

Individual Systems Theory Assignment

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I chose to analyze Edward Snowden's decision to illegally whistle blow the power the NSA had to spy on the public, from the average American citizen to the global leaders of even the allies of the United States. Snowden's decision to whistle blow as he did is hairy. The way Snowden whistle blew is illegal, though some have suggested that the 1917 Espionage act broken by Snowden is a law that is itself unethical or even unconstitutional. Snowden claims to have attempted internal methods of whistleblowing but claims to have been ignored by his superiors. Snowden also claims to have been forced into this decision as a contractor Snowden doesn't have the same legal protections as a fulltime employee.

Snowden's decision, as well as the ethical quandaries provoked by his decision, affected numerous systems. Most blatantly Snowden affected the NSA, as the entire world suddenly became privy to the extent to which the NSA had power. Snowden also transformed the relationship between United States citizens and their government. Snowden, whether his whistleblowing was the right thing to do or not, revealed information to the public that showed that the government exercised its power not only for surveillance justified by national security, but also for sexual gain of people working for the NSA coined by NSA agents as "LOVEINT". This reveal showed the United States public that the government had information on them unknown to them. Other systems Snowden include the United States and its position among its allies, or USA-World relations. Snowden leaked that the government also spied on allies such as Britain, Spain, and Germany, including then Chancellor Angela Merkel. Snowden also provoked United States officials to claim that the leaked information reduced the USA's stance on the fight against terrorism, a system itself.