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[www.afgazad.com](http://www.afgazad.com)

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By Jorge Majfud  
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## *The business of fear: the invisible hand of the market*



**Sources:** Rebellion - Image: Demonstration in favor of Edward Snowden, persecuted for revealing the massive spying of US citizens.

*Just by considering what happened in the United States after September 11 we can see that no Islamic terrorist group ever put the existence of this country in danger, but in the name of "national security" rights of the same American citizens to the privacy of their information were exterminated and a storm of censorship and self-censorship was*

*unleashed in the media. Not to mention the scandalous and unpunished systematic violation of the human rights of millions of people around the world.*

Shortly after the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, President Truman told the press, "*We thank God that this has come to us before our enemies, and we pray that He can guide us to use it according to His form and His purposes.*" Literally someone (God, to a fanatical mind) put the atomic bombs in his hands, since President Truman did not know about the Manhattan Project until after President Roosevelt's death, a few months earlier, in 1945.

Often secret agencies know more than presidents who, from the point of view of those who are not accountable to the people, are flowers of a day. Presidents pass, secret agencies remain. This tradition of espionage and execution of one's own policies (always "for a good cause") suffered an attempt at oversight by special committees of parliament, after the revelations of the Church commission in 1975, but it was never very effective or systematic. The same members of the Security Committee of the US parliament are fanatical defenders of illegal interventions in other countries, such as Florida Senator Marco Rubio, or, when they are not, they receive a limited and fractional quota of classified information. "*We're like honguitos,*" complained one of the members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Norman Mineta, in the 80s. "*They [the CIA] leave us in the dark and feed us a bunch of dung.*"

According to Amy Zegart, professor and board member of the powerful military contractor Kratos, "*the protection of source information and methods is for the national security of the United States; No democracy can be totally transparent.*" One hundred pages later, in his book *Spies, Lies, and Algorithms* (2022), he acknowledges: "*the work of spies and soldiers has become indistinguishable in many ways; drone strikes are jointly planned and executed by both the CIA and the Pentagon, sometimes together and sometimes each on their own.*" According to University of Texas professor Bobby Chesney, "*CIA drone strikes are conducted under the covert action authority of Title 50, which means operations should not be acknowledged or reported.*"

Claro, tampoco los ciudadanos publican las claves de acceso a sus cuentas de banco, pero ese derecho al "secreto" desaparece cuando el secreto esconde actividades ilegales. La

vieja excusa de la “seguridad nacional” radica en la elasticidad semántica del término. Sólo por considerar lo ocurrido en Estados Unidos después de 9/11, podemos ver que ningún grupo terrorista islámico puso nunca la existencia de este país en peligro, como puede serlo una verdadera guerra, pero en nombre de “la seguridad nacional” se exterminaron derechos de los mismos ciudadanos estadounidenses a la privacidad de su información y se desató una tormenta de censuras y autocensuras en los medios, para no hablar de la escandalosa e impune violación sistemática de los derechos humanos de miles y millones de personas alrededor del mundo. John Mueller, profesor de la Universidad Estatal de Ohio lo puso de forma didáctica: *“el número de personas que cada año son asesinadas por terroristas musulmanes en todo el mundo es, más o menos (...) la misma cantidad de personas que mueren ahogadas en la bañera”*.

Pese a todo, y no por casualidad, el presupuesto de Washington invertido en “seguridad nacional” desde los misteriosos atentados del 11 de septiembre se ha incrementado tanto como toda la economía de Brasil o de cualquier país europeo. Prácticamente nada de esas fortunas hicieron a los ciudadanos estadounidenses más seguros sino más paranoicos y menos libres. En el proceso, unas pocas corporaciones multiplicaron sus fortunas.

La misma existencia de estas super poderosas agencias fue varias veces cuestionada, con resultados trágicos. La primera vez fue cuando fracasó la invasión a Cuba en 1961. El presidente John Kennedy había heredado este plan de la CIA que debía repetir el éxito del golpe de Estado en Guatemala siete años antes. El plan contaba con que la población cubana se iba a unir a los invasores luego de una campaña de propaganda mediática. Pero Ernesto Che Guevara había estado en Guatemala cuando se puso en práctica esta estrategia y, una vez la Revolución cubana expulsó al títere de Washington, Fulgencio Batista, Guevara afirmó: *“Cuba no será otra Guatemala”*. Se refería al control nacional de la prensa para evitar la inoculación de la CIA en un nuevo sabotaje social. Ocurrió que Guevara estaba en lo cierto y la nueva invasión planeada por la CIA fracasó debido a que los cubanos se pusieron del otro lado. Furioso por el fiasco, Kennedy amenazó con disolver la CIA, despidió a su poderoso director, Allen Dulles y le informó a su vicepresidente, Lyndon Johnson, que no contaría con él para la reelección... Unos meses después fue asesinado en Dallas. El agente cubano de la CIA Antonio Veciana asegurará, en su libro *Trained to Kill* (2017), que había visto al asesino Lee Oswald unas semanas antes en Texas, hablando con su jefe, David Atlee Phillips.

A new attempt to dissolve the CIA came shortly after the Cold War, in 1990. William G. Hyland, a former Agency agent and author of several books on foreign policy, claimed in 1991 that *"never before has the United States been less threatened than it is now."* Lieutenant General and former NSA chief William Odom and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan directly recommended abolishing the CIA. The *New York Times* reported, *"Without the Soviet threat, why not abolish the CIA and let the State Department take over? The CIA is the quintessential product of the Cold War, and now that the war is over, the agency belongs to the past."* In 1991, Moynihan introduced a bill to abolish the Agency. The CIA itself released a document, now declassified, mentioning the agency's repeated failures, including its inability to see the Soviet Union's economic problems, let alone its subsequent collapse. Of course, these "failures" like the one that led to the Iraq War "based on incorrect intelligence" are most likely due to another tradition among the same agents, bosses, and officials of these powerful secret agencies: their tendency to exaggerate fictitious threats and not see (or see late) the real threats. like the attack on the Twin Towers. The idea is to feed the idea that they are indispensable to national security. That is, everything that maintains and amplifies the state of paranoia of the population.

No one can abolish agencies that are more powerful than any congress and even any government. Less when they are the invisible hand of large corporations. As House Standing Committee on Intelligence Chairman Lee Hamilton himself confirmed in 2007, citing the comic book *The wizard of ID*, *"We all have to live by the golden rule: that is, whoever controls the gold makes the rules."*

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