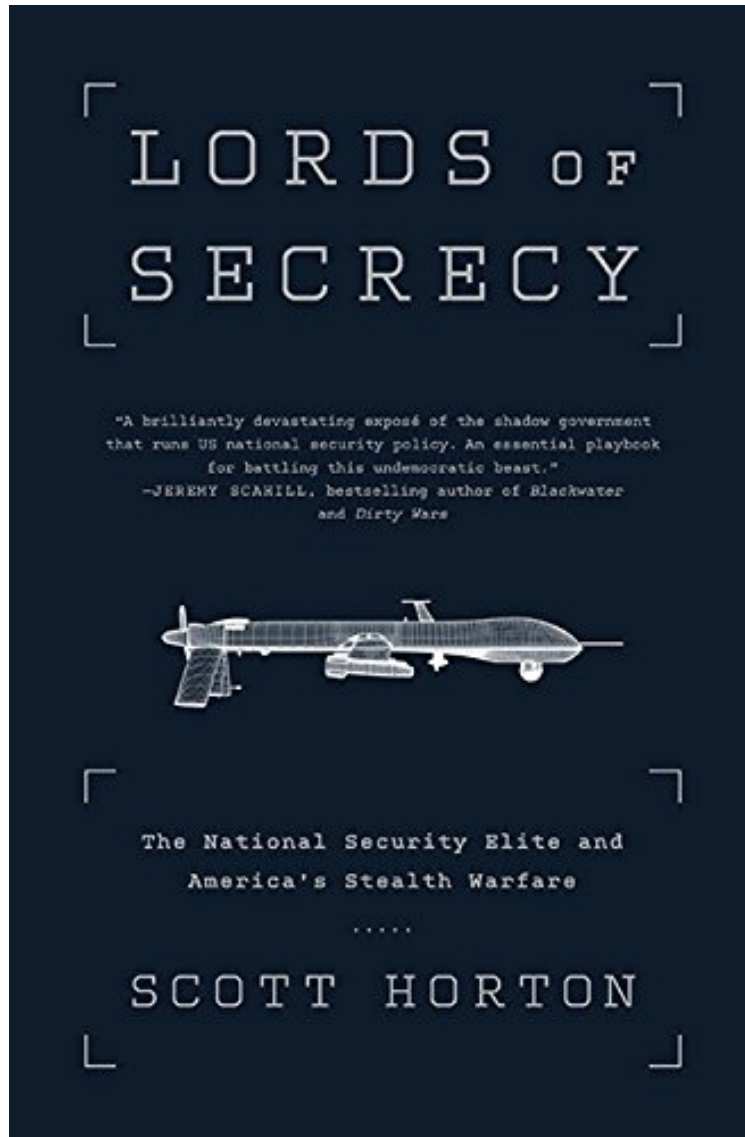


(Library ebook) Lords of Secrecy: The National Security Elite and America's Stealth Warfare

Lords of Secrecy: The National Security Elite and America's Stealth Warfare

Scott Horton

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



 Download

 Read Online

#464977 in Books Nation Books 2015-01-06 2015-01-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 5.75 x 1.00l, .0 #File Name: 1568587457272 pagesNation Books | File size: 67.Mb

Scott Horton : Lords of Secrecy: The National Security Elite and America's Stealth Warfare before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lords of Secrecy: The National Security Elite and America's Stealth Warfare:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. This book gives an good account of the undercoverBy Jorge

Medrano This book gives an good account of the undercover, secret operations and totally illicit, immoral actions of the military/security apparatus. Be it the Pentagon and its subordinate intelligence agencies dependent on the branches of each of the armed forces, be it the Department of Home Security, be it the NSA, the CIA, the FBI; or assorted private companies also involved in international operations of "defense and security", such as Academy (formerly Blackwater), "Triple Canopy", Constellis (now merged with Academi,) SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation,) all closely linked to the official apparatus. It is reasonable to think that there are others, smaller ones, reserved for ultra-secret, mostly international operations, to be known by a very select tiny number, sometimes may be not even the president. The book also concentrates on The Lords of Secrecy on the military/security bunch of institutions, but doesnt deal with others that also contribute powerfully to the present state of affairs. I mean mostly and foremost, The Lords of Financial Secrecy and The Lords of Political Secrecy, which the book doesnt even mention. The financial cabal is no less powerful and dangerous than the military/security cabal. The Federal Reserve comes to mind first and foremost, together with the financial institutions to big to challenge. Finally, most high ranking politicians are aware of the developing plan, and act in complicity with it, but dont have the power to defy it. John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy come to mind, among many others. In any case the number of people with access to the information about how things are done has of necessity to be very restricted and those who can truly influence decisions have to be a tiny number of extremely powerful people who take tight measures to avoid identification. In short, the book misses an opportunity to discuss and disclose all Lords of Secrecy, whomever they are associated with. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By mimseye opener 36 of 38 people found the following review helpful. The Chapter Epigraphs Alone Are Worth the Price of Admission By Barry Eisler A superb examination of the ever-ratcheting regime of official secrecy that is inexorably strangling democracy in America. The chapter epigraphs alone are worth the price of admission. I had to resist the urge to live blog my reactions because theres so much I loved about this book. At times depicting a bureaucratic world worthy of Joseph Heller or Kafka, the book is a clear and compelling call for citizens to recognize secrecy for what it is: a weakness, not a strength; an addiction, not a choice; a disease of democracy and ultimately democracys death. For anyone who wants to arrest the domestic growth of the same kind of sclerosis that enfeebled and ultimately ended the Soviet Union, The Lords of Secrecy is an excellent place to start.

Forty years ago, a majority of Americans were highly engaged in issues of war and peace. Whether to go to war or keep out of conflicts was a vital question at the heart of the country's vibrant, if fractious, democracy. But American political consciousness has drifted. In the last decade, America has gone to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, while pursuing a new kind of warfare in Yemen, Somalia, Libya, and Pakistan. National security issues have increasingly faded from the political agenda, due in part to the growth of government secrecy. In lucid and chilling detail, journalist and lawyer Scott Horton shows how secrecy has changed the way America functions. Executive decisions about war and peace are increasingly made by autonomous, self-directing, and unaccountable national security elites. Secrecy is justified as part of a bargain under which the state promises to keep the people safe from its enemies, but in fact allows excesses, mistakes, and crimes to go unchecked. Bureaucracies use secrets to conceal their mistakes and advance their power in government, invariable at the expense of the rights of the people. Never before have the American people had so little information concerning the wars waged in their name, nor has Congress exercised so little oversight over the war effort. American democracy is in deep trouble. Lords of Secrecy explores the most important national security debates of our time, including the legal and moral issues surrounding the turn to private security contractors, the sweeping surveillance methods of intelligence agencies, and the use of robotic weapons such as drones. Horton looks at the legal edifice upon which these decisions are based and discusses approaches to rolling back the flood of secrets that is engulfing America today. Whistleblowers, but also Congress, the public, and the media, play a vital role in this process. As the ancient Greeks recognized, too much secrecy changes the nature of the state itself, transforming a democracy into something else. Horton reminds us that dealing with the country's national security concerns is both a right and a responsibility of a free citizenry, something that has always sat at the heart of any democracy that earns the name.

"Lords of Secrecy is one of the most important contributions to the vital debate about democracy in the post-Cold War era yet published. Scott Horton diligently peels away layers of hypocritical rhetoric designed to obscure what has been happening. This is a call to arms: American democracy is under threat and the power of increasingly unaccountable agencies must be brought under control." Misha Glenny, author of *McMafia: A Journey Through the Global Criminal Underworld* In his theoretically sophisticated and eye-opening book, Scott Horton brilliantly traces the many documented follies of the American national security establishment and examines the unjustifiable use of government secrecy. The lethal challenge to the survival of the country's democratic principles has never been more chillingly diagnosed." Stephen Holmes, professor of law at New York University and author of *The Matador's Cape: America's Reckless Response to Terror* A clear-eyed, deeply informed analysis that reveals the full extent of the threat posed by a Surveillance State that functions in darkness and secrecy. But far from being merely descriptive, Lords of Secrecy

also catalogues and assesses the tools that citizens in a democracy can use to fight back. Glenn Greenwald "Scott Horton's Lords of Secrecy is a brilliantly devastating exposé of the shadow government that runs US national security policy. No matter who wins the White House, this secretive clique retains control over America's darkest secrets and will stop at nothing to keep them from the public. Its members' names are largely unknown and its actions unchecked. In an era of an unprecedented war against whistleblowers, and the very existence of a free press, Horton's book provides an essential playbook for battling this undemocratic beast. Jeremy Scahill, author of Blackwater and Dirty Wars A government accountable to its citizens is one of the foundations of a democratic society. Horton demonstrates how secrecy corrodes democratic institutions, stifles the freedom of information, and protects the powerful from accountability. Lords of Secrecy makes the case that in order to strengthen the rule of law and keep government power in check, we must demand critical debate, civic participation, and above all, transparency. George Soros "[D]etails some remarkable abuses.... It is hard not to extrapolate from these tales a notion of a vast secret state beyond control. Horton does so with some finesse. The book is compelling." Sam Jones, Financial Times "Big Brother is watching indeed. This useful book catches him in the act and even offers some thoughts on how to poke his eyes out." Kirkus s A chilling but truthful account of how US national security and intelligence agencies are undermining democracy in the United States while the politicians are conceding space to them. It is virtually an indictment of the US national security elites. Every American who cares about democracy should read this book. Washington Book "Scott Horton delivers the goods on many fronts. In covering two points of the stealth triangle upfront, he focuses his sights on how the evolution of the U.S. drone program, from spying on terrorists to targeting and killing them with surgical strikes, has run amok... Anyone in or outside the legal profession who doubts the unfettered growth of the U.S. security apparatus, with ramifications beyond NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden's intel dump to the public, should read Lords of Secrecy. Law.com