



Battlefield America: The War On the American People

John W. Whitehead , Ron Paul (Foreword)

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In Battlefield America: The War on the American People, the follow-up to his award-winning book A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State, constitutional attorney John W. Whitehead paints a terrifying portrait of a nation at war with itself and which is on the verge of undermining the basic freedoms guaranteed to the citizenry in the Constitution. Indeed, police have been transformed into extensions of the military, towns and cities have become battlefields, and the American people have been turned into enemy combatants, to be spied on, tracked, scanned, frisked, searched, subjected to all manner of intrusions, intimidated, invaded, raided, manhandled, censored, silenced, shot at, locked up, and denied due process.

Yet this police state did not come about overnight. As Whitehead notes, this shift into totalitarianism cannot be traced back to a single individual or event. Rather, the evolution has been so subtle that most American citizens were hardly even aware of it taking place. Yet little by little, police authority expanded, one weapon after another was added to the police arsenal, and one exception after another was made to the standards that have historically restrained police authority. Add to this mix the merger of Internet megacorporations with government intelligence agencies, and you have the making of an electronic concentration camp that not only sees the citizenry as databits but will attempt to control every aspect of their lives. And if someone dares to step out of line, they will most likely find an armed SWAT team at their door.

Battlefield America: The War On the American People Details

Date : Published April 21st 2015 by Selectbooks, Inc. (first published April 14th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : John W. Whitehead , Ron Paul (Foreword)

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Politics, Nonfiction, History, War, Philosophy

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From Reader Review Battlefield America: The War On the American People for online ebook

Steve says

Very provocative read that if even 1/3 would be accurate invokes deep concern.

Tim says

A great read that will make your paranoia run wild. Real change needs to happen and that starts with your everyday, non-politically motivated citizen reading something like this.

Sandi says

The writing is not great, but there is a lot of information that should be known, so I consider it a valuable book.

Mike Thiac says

A bit of a disappointment. Good documentation of excesses of federal interference into local law enforcement, but he's using extreme and unfounded examples and extrapolating it. From page 209, "Police departments accord the country are already acquiring drones equipped with weapons such as grenade launchers and shotguns...less lethal weapons ...tear gas and rubber buckshot." However, the reference listed, a Salon.com article, doesn't support his (<http://www.salon.com/2012/04/24/drone...>).

It's been a bit since I read this so my memory is fading, but I recommend it for the second hand bin. I would not pay full price for it.

Nathan Boates says

While I agree that the marriage of big government and big business are starting to choke out the fourth amendment's right to privacy, I do not think that Whitehead's fear driven approach was the best to deliver that message. Fear paralyzes. Whitehead's emotional manipulation left him short on rational solutions to the problems. I believe that he also misrepresented law enforcement in America by taking a small sample of rogue officers and applying their behavior to the whole at large. Undoubtedly, we should demand the allegiance of law enforcement to the fourth amendment and keep it local, but let's not jump to conclusions in the meantime. Keep them accountable to the rule of law but most definitely Back the Blue!

Carl says

The developing police state. Government for the mega-corporations. Loss in individual liberties. Convincing altho not well-written. Chomsky says it better.

Aaron Meyer says

This book was not exactly what I was hoping it would be. When you talk about fascism and it becoming an American phenomenon, the first book that comes to mind is Leonard Peikoff's "The Ominous Parallels. Anybody wanting to understand what is happening should read that book. "Battlefield America" is very much one of those books that talk loud but never truly answer any questions. Does it give some valid information, yes, a fair bit. But, it never really gives anybody any true weapons in which to do anything about what is going on, other than being aware of what is going on. The author, I think just to turn a dollar pumping out a quick book (which may be unfair of me to say), did himself and all of us a disservice by keeping this book so superficial as it is. I wish he would of dug deep into the problems of America and presented solutions but he didn't.

Ricardo Suave says

Battlefield America is one if those books that doesn't seek as much to teach you but more to reinforce what we already know. That our local, state, and federal LEO are becoming more and more militaristic, overreaching and most disheartening not being held responsible for their actions. The points brought up in this book are not controversial he said she said rhetoric like what our liberal counter parts would have us believe. Instead they are simply undisputed facts, that are clearly cited for the reader to further investigate themselves. For example according to CATO and the Huffington post you are more than 8 times more likely to be killed by a police officer then killed by a terrorist. This should be shocking especially considering the soft targets we have seen recently with the Boston bombings, san Bernardino, Orlando shootings etc. This goes to show that there are bigger underlying issues with not necessarily what Law Enforcement is but the Bureaucracy that controls it. When you have any group of individuals that can operate with impunity from the laws set forth you will see the abuse of that power. This is about more than Law enforcement this is about accountability on all levels of government. Battlefield America does a great job at bringing what we already know into full sight arming the us the citizens with something more powerful than the weapons of war used against us and that is the knowledge, the facts, the depth of what is actually happening before us. It's a great read for all those who call themselves human.

Justin says

Terrifying and eye-opening. If this book doesn't wake you up to the nefarious ploys propagated by our oligarchal regime of a government- nothing will. Packed full of footnotes and sources, this isn't a conspiracy theorist book; it is a book documenting an objective conspiracy.

Thomas Mccall says

Great book, with alot of real fact and statistics showing what is currently happening in North maerica, LE is definitely not for the good of the people.

Zy Marquiez says

“We know where you are. We know where you’ve been. We can more or less know what you’re thinking about.”

– Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt

“You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized.”—George Orwell, 1984

Over the last decade, American has been sinking deeper and deeper into a totalitarian landscape. Battlefield America by John W. Whitehead not only catalogues many of the tyrannical events that should have never taken place against the populace in America, but soberingly warns about the further incoming tyranny that’s slowly seeping in America and will certainly continue if the people don’t wake up to these.

The overall pattern of tyranny in America has been covered by much of the alternative media, but rarely the mainstream media. That’s why a book like this is so important, because it brings clarity to such a sobering and disconcerting topic.

That said, what does the “Police State” encompass? For starters, it involves hyper-criminalization of many events. How do we know this is taking place? For incisiveness and accuracy, let’s cite the author in his own words:

“...it is estimated that the average American actually commits three felonies a day without knowing it. In fact, according to law professor John Baker, “There is no one in the United States over the age of 18 who cannot be indicted for some federal crime. That is not an exaggeration.”[1][Bold emphasis added.]

Such is the foundation of a tyrannical police state.

Citing dozens and dozens of examples, the author catalogues a Marine having been detained for criticizing the government on facebook, a reporter persecuted for not revealing his sources, many instances of SWAT teams bursting into homes unannounced to investigate minor crimes [or sometimes none at all!], and more. Examples of police brutality are also covered, as well as invasive searches with no warrant where they have stripped searched people, drawn blood, probed people intimately, charged people for feeding crows, charged individuals for living off grid, charged others for watering a neighbor’s yard, or for installing solar panels, or raising chickens in the back yard, and even carrying out the heinous crime! of growing vegetables. It is no coincidence that much of what the government has criminalized are things that allow self sufficiency to individuals. Self-sufficient individuals take care of themselves and rarely if ever need the government. The less and less people need government, the more the Government power seeps away. It’s a simple formula. As such, forcing people to tyrannically have to be dependent on the corrupt system is part of the plan. It’s crystal clear.

And yet, do we really need all of this policing? The number of violent crimes in the country is down to the lowest rate in 40 years.[2] Violent crimes are going down, but the power of the police continues to increase. That’s called a paradox. That’s the opposite of what should be taking place.

As the author notes:

“You are 17,600 times more likely to die from heart diseases than from a terrorist attack. You are 11,000 times more likely to die from an airplane accident than from a terrorist plot involving an airplane. You are 1,048 times more likely to die from a car accident than a terrorist attack. You are 404 times more likely to die in a fall than from a terrorist attack. You are 12 times more likely to die from accidental suffocating in bed than from a terrorist attack. You are 9 more times likely to choke to death in your own vomit than to die from a terrorist attack. You are 8 times more likely to be killed by a police officer than by a terrorist.”[3]

Even actual police officers are more likely to harm individuals than terrorists – that’s an incredibly frightening prospect, and one that is oft-overlooked in the age of distraction and sound-bites.

In conjunction with that, the desensitization of the police state is also covered by the author. As the author notes, TV shows, movies and video games, accustom the mind to seeing a police state as normal, while schools now criminalize child behavior, all of which is leading to the next generation seeing as normal something that the founding fathers clearly warned about. To the next generation growing up in a police state will be normal because that is all they have ever known. That will make this disturbing trend even harder to reverse.

Battlefield America also delves into the ominous growth of Big Brother and it’s endless surveillance machinations. From the ubiquitous presence in spying by the NSA, as well as the disturbing connection between Google and the government in facilitating spying on citizens, the author sifts through a wide range of modalities that are employed against the populace.

Also exposed is coming age of drones (that will also aid in spying, by the way), which has already begun, and also the ceaseless growth of DHS. The enormous scope of the Big Brother & Police State expansion covered by the author branches far and wide showing, and it shows many of the components that undergird such this growing totalitarian system.

The author even goes on to juxtapose the current pattern of tyranny with similar patterns in history, while also drawing parallels from fiction such as 1984 and Brave New World.

Comprehensive in its aim, and disturbing implications, this is a book that should be read by everyone. The Police State affects all of us, and it’s only going to get worse given the complacency and ignorance that a sizeable portion of the population retains. Whatever future manifests, it will come about through the action, and inactions of individuals from all over. If you value freedom, you should ponder about this issue, because not only does the system already show everyone as a criminal (remember the first quote), but worse, history has shown, time and time again that those that value freedom, and yet don’t act to keep their freedoms end up in a life of servitude.

Footnotes:

[1] John W. Whitehead, Battlefield America, p. 3.

[2] Ibid., p. 63., citing Richard A. Ooppel Jr. “Steady Decline In Major Crime Baffles Experts,” The New York Times (May 23, 2011), <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/24/us/...>

[3] Ibid., pp. 43-44.

Alan says

Very scary. Just like the Twilight Zone!!

Joshua Nuckols says

In many ways very good, but in others, seemingly over-alarmist. I recognize the problems, but he does seem to engage in "rabble-rousing."

Nathan Boler says

Well worth your time as an American citizen.

Several terrifying reminders about big government, historical events, the police state, personal freedoms, and data collection.

My biggest complaint about the book is that it recommends resistance but doesn't do a good job laying out how to resist. The author does say violence won't work, so non-violence and civil disobedience a la MLK is the way, but specifics and detailed solutions would be swell. A lot to chew on.

Paul S Fitch says

Can we win?

This book is a real eye opener. I don't think I learned a lot from this book, but what it did was put it all together. How the government is working to our destruction as free people is horrifying. We are being swept down the gutter of greed of our "elected" politicians. But as has been pointed out so emphatically lately, it is not our "elected" politicians who are doing this, it is the "Deep State", the unelected who have drilled themselves into our government so deeply and who are now fighting to stay "alive", relevant AND IN POWER!

While we must try to avoid an armed "disagreement" with the government, I'm not sure the author's contention that it can't be won is valid. Our forefathers beat THE MOST POWERFUL ARMY IN THE WORLD at the time and it must be remembered that none of the "Lobsterbacks" were Americans. For practical purposes, ALL OF OUR POLICE AND MILITARY are Americans. Their loyalty to our country AS A FREE NATION will be tested, but in the end, I think most will side with the Constitution (as they have sworn to defend) and to the concept of the America our founders envisioned.
