Jacob Wall

Professor Williamson

English 1302-49

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Security and Privacy in the Post 9/11 World

I. Introduction

     A. Thesis: We, all near seven billion of us, live in a world with an insurgent who is willing to sacrifice their body with no flag behind them. We are not defending against a potential missile as we saw with the Cuban missile crisis, but rather on September 11, 2001 we were the missiles and they were used against us. The discussion of security and privacy in the post 9/11 world is nothing new, it is arguably one of the most talked about topics in the decade since 9/11 in part due to the Uniting [and] Strengthening America [by] Providing Appropriate Tools Required [to] Intercept [and] Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 otherwise known as the Patriot Act.

          1. The two sides, was 9/11 to blame for the increase in security and decrease in privacy or was it already set in stone?

               i. Not blaming 9/11

                    a. Maybe it wasn't a direct fail of 9/11, maybe 9/11 was the flint but the tinder was already there

                    b. This could of happened at any time, dig into how supreme justices interpret the constitution, named Sections 8 & 9

               ii. Blaming 9/11

                    a. Had 9/11 of not happened you wouldn't have the Patriot Act, as it was a direct response to terrorism

II. Body Paragraph

     A. The question, "Do you believe 9/11 was at fault for the increase in security and decrease in privacy?" is a simple yes or no answer, however the explanation behind this is not as clear cut as it may seem. In order to answer this question you must go back to July 4, 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was settled upon by the Continental Congress.

          1. There are different ways to interpret how one interprets the constitution (jurisprudence). The three I will focus on are currently or were members of the Supreme Court of the United States - William J. Brennan, Jr, Antonin Scalia, and David Souter.

               i. William J. Brennan, Jr

                    a. Believed the law was made for the people

                    b. Greater individual autonomy

               ii. Antonin Scalia

                    a. Practiced originalism, the judges are here to uphold the law not ratify it.

                    b. Viewed from the viewpoint of those who drafted and ratified the constitution

               iii. David Souter

                    a. Believed that laws change as times change

                    b. Apply/change laws as the public context changes

III. Body Paragraph

     A. Theoretically if 9/11 had not happened we would not have the Patriot Act and we would all go along as people did in the 90s and before with immense trust of neighbors and at the least have some trust in the government.

          1. This can't possibly be true on the fact that trust can be eroded indirectly.

               i. The invention of the internet

                    a. Information could be shared relatively quickly and across borders. This allowed information to bypass major media such as                          CNN, Fox News, etc and allowed anyone to view into the looking glass of anyone half a world away. This allowed everyone, Americans especially, to see misfortune causing a lack of confidence in other governments.

                    b. This was the time when morals went out the door with the advent of P2P and famous for all the wrong reasons companies like Napster.

               i. We had just started the recession post the dot com bubble. Trust and confidence in corporate America had taken a big hit, an analogy is if a girl has been cheated on by a guy, the girl is to have their guard up from thereon out. This passes beyond corporate America, the crimes of entrusting their money had caused them to lose trust in people in general, even if not meant purposely.

IV. Body Paragraph

     A. There is little that can be done in the short term, we must live in the day that we are in today, whether you believe why we are here because of 9/11 or not. We must look at how exactly has privacy and security changed in the last decade since the devastating attacks?

          1. Privacy

          2. Security

V. Conclusion

     A. Whether you believe that the change in security and privacy in the last decade were at fault to 9/11, were bound to run its course in a matter of time, or a mix of the both we must recognize the fact that, as stated earlier, we are fighting a war like no other - Al Qaeda does not have a flag behind them, we are the weapon, and we must protect ourselves no matter if it diverges from our thoughts in the pre 9/11 world.