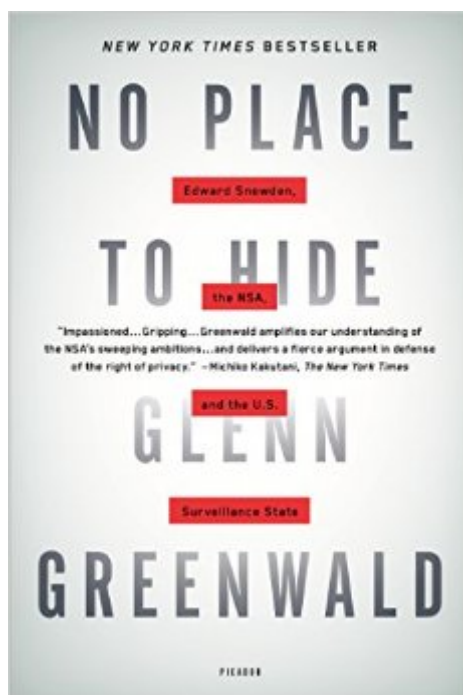


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# No Place To Hide: Edward Snowden, The NSA, And The U.S. Surveillance State



## Synopsis

By Glenn Greenwald, star of Citizenfour, the Academy Award-winning documentary on Edward Snowden  
In May 2013, Glenn Greenwald set out for Hong Kong to meet an anonymous source who claimed to have astonishing evidence of pervasive government spying and insisted on communicating only through heavily encrypted channels. That source turned out to be the twenty-nine-year-old NSA contractor Edward Snowden, and his revelations about the agency's widespread, systemic overreach proved to be some of the most explosive and consequential news in recent history, triggering a fierce debate over national security and information privacy. Now Greenwald fits all the pieces together, recounting his high-intensity eleven-day trip to Hong Kong, examining the broader implications of the surveillance detailed in his reporting for The Guardian, and revealing fresh information on the NSA's unprecedented abuse of power with documents from the Snowden archive. Fearless and incisive, No Place to Hide has already sparked outrage around the globe and been hailed by voices across the political spectrum as an essential contribution to our understanding of the U.S. surveillance state.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is 4 AM and I have just finished reading, in one sitting, the Kindle download of a book that I only intended to skim because I thought that I knew the full story. What was compelling was encountering the courage and decency of this whistleblower and that of the few brave journalists willing to honestly tell his story. That and the justifiable contempt for those in the housebroken

media and compromised government who felt the need to besmirch the character of those willing to bear witness to crimes that almost everyone else in a position to know chose to ignore. The result is a page turner survey of just what the Snowden leaks tell us about the creation of the modern surveillance state and a reminder of the deep wisdom of this nation's founders in insisting on the Constitution's Fourth Amendment. This is a brilliant book that you will want to pass on to that neighbor absolutely convinced that the hollowing out of liberty has made us safer. Glenn Greenwald reminds us just why the Guardian and Washington Post won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in publishing the documents that Edward Snowden made available and how outrageous it is that his effort to inform the public of attacks on their freedom has left this brave young man a hunted fugitive.

A brief note before you purchase this book: This is not a book written for the purpose of telling you the US government is watching your every step and every move, everyone knows that. And the author did not waste time replicating news articles you've already read through the media outlets. I finished this book within 5 hours, and thought it was well written and well worth your time. Greenwald, one of the original journalists who revealed Snowden's leaks last year, did a remarkably good job on going over the history of U.S.'s surveillance tactics. In his new book, *No Place to Hide*, Greenwald briefly goes over his adventures/experience on meeting with Edward Snowden and revealing US's NSA surveillance program. Greenwald explains the difficulties and obstacles that were involved before the story went live, mostly by reluctant lawyers, and news agencies such as NYT and Washington Post. For those curious, Greenwald also explains in detail the true intentions of Edward Snowden. Later chapters of the book reveal Greenwald's opinion on the recent NSA leaks, and his classification of US as a surveillance state. Keep in mind that Greenwald was previously a columnist, and his writing style of a columnist is clearly seen throughout the book. This is not merely a book with facts, but a book with opinion, with logical and concrete evidence that not just the U.S., but other state actors are well, are progressing into what George Orwell wrote in his infamous 1984 novel (*Orwellian state*). Greenwald ends the book by warning the consequences involved as we progress into the *Orwellian state* and the issue of journalists not being journalists, but being government puppets instead. This is a highly recommended book for those who wish to read into detail one of the biggest government leaks in the history.

*No Place to Hide* is about a dangerous idea -- the right to be let alone. It's not a puff piece meant to

rouse one side or another. It's a nuanced story about how the Snowden files went down and why it matters. The book doesn't fatten the pages or waste time. It's factual. It's well-written and well-edited. It's a satisfying read. No Place to Hide is about journalists, editors, lovers, a filmmaker, a whistle-blower, and the world's most influential newspapers, and television corporations. It is about a group of people who were cursed to live in interesting times, who were faced with decisions few of us will ever make. They had to learn to trust each other. It's a book about a group of people who were courageous enough to defend "the right to be left alone . . . the right most valued by a free people." Greenwald tells a fascinating story about how each person put their professional careers and their personal freedom on the line, and in the case of Edward Snowden, his life on the line to expose documents to the entire world, so we can all decide what is true and what is not. Greenwald's book includes high intrigue and an exotic locale, Hong Kong. It could be compared to an international thriller, and it is all that but it is more. It's like reading history as it happens, as it is lived, and that is thrilling.

I've been following the Edward Snowden saga since it started, and following NSA, the IC, and the national security state since the early 1990s. I had to read this book, as Glenn Greenwald had a critical role in bringing Snowden's materials to the public, and I wanted to see if he had anything new to say. In one way, the book is very good. If you aren't terribly familiar with the situation, he provides a decent overview, and some new slides which illustrate what NSA has been doing (particularly since 9/11) and why it's bad. A particularly strong area is explaining why the "terrorism" justification is only a pretext, and the true purpose of domestic surveillance is controlling political and cultural rivals. However, if you're completely familiar with everything published to date, there really isn't much new in this book. The only new material, aside from yet more slides about classified programs, is a bit more detail into how the pre-publication review process worked (or didn't work), and some inside baseball about the media itself. This is interesting, but ultimately not compelling. It's a pretty short book, too. If you are deeply interested in the media and its handling of the national security state, or just want to read everything possible on the topic, sure, this is a good enough book. If you are a general interest person who just wants an overview of the Snowden situation and its import, I would recommend the PBS Frontline "United States of Secrets", which is an excellent overview with much stronger interviews with Thomas Drake, William Binney, etc. than I'd seen in the media before.

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