

Nowadays, technology is increasingly being used to monitor what people are saying and doing (for example, through cellphone tracking and security cameras). In many cases, the people being monitored are unaware that this is happening.

Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Due to the development of technology, governments and private companies are monitoring people's behaviors and conversations, and often unbeknownst to the individual being monitored. While some argue that this occurrence is detrimental to the rights of the people, I believe that such monitoring is far more positive than it is harmful.

Public and private surveillance serve as both a means of combating serious societal threats and a deterrent against crime in general. If a terrorist wants to cause large-scale harm to society, they will certainly not announce their plan, making covert surveillance one of the only viable means of prevention. Moreover, the ubiquity of security cameras and other forms of surveillance effectively discourages crime. Shoplifting, for instance, is much less common these days due to the fact that criminals know they may be on camera, and that they could be identified and caught afterwards.

On the other hand, such monitoring of the public can be quite concerning. Most notably, such intrusive government surveillance violates people's rights to privacy. What was once personal information (conversations with a partner or family issues) is now accessible to private companies and governments. However, another more pressing concern is that privacy itself acts as a form of insulation against tyranny. Historically, most governments have eventually become tyrannical and led to a revolution; citizens today, however, would be defenseless against such tyranny.

In conclusion, while the argument against governments and companies is validated by the importance of individual privacy, the protection it offers society is far more important. Thus, I believe that the advantages of the monitoring and surveillance of people significantly outweigh the concerns over privacy.