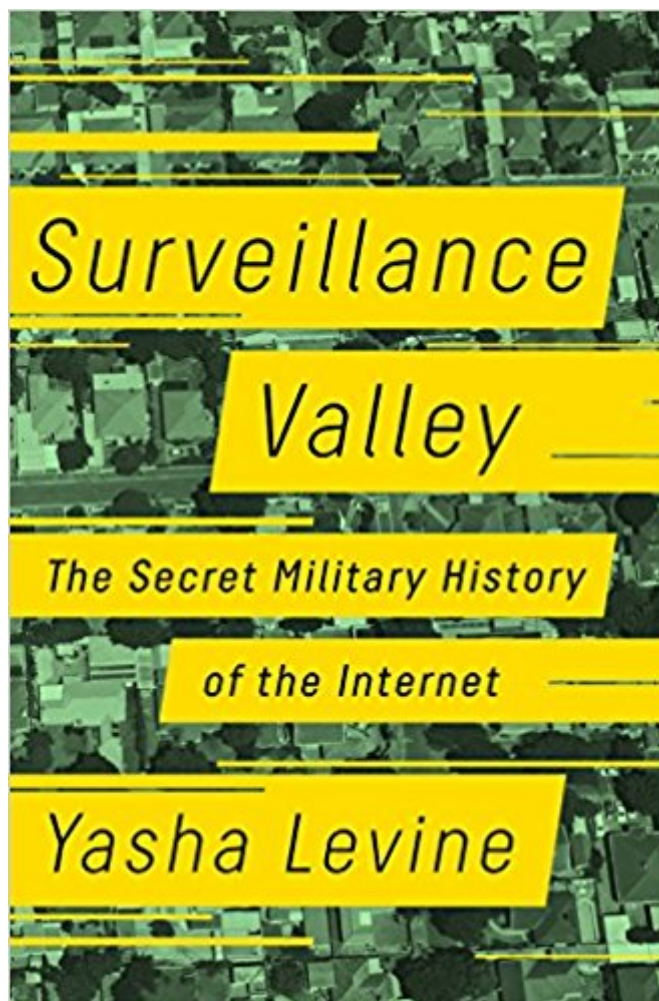


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Surveillance Valley: The Secret Military History Of The Internet



Synopsis

Despite the emergence of story after story about politically charged email hacks, corporate-security breaches, and secret drone strikes, we still think of the perpetrators as bad actors. Yet as Yasha Levine shows in this bracing book, the truth is simpler. The internet was built to be a weapon, and it's been getting ever more effective. Since ARPA began building it in the 1960s, internet technology has been synonymous with spying. Levine traces this history, starting with the visionary scientist William Godel, who realized that the key to winning the war in Vietnam was not outgunning the enemy but using new technology to understand and anticipate their movements. As the book spins forward in time, Levine shows that many of the tech-industry giants we think of as social networks, e-tailers, and search companies are doing double duty as military contractors and security outfits. Levine is unafraid to name names: Google, IBM, Facebook, and many others make appearances in the story; in fact, it's difficult to be a big player in Silicon Valley and avoid--at a minimum--providing data on your users to the government. The military and the tech industry are effectively inseparable: a military-digital complex. This book's tight storytelling and provocative arguments will make you see the news in a new light.

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Customer Reviews

Yasha Levine is an investigative journalist for Pando Daily, a San Francisco-based news magazine focused on covering the politics and power of big tech. He has been published in Wired Magazine, The Nation, Slate, Penthouse, The New York Observer, Playboy, Not Safe For Work Corp, Alternet, and many others. He has also appeared on network television, including MSNBC, and has had his

work profiled by the New York Observer, Vanity Fair, and The Verge, among others.

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