

I. Title page

A. Invasion of privacy

B. RLS: Government surveillance in China

1. Encountered in a TOK class discussion
2. Chinese government collects data on its citizens to ensure obedience
 - a) Surveillance
 - (1) Internet
 - (2) Behavior, actions
 - b) Suppression of subversive materials
 - (1) Books, videos, websites
 - (2) Imprison authors
3. Changes people's behavior based on information gathered
 - a) Xinjiang re-education camps
 - b) Jail time
 - c) Social credit system
4. **Significance:** Because America is implementing invasive surveillance
 - a) USA PATRIOT Act
 - (1) Allows the government to look at your personal data
 - (2) Requirements for them to do this are loose
 - b) PRISM
 - (1) Collecting data from major telecom carriers and ISPs
 - (2) Tracking everything you do online basically

II. Decontextualization

A. Obviously unethical from a Western lense

1. Shared ethical knowledge
 - a) An emotional intuition
2. Perhaps this is acceptable through the Chinese lense
 - a) Very little resistance from Chinese people compared to the American people, and the Chinese mass surveillance systems are much more vast than America's.

B. Most surveillance programs are secret

1. We cannot know to what extent the government is surveilling us
 - a) Our senses cannot provide this knowledge
2. Whistleblowers like Snowden and Ellsberg are the only reason we know about programs

III. Knowledge questions

- ### A. Is there an inherent problem with invading someone's privacy or does it come from our culture?

1. Discovering the source of the problem with China, rather than relying on intuition, will allow us to remove our Western lense
2. Ethics / Intuition
 - a) We can explore why this is wrong from the Western lense
3. Religion / Reason
 - a) Consciously thinking something out from a religious perspective
 - b) See that it infringes on individuality
4. Human Sciences / Sense Perception
 - a) Allows us to go towards a more objective standpoint
 - b) Talk about the psychological impact of invading privacy
5. Biases
 - a) Our Western upbringing has taught us that invading privacy is immoral
6. Key Terms
 - a) Reductionism
 - (1) Theory for reducing complex phenomena into simple terms
 - (2) Prefers a simple, sound argument
 - (3) Tend to be critical of privacy
 - b) Coherentism
 - (1) Prefers an argument that is proven by its assumptions
 - (2) Tend to support privacy

B. To what extent is it ethical to whistleblow on unethical programs?

IV. Development #1

A. Ethics / Intuition

1. Shared knowledge of westerners tells us that invasion of privacy is immoral. We have an intuition based off of our western values that invasion of privacy is inherently bad.
2. Counterclaim: However, approaching ethics through intuitions gained from shared values creates the problem of other value systems. Chinese officials obviously allow for this within their ethical framework. Therefore, approaching our knowledge question from such a subjective standpoint proves unsatisfactory.

V. Development #2

A. Religion / Reason

1. Rather than relying on intuition, stopping and reasoning towards the question allows for objectivity. From a religious standpoint, it can be argued that if you make someone fearful of people passing judgement on their personal life their path to enlightenment/God is restricted.

2. Counterclaim: Not all religions agree on this idea, so there is still some subjectivity. Furthermore, some may argue that surveillance in a theocratic state forces people towards God/enlightenment.

VI. Development #3

A. Human Sciences / Sense Perception

1. When someone is under surveillance their whole lives, they never get a chance to vent their frustrations, express their individuality, or have privacy. Such a life leads to feelings of hopelessness and depression. The mental harm done by the invasive state is wrong.
2. Counterclaim: A utilitarian might argue that it does the most good for society to root out subversives. However, surveillance harms nearly everyone, defeating their point.

VII. Conclusion

- A. As westerners, we hold our values on privacy to be true. We can work on convincing other nations who do not share the same values that ours are true.
- B. There is no way to get a purely objective viewpoint on privacy.

VIII. Link Back

- A. The American government is in a tech war against the Chinese manufacturers who are abusing mass surveillance.
 1. U.S. lawmakers are adding companies to a blacklist containing several manufacturers that America will not export important components to.
 2. Huawei (19% of mobile phones are made by this company) recently made it on the blacklist.
 3. The government is trying to impose western values on the Chinese.
- B. Rather than using international pressure as a weapon, we should show the Chinese that their values are objectively wrong

IX. Bibliography

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- B. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/27/china-mass-surveillance-state-technology-at-c-enter.html>
- C. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/299128/global-market-share-held-by-huawei-smartphones/>