



Towards a Surveillant Society: The Rise of Surveillance Systems in Europe

By Thomas Mathiesen

Waterside Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 290 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.6in.Tracking the Surveillance Monster. . . Thomas Mathiesen describes how the major databases of Europe have become interlinked and accessible not just to participating countries but diverse organizations and third States; meaning that, largely unchallenged, a Surveillance Monster now threatens rights, freedoms, democracy and the Rule of Law. As information is logged on citizens every move, data flows across borders via systems soon to be under central, global or even non-State control. Secret plans are hatched behind closed doors and systems functionaries become defensive of their own roles. Goals expand and entire processes are shrouded in mystery. Alongside the integration of automated systems sits a weakening of State ties as Prm, Schengen, Verizon, Prism and similar ventures lead to a lack of transparency, restraint or effective if any Parliamentary scrutiny. As Mathiesen points out in this penetrating account, the intention may have been fighting terrorism or organized crime, but the means have become disproportionate, unaccountable, over-expensive and lacking the verifiable results which ordinary vigilance, alertness and sound intelligence in communities should inherently provide. Brings into the light the hidden effects of surveillance and warns of the need for...



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