

<http://www.youngzine.org/article/us-spying-scandal-grows>

Mark areas of confusion and show evidence of a close reading.

Take a position and defend it (see the instructions after the article).

The US Spying Scandal Grows

Oct 29, 2013 By Deepa Gopal

There is more trouble for the NSA (National Security Agency) and the U.S Government.

It was revealed last week that the NSA had been eavesdropping on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's personal cell phone since 2002 - three years before she even became the country's leader!

This is in addition to spying on other government and embassy communications in France, Germany and Spain. This has led to an outrage among EU nations who are calling for a new set of "spy rules." Earlier this month, the NSA had been accused of spying on electronic communications in Latin American countries including friendly allies such as Brazil and Mexico.

The spark that ignited this controversy was the release of classified information by Edward Snowden, a NSA contractor in June. He has since fled the country and been granted asylum in Russia.

The NSA



Courtesy Wikipedia

The National Security Agency (NSA) was put into place after the Second World War. During the War, U.S intelligence gathering was split between the Army and Navy which spied on radio communication. However, the two did not share information with each other, and with no clear oversight, the U.S was taken by surprise when Russia invaded the Korean peninsula. President Harry Truman, against opposition from CIA Director Edgar Hoover, established the NSA as a separate agency.

The NSA is bigger than the FBI or CIA today. In this digital age, its role is to collect intelligence and defend U.S. government computer systems from attack. The people working for NSA are computer geeks and hackers who can crack security codes and create safe codes for U.S data.

The 911 attack in the U.S led to the creation of the Homeland Security Department and an expansion of NSA's mandate by President George W. Bush. The NSA has indicated that it only gathers data on phone numbers and locations, and not on the content of calls. Currently, the NSA is building a huge data center in the Utah desert.

Is It Legal?



Every government has an intelligence wing that gathers information from within their own country as well as about other countries and organizations. This information is shared amongst each other at times of security threat such as terrorist attacks. In 2010, it came to light that France was running surveillance operations on the U.S.

With no oversight, the NSA was running unchecked. The extent of spying has led to an embarrassing situation for the U.S. President Obama has ordered a full review of NSA's surveillance capabilities including those on foreign partners.

Write a thoughtful ½-1 page response taking a position and defending it. Include text evidence when possible.

- Do you believe the NSA and/or government should continue “spying” on electronic communication? Why or why not?
- Defend your position. Use text evidence if possible.
- Should the NSA be able to “listen” in on foreign nations? What about private citizens?