A digital short from the author of THE DARK NET

JAMIE BARTLETT

ORWELL VS THE TERRORISTS

CRYPTO-WARS AND THE FUTURE OF SURVEILLANCE

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About the Book

On 5 June 2013, the *Guardian* began publishing a series of documents leaked by NSA contractor Edward Snowden, revealing the extent of internet surveillance undertaken by government and intelligence agencies. It provoked an immediate outcry. 'I didn't want to change society,' Snowden would later say, in exile. 'I wanted to give society a chance to determine if it should change itself.' And to some extent, he has.

Snowden's leaks have provoked important debates about the precarious balance between individual privacy and national security on the internet. As a result of his revelations, the internet – and the way many of us use it – is changing dramatically. A new 'crypto-war' over the right to online privacy is being waged, with the net becoming increasingly difficult to monitor, and censorship more difficult to enforce. New opportunities are opening up for human rights activists and journalists, but also for criminals and terrorists.

Orwell versus the Terrorists is an insightful and revelatory examination of the history of the battle over privacy online, and a shocking glimpse of the frontline tactics of both sides. In a world in which the rules governing online activity are hazy, nebulous and often contradictory, it also presents a powerful and convincing model for the future of net-surveillance post-Snowden.

About the Author

Jamie Bartlett is the Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at the think tank Demos, where he specialises in online social movements and the impact of technology on society. He is the author of *The Dark Net*, and of *#intelligence*, a report on the future of internet surveillance, co-authored with Sir David Omand, a former Director of GCHQ. He lives in London.

Orwell versus the Terrorists

Crypto-Wars and the Future of Internet Surveillance

Jamie Bartlett

Introduction

In late 2012 the National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden contacted *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald, saying he had sensitive documents about government surveillance he would like to share. In early 2013 he started sending Greenwald – along with the documentary maker Laura Poitras – evidence that revealed the extent of internet surveillance by the US, UK and other governments. In May, fearing prosecution, Snowden left the US, and flew to Hong Kong. On 5 June 2013 the *Guardian* published the first of what would become a long-running series of articles based on his leaked documents, followed in short order by *Der Spiegel*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* and *Le Monde*, who had also received part of the cache. The Snowden files exposed – among other things – mass internet and telephone data access by many national spy agencies, including the UK listening agency GCHQ tapping Atlantic Ocean fibre-optic cables (a programme codenamed 'Tempora') and cracking or undermining various types of internet encryption systems. There are likely to be further revelations to come. The leaks to date are thought to comprise only a small portion of the 1.7 million files Snowden stole from the NSA (of which 58,000 are British). It was, said former GCHQ Director David Omand, 'the most catastrophic loss to British intelligence ever'.

Leaking classified information about national security is a pretty serious crime, with hefty penalties – which is why Snowden sought asylum in countries like Russia that would not grant rendition to the US government. Snowden was