is the governmental expression of coercive force on the internet (ibid. 3), which the authors define as a „threat to human civilization" (ibid. 1), since it compromises the internet, referred to as „our greatest tool of emancipation" (ibid.). Assange's foreword comes with a dystopian taste:

„The state would leech into the veins and arteries of our new societies, gobbling up every relationship expressed or communicated, every web page read, every message sent and every thought googled, and then store this knowledge, billions of interceptions a day, undreamed of power, in vast top secret warehouses, forever. It would go on to mine and mine again this treasure, the collective private intellectual output of humanity, with ever more sophisticated search and pattern finding algorithms, enriching the treasure and maximizing the power imbalance between interceptors and the world of interceptees. And then the state would reflect what it had learned back into the physical world, to start wars, to target drones, to manipulate UN committees and trade deals, and to do favors for its vast connected network of industries, insiders and cronies" (Assange et al. 2012: 4).

Clearing up a common misunderstanding about privacy, Hughes (1993) in his „Cyperpunks Manifesto" draws the clear distinction between privacy and secrecy, stating that „privacy is the power to selectively reveal oneself to the public", instead of keeping everything secret. The cypherpunks frame the top-down perspective of governments on the internet as being perceived as a „disease" that limits governmental power to control reality and the cure to this disease is, as they put it, mass surveillance (Assange et al. 2012: 23). Besides the control of communication flows on the internet, a control of its physicalities is being criticized: „The state, like an army around an oil well, or a custom agent extracting bribes at the border, would soon learn to leverage its control of physical space to gain control over our platonic realm" (ibid. 3). Assange speculates that there might be a general tendency for technology to centralize control in the hands of those who control the physical resources of technology" (ibid. 26).