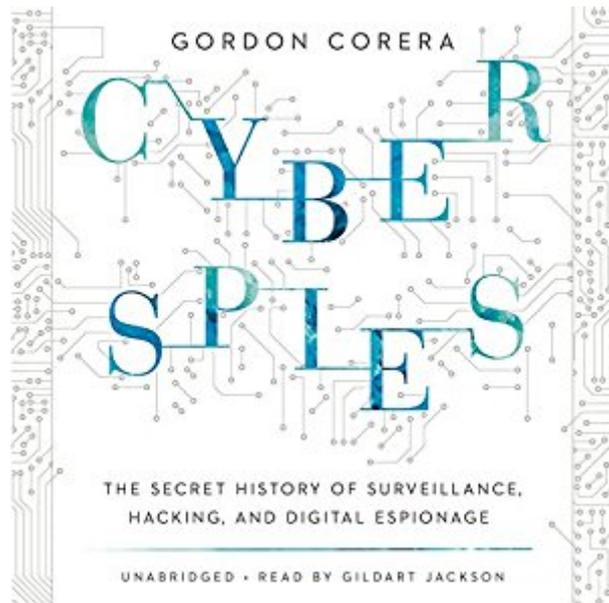


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# Cyberspies: The Secret History Of Surveillance, Hacking, And Digital Espionage



## Synopsis

The previously untold - and previously highly classified - story of the conflux of espionage and technology, a compelling narrative rich with astonishing revelations, taking listeners from World War II to the Internet age. As the digital era becomes increasingly pervasive, the intertwining forces of computers and espionage are reshaping the entire world; what was once the preserve of a few intelligence agencies now affects us all. Corera's compelling narrative takes us from the Second World War through the Cold War and the birth of the Internet to the present era of hackers and surveillance. The book is rich with historical detail and characters as well as astonishing revelations about espionage carried out in recent times by the United Kingdom, the United States, and China. Using unique access to the NSA, GCHQ, Chinese officials, and senior executives from some of the most powerful global technology companies, Gordon Corera has gathered compelling stories from heads of state, hackers, and spies of all stripes. *Cyberspies* is a groundbreaking exploration of the new space in which the worlds of espionage, diplomacy, international business, science, and technology collide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I rarely find a new book that is worth committing time to --this one is. While I am less than a third of the way into this book, I am already committed to finishing it and genuinely excited to see where it leads. I have worked in and around cybersecurity for some time and have yet to find a work that underscores so dramatically and authoritatively how critical this area has become to everyone's lives. Corera dives into history, ties what he learns (including new findings) into the present and

while some areas will seem familiar to the initiated, the scope and intelligence of his inquiry ultimately makes me think that Corera has written a seminal book --one that will have relevance for a very wide audience indeed.

The author gives his book the arresting title of *Cyber Spies* and then immediately proceeds to tell us that "Soon there will be no such things as cyberspies" as it will be a given that spying will be cyber enabled and the same will be true for cyber-warfare "it will become an intrinsic part of all military doctrine". The book begins with a sepia-tinted old history of the birth of the computer, the unsung hero Alan Turing, various other pioneers in the industry including Tommy Flowers (who built the first computer, Colossus, to crack the German codes), and old school espionage during the Second World War, to the creation of the British Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and the American National Security Agency (NSA). The GCHQ has significant American involvement. Old style espionage using James Bond-like agents and the U-2 spy plane is totally eclipsed by the computer who can churn out data and information that human agents might have taken weeks to retrieve the same information. The author describes how Russia who was probably 15 years behind in cyber technology at the beginning of the Cold War, soon closed the gap. With the Russian KGB going online, the CIA and its Western allies have to change their counter-espionage protocol "put your suspect under surveillance, follow him, learn about him, build a case, wait for a misstep". Cyber technology also allows the Western spy to identify cell phones and from the patterns of usage, identify what and where that phone will be used as a detonator. Besides describing how the government through the system known as PRISM enters a citizen's computer this book goes on to cover Bradley Manning Edward Snowden. Their cases emphasised two truths: First, the US secret state has grown so large that it has lost its ability to keep its own secrets, and secondly, it had become a lot easier to gather and exfiltrate a ton of secret material. As we enter the age of the internet of things, the author warns that we must not forget that "like the whole internet, [it] is built on weak security foundations". If Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible to everyone, in due course, everyone will know everything at his fingertips "literally. Read, and be afraid.

A little dry but good documentation of actual cases worldwide.

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