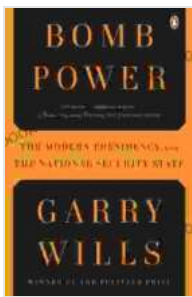


The Modern Presidency and the National Security State

The modern presidency has been profoundly shaped by the growth of the national security state. This vast and complex network of government agencies, military forces, and intelligence organizations has transformed the way that presidents conduct foreign policy and wield power.



Bomb Power: The Modern Presidency and the National Security State by Garry Wills

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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| Language | : English |
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The Rise of the National Security State

The national security state emerged in the aftermath of World War II as the United States confronted the threat of Soviet communism. The Cold War era saw a dramatic expansion of the government's surveillance and military capabilities, as well as the creation of new agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA).

The national security state has continued to grow in the post-Cold War era, fueled by the threats of terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Today, the national security state is a sprawling bureaucracy with a budget of over \$1 trillion per year.

The Impact of the National Security State on the Presidency

The growth of the national security state has had a profound impact on the modern presidency. Presidents now have access to a vast array of resources and capabilities that allow them to project power and influence around the world.

However, the national security state has also raised concerns about the potential for abuse of power. The unchecked use of surveillance and military force can erode civil liberties and undermine democratic institutions.

Increased Power and Influence

The national security state has greatly increased the power and influence of the presidency. Presidents now have the ability to launch military strikes, conduct covert operations, and gather intelligence on a global scale.

This power can be used to protect the national interest and promote peace and stability. However, it can also be used to pursue personal or political agendas, or to suppress dissent.

Erosion of Civil Liberties

The growth of the national security state has raised concerns about the erosion of civil liberties. The unchecked use of surveillance, for example, can violate the privacy rights of Americans.

The military's involvement in domestic law enforcement can also undermine the principle of civilian control over the armed forces.

Undermining of Democratic Institutions

The national security state can also undermine democratic institutions. The secret nature of many intelligence and military operations can make it difficult for Congress and the public to hold the executive branch accountable.

The concentration of power in the presidency can also lead to a decline in the role of other branches of government.

Balancing the Need for Security with the Protection of Liberty

The modern presidency presents a unique set of challenges for the United States. On the one hand, the national security state is essential for protecting the country from threats both foreign and domestic.

On the other hand, the unchecked growth of the national security state can erode civil liberties and undermine democratic institutions. It is essential to find a balance between the need for security and the protection of liberty.

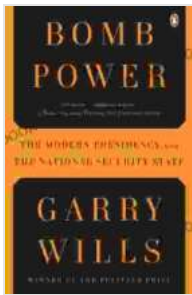
The modern presidency is a complex and powerful institution. The growth of the national security state has given presidents unprecedented power and influence, but it has also raised concerns about the potential for abuse of power.

It is essential to find a balance between the need for security and the protection of liberty. The United States must be able to protect itself from

threats both foreign and domestic, but it must also safeguard the fundamental rights of its citizens.

Further Reading

- The National Security State: A Guide to Its Origins and Evolution
- The Imperial Presidency: The Power and Perils of the Modern White House
- The Secret World: A History of Intelligence
- The Surveillance State: The Rise of Mass Surveillance and the Threat to Privacy
- The Erosion of Civil Liberties in the Age of National Security



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