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## TSA Demands Internal Passport For Domestic Travel

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Those who seek to control our lives never give up. They may be prevented at a given point, but they will always continue to seek more and more control over us. It is the nature of power. Those who seek power never are content they have enough. Real ID is just such a situation. Many people thought it was defeated. It is back. It will begin at the airports and expand from there. “Your papers please” will become common, if we let it. – Shorty Dawkins, Associate Editor

[This article comes from SafeHaven.com](#)

by Wendy McElroy

Precedents exist for requiring citizens to produce special ID for domestic travel; they include Nazi Germany, apartheid South Africa and Russia (both Imperial and Soviet).

Over the Christmas season, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) quietly announced that America was walking down that path. By 2016, all domestic [air travel will require either a traditional passport or a federally-compliant ID card](#) called “Real ID.” State driver’s licenses will no longer allow Americans access to domestic flights, as they do now. [Real ID will constitute an internal passport](#). (The drop-date date is commonly reported as January.)

An internal passport refers to an identity document that people must produce to move from place to place within national borders. It allows a government to monitor the movement of its own people and to control that movement by granting or denying ID. In the past, governments have used internal passports to isolate ‘undesirables’, to regulate economic opportunities, to reap personal data, to intimidate and command obedience, and to segregate categories of people (like Jews) for political purposes. It allows a government to bind anyone it chooses to his or her place of birth.

The upcoming Real ID requirement targets only air travel. But that’s how it begins – with airports.

After people became [numb to years of ID demands](#), questioning and searches at airports, those tactics spread to train stations and subways. Then highway check-points were established in areas that lay within 100 miles from an “external boundary,” including coasts. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents now have the authority to stop a traveller if they have “reasonable suspicion” of an immigration violation or other crime. Although the agents do not currently have authority to demand ID from American citizens, they often do so.

The ACLU has repeatedly cautioned that “[i]n practice, Border Patrol agents routinely ignore or misunderstand the limits of their legal authority in the course of individual stops, resulting in violations of the constitutional rights of innocent people....These problems are compounded by...the consistent failure of CBP to hold agents accountable for abuse. Thus, although the [100-mile border zone](#) is not literally ‘Constitution free’, the U.S. government frequently acts like it is.”

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