and democratic governance.

By taking these steps, we can help to protect our freedoms and ensure that the United States remains a democracy.



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