

data. A flood of bits crosses the borders of most developed countries—phone lines, cables, fibers, satellite up/downlinks, and millions of diskettes, tapes, CDs, etc. Stopping data at the borders is less than hopeless” (May 1994). The global infrastructure the internet offers, various authors predicted (May 1994, Gilmore 1993, Ludlow 2001) challenge nation states in their fundamental privileges of legislation, censorship, and taxation, which will later on be explored in further detail. For the moment, however, it is crucial to point out the non-hierarchical, rhizomatic, non-physical nature of virtual communities in antagonism to the bureaucratic apparatus explored in the first chapter. The study of cypherpunks is particularly interesting in that scope: „Scattered around the world, communicating electronically in matters of minutes, and seeming oblivious to local laws, the Cypherpunks are indeed a community, and a virtual one” (May 1994).

CRYPTOGRAPHY, POETIC HACKERS AND THE NATION STATE

„Once upon a time in a place that was neither here nor there, we, the constructors and citizens of the young internet discussed the future of our new world. We saw that the relationships between all people would be mediated by our new world, and that the nature of states, which are defined by how people exchange information, economic value, and force, would also change” (Assange et al. 2012).

Having explored the anarchic character intrinsic to the internet, a specific movement is to be further explored – cryptoanarchy and cypherpunks. Rooted in the 1990s, the contestation between cypherpunks and governments about the right to use encryption technologies, the core of the cryptoanarchist movement evolves around the issue of protection of privacy (Assange et. al 2012). An infrastructure enabling increased communication, Julian Assange and his associates argue, necessarily leads to greater liberty facing powers that try to control ideas and synthesize consent, while on the other hand, for that very reason also introduces increased surveillance (ibid. 21–22). Surveillance from this point of view