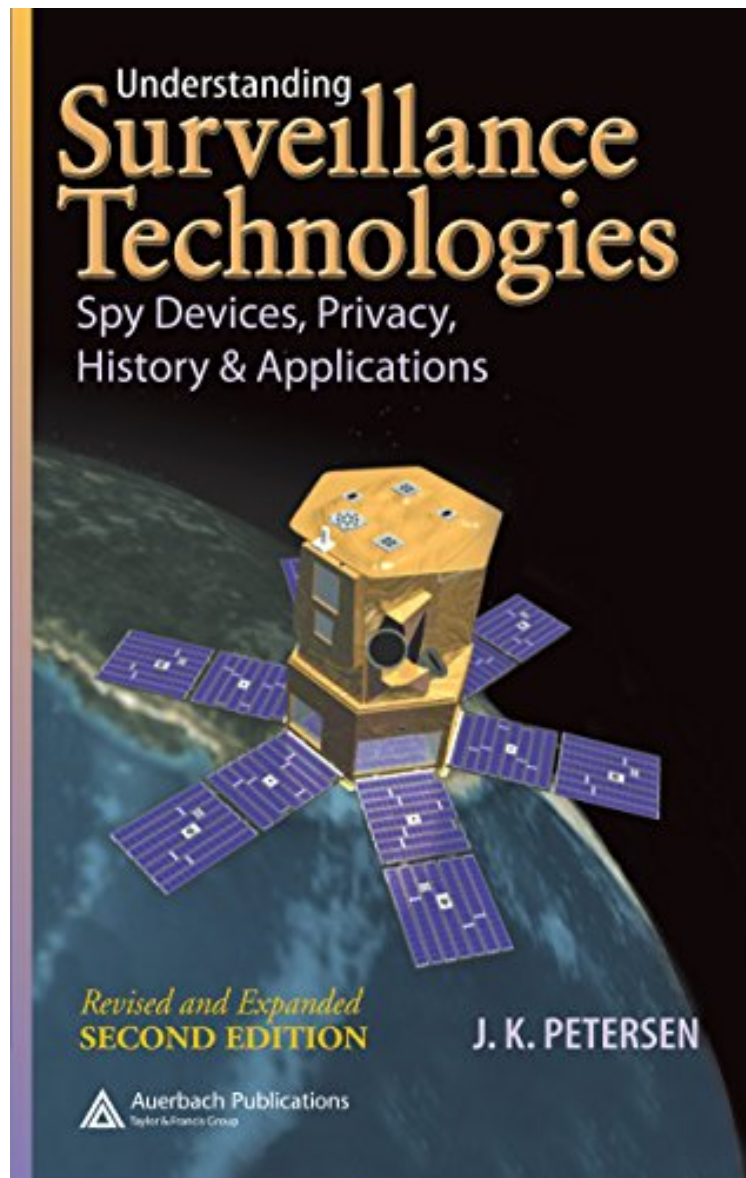


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## Understanding Surveillance Technologies: Spy Devices, Privacy, History Applications, Second Edition

*J.K. Petersen*

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**J.K. Petersen : Understanding Surveillance Technologies: Spy Devices, Privacy, History Applications, Second Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Surveillance Technologies: Spy Devices, Privacy, History Applications, Second Edition:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Updated?By John WitzelI found this book to be historically

informative and surprisingly broad in its content, unfortunately I also found two significant faults. First, this new updated 2007 edition seems to be lacking in the updates; not much of the content is current. This is also reflected within the many references at the end of each chapter; I found very few later than 2000 which is coincidentally the same publishing date as the first edition. Second, an electrical engineer needs to be on any future review committees. The many technical errors left me wondering about the credibility of the remainder of the book. I especially liked the three paragraphs about Galena crystal (cat-whisker) radios which imply crystal rectification is a mechanical phenomena where "...the cat-whisker wire that makes physical contact with the crystal transfers the vibrations to the main unit..." (pg. 308-309). Lastly, higher resolution photographs and the use of color would have added an expected dimension. It's next to useless to describe false-colored sonar images and represent them in figures with a low-resolution BW reproduction. I gave this book a 3-star rating because of its very good historical synopsis and technological breath; short of that it would have gotten a 2.

Understanding Surveillance Technologies demystifies spy devices and describes how technology is used to observe and record intimate details of people's lives—often without their knowledge or consent. From historical origins to current applications, it explains how satellites, pinhole cameras, cell phone and credit card logs, DNA kits, tiny microphones (‘bugs’), chemical sniffers, and implanted RF/ID chips have enabled us to create a two-edged sword—devices that promise security while, at the same time, eroding our privacy. Understanding Surveillance Technologies is profusely illustrated with extensive references and indexes, laying the groundwork for more specialized texts on specific technologies. It covers each of the major sensing devices and explains how they are used in civilian, criminal justice, scientific, national security, and military applications. It also includes recent changes in legislation and the organization of the intelligence community, and discusses how equal access to high-tech sensing devices and encryption schemes has changed society. Understanding Surveillance Technologies is modular, so the chapters can be read in any order, and is written in an accessible, somewhat narrative style, to suit the needs of journalists/newscasters, privacy organizations, educators, civic planners, and technology centers. It is appropriate as an adjunct reference for criminal justice/law enforcement/military, and forensic trainees, and as a textbook for courses in Surveillance Studies, Sociology, Communications, and Political Science. Now in its second edition, with 1,000 pages and more than 700 diagrams, it is still the only text that comprehensively conveys the breadth of the field.