



**Sources**

**Who is Big Brother and Why Is He Always Watching?**

**Document A:** Excerpt from Hadley, D. P. (2013, December). *America's "Big Brother": A Century of U.S. Domestic Surveillance: Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. Retrieved from <http://origins.osu.edu/article/americas-big-brother-century-us-domestic-surveillance/page/0/1>

In 1975, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, called the Church Committee after its chairman Frank Church (himself a subject of NSA surveillance), revealed the “family jewels” of the CIA. These included its domestic activities, some of its efforts to overthrow foreign governments, and several of its attempts to assassinate world leaders like Cuba’s Fidel Castro and Patrice Lumumba in the Congo.

Nothing like the investigative scale of the Church Committee had occurred before. Unlike previous slaps on the wrists, the CIA after the Church Committee would find itself under continual Congressional observation.

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---

**Document B:** WikiLeaks Timeline

Welna, D. (2019, April 11). 12 Years Of Disruption: A WikiLeaks Timeline. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/11/712306713/12-years-of-disruption-a-wikileaks-timeline>

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---



**Document C:** Excerpt from Hadley, D. P. (2013, December). *America's "Big Brother": A Century of U.S. Domestic Surveillance: Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. Retrieved from <http://origins.osu.edu/article/americas-big-brother-century-us-domestic-surveillance/page/0/1>

When the FBI was organized from the Bureau of Investigation in 1935, Hoover became its first director. He remained a committed anticommunist. To Hoover, however, “communist” became synonymous with almost anyone on the political left. Under Hoover, various leftist organizations would be infiltrated by federal informants.

In addition to the use of informants to gather human intelligence, early electronic surveillance was used in the tapping of phones. Such tapping was deemed legal by the Supreme Court in the 1927 case *Olmstead v. United States*, which found that the wiretapping of phones did not violate the Fourth or Fifth Amendments. That decision would not be reversed until 1967.

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---



**Document D:** Excerpt from Hadley, D. P. (2013, December). *America's "Big Brother": A Century of U.S. Domestic Surveillance: Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. Retrieved from <http://origins.osu.edu/article/americas-big-brother-century-us-domestic-surveillance/page/0/1>

“In 1956, under the orders of Hoover and the direct supervision of the chief of research and analysis in the FBI’s Intelligence Division, William Sullivan, the first FBI Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) was launched. COINTELPRO was the next stage of evolution in the FBI’s anticommunist agenda.

While including domestic surveillance, COINTELPRO went far beyond mere monitoring. COINTELPRO sought actively to disrupt targets by spreading false information within the ranks of targeted groups—a practice that at times led some groups to retaliate violently against, and even murder, those set up to appear to be informers. A variety of COINTELPROs, each directed at a specific target, would be established by the 1970s.”

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---

**Document E:** Excerpt from Hadley, D. P. (2013, December). *America's "Big Brother": A Century of U.S. Domestic Surveillance: Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. Retrieved from <http://origins.osu.edu/article/americas-big-brother-century-us-domestic-surveillance/page/0/1>

“As the nation moved from World War II to Cold War, domestic security became even more a priority. The tension between the United States and Soviet Union led to a variety of activities against communist organizations in America, and organizations perceived to be affiliated with communism. This environment produced many of the secretive and shrouded security organizations we know today in the United States.

In 1947, the National Security Act established the Central Intelligence Agency. Similar to concerns over the original Bureau of Investigation, opponents warned the CIA could become a secret police force, an American Gestapo. To forestall any abuse of the intelligence system,



Congress forbade the CIA from operating domestically, leaving domestic security the responsibility of the FBI.”

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---

**Document F:** Excerpt from Hafetz, J. (2006, May 24). *History's Lesson about Domestic Surveillance*. Retrieved from <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/history-lesson-about-domestic-surveillance>

“During the 1950s and 60s, the NSA and other agencies looked at the struggle for racial equality in vague, Cold War terms like "subversive activity." National icons like Dr. King -- whom we now think of as American as apple pie -- were considered security threats. Dr. King and other civil rights and anti-war leaders were not only subjected to illegal surveillance, but the information gathered was used to undermine their work.”

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---

**Document G:** Excerpt from ACLU’s page on NSA Surveillance  
NSA Surveillance. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/issues/national-security/privacy-and-surveillance/nsa-surveillance>

“The National Security Agency’s mass surveillance has greatly expanded in the years since September 11, 2001. Disclosures have shown that, until recently, the government regularly tracked the calls of hundreds of millions of Americans. Today, it continues to spy on a vast but unknown number of Americans’ international calls, text messages, web-browsing activities, and emails.



The government’s surveillance programs have infiltrated most of the communications technologies we have come to rely on. They are largely enabled by a problematic law passed by Congress — the FISA Amendments Act (FAA), which is set to expire this year — along with Executive Order 12,333, the primary authority invoked by the NSA to conduct surveillance outside of the United States. The Patriot Act has also made it easier for the government to spy on Americans right here at home over the past 15 years. Although the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court oversees some of the government’s surveillance activities, it operates in near-total secrecy through one-sided procedures that heavily favor the government.”

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---

**Document H:** Excerpt from Ali, S. S., & Abdullah, H. (2016, September 11). *Did the Patriot Act Change US Attitudes on Surveillance?* Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/9-11-anniversary/did-patriot-act-change-us-attitudes-surveillance-n641586>

“It was less than a month after the deadly attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the nation was in mourning. So too were lawmakers who worked to craft legislation they hoped would help prevent anything like it from ever happening again on U.S. soil.

Nathan Sales was fresh off a judicial clerkship and working at the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice when he found himself part of the effort to help draft the USA PATRIOT Act, or the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001. The task was a daunting one: Promote information sharing between law enforcement and the intelligence community in an effort to ward off future attacks.”

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

---



**Document I: Big Brother Image**

Big Brother (Nineteen Eighty-Four). (2020, March 24). Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Brother\\_\(Nineteen\\_Eighty-Four\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brother_(Nineteen_Eighty-Four))



Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---

**Document J: Timeline of NSA Domestic Spying 1791-2015**

Timeline of NSA Domestic Spying 1791-2015. (2017, September 29). Retrieved from <https://www.eff.org/nsa-spying/timeline>

Space for your own notes:

---

---

---

---



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

**ORIGINS**

current events in  
historical  
perspective