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# The Puzzle Palace

## Inside the National Security Agency

By James Bamford

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Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
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Very High	Very High	Moderate	None	Functional	Very Low	Interesting	High

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**Credibility = Very High:** In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

This is still the definitive reference on the National Security Agency. Although sometimes dry, the book nevertheless covers the entire area of official government snooping. James Bamford examines the history and evolution of intelligence gathering in this country. Consider that the Executive Order that created the NSA over 50 years ago is still classified. The government was quite upset at the publishing of this book, and filed suit (and failed) to block it.

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The book the NSA tried to suppress- With a startling new Afterword on the Geoffrey Arthur Prime Spy Case

The National Security Agency is the largest, most secretive, and potentially most intrusive American intelligence agency. It dwarfs the CIA in budget, manpower, and influence. In the three decades it has existed, the NSA has demonstrated a shocking disregard for the law.

Until now, the inner workings of this agency have eluded public scrutiny. In this remarkable tour de force of investigative reporting, however, James Bamford penetrates the NSA's vast network of power- the acres of computers, the electronic listening posts worldwide, the intelligence-gathering satellites, and the people who control them.

*The Puzzle Palace* is a brilliant account of the use and abuse of technological espionage and of the frightening Orwellian potential of today's intelligence communities.

"There have been glimpses inside the NSA before, but until now on one has published a comprehensive and detailed report on the agency...Mr. Bamford has emerged with everything except the combination to the director's safe."

-The New York Times Book Review

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