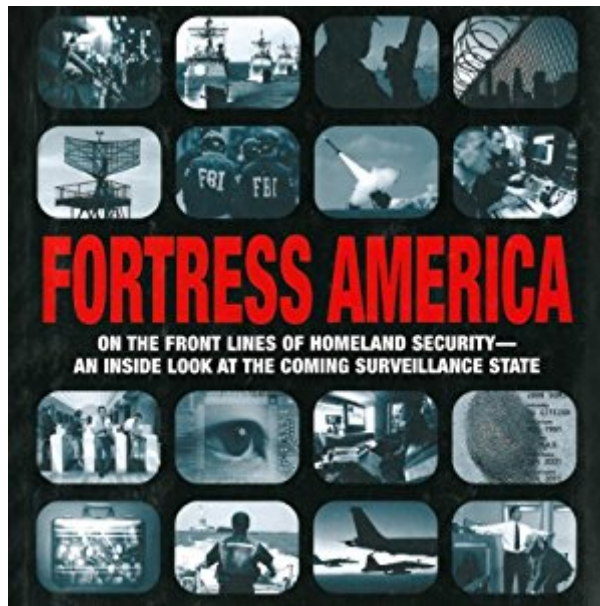


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Fortress America: On The Front Lines Of Homeland Security - An Inside Look At The Coming Surveillance State



Synopsis

Heavily armed guards at the entrances to malls and restaurants. Citizens deemed "suspicious" taken away without formal charges or legal counsel. Would a "safe" America even look like America anymore? One of the few journalists to penetrate the new counter terror initiative, Matthew Brzezinski offers an insider's look at the new technology, laws, tactics, and persistent vulnerabilities of the post-9/11 era. The result is this startling, sometimes controversial look at what it will take to achieve genuine homeland security and what it may be like to live inside Fortress America. Is this what a safe America will look like? Cameras at airport ticket counters that can tell if you are stressed Satellites and surveillance equipment that can see through the walls of your home Computer programs capable of spotting abnormal behavior National ID "smart" cards encoding your personal, financial, and medical information required for electronic police spot checks In the aftermath of September 11th, a massive effort has been launched to protect us from another terrorist attack. But the costs of safeguarding our country will require not only unprecedented amounts of funding, but dramatic changes in the way Americans lead their everyday lives. Is this the new price of freedom? Mandatory chips installed in all cell phones and automobiles that can locate you instantly within a dozen yards Patriot II legislation that can arbitrarily revoke citizenship and allow terrorist sympathizers to vanish without a trace Transponder implants that could be injected into the bodies of prisoners, foreign nationals, and perhaps one day all US citizens.... Such high-tech measures are not the stuff of science fiction but in many cases are already being implemented. As Brzezinski discovers, similar measures have been in use for years in security states like Israel. But will Americans trade liberty for security? Will they have a choice? And can even the most radical measures insure that a 9/11 style attack won't happen again? From an unheeded warning six years before the WTC disaster to dramatic war-game scenarios secretly conducted at Andrews Air Force Base and chilling on-site simulations of actual attacks, Fortress America paints a sobering picture of the future of freedom...and what life may be like in a maximum security state.

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Customer Reviews

In depth portrait of the changes in America in the post 9/11 era. Brzezinski provides both a micro-level and macro-level perspective on the impact terrorism has made on American life.

FORTRESS AMERICA is a well written, engrossing account of what we know so far and what COULD happen if forces go unchecked. We are, thankfully, a government of checks and balances and while most of the extreme scenarios in this book may not become a reality, it makes me even more vigilant that small measures (like the Patriot Act) do not snowball into larger issues. The fact remains that the future is even more uncertain than ever and I hope to never live in a country that would put my name on a list (or search my home or detain me or my family or even worse) for buying this book. I want to thank Mr. Brzezinski for exercising his First Amendment rights and would recommend this book to anyone who is concerned about the fate of personal liberties in this country. I'm sorry to see that .com has become another political forum, of which maybe we have too many, instead of a book forum. It is hard to separate the two here, but previous reviewers seem to think that the two go hand in hand. Matthew Brzezinski's FORTRESS AMERICA is a necessary look at the COMING (see subtitle) surveillance state. It's not here yet and will hopefully never be here--but to guard against that, Americans have must voice their concerns and let their fears be known. We're not talking about the ragged old man announcing the end of the world with a placard on his back; we're talking about a serious journalist with serious concerns. I, for one, am glad to have read this, whether Mr. Brzezinski's predictions come to light or not. At least someone is watchful and willing to be vocal about things like this--not an easy feat in these days of the Patriot Act.

This book does shed some light on previously little known topics. It is a book that must be read carefully.

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