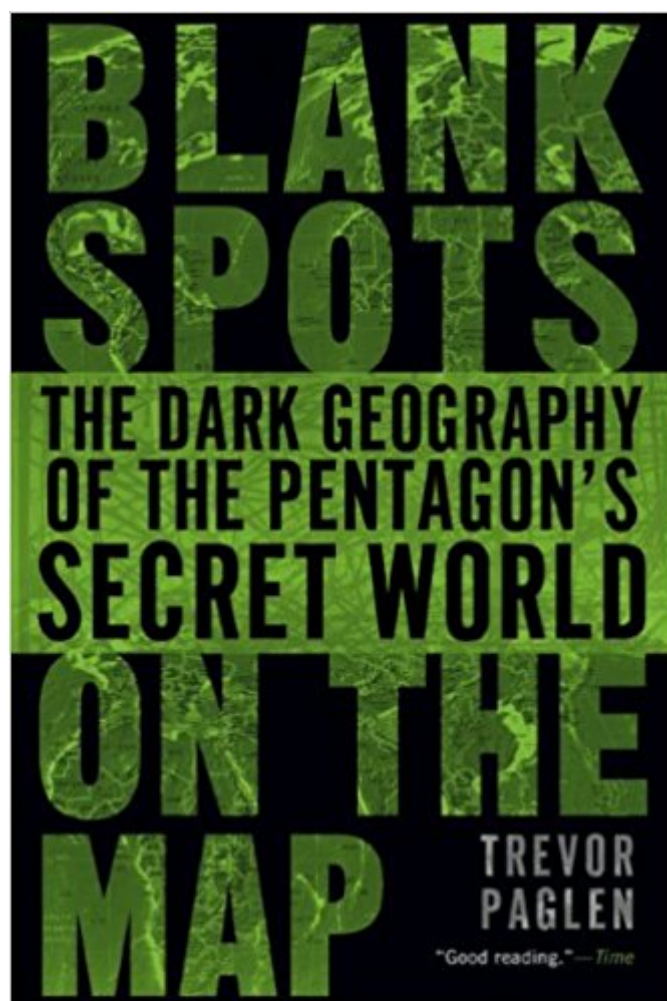


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Blank Spots On The Map: The Dark Geography Of The Pentagon's Secret World



Synopsis

Welcome to a top-level clearance world that doesn't exist...Now with updated material for the paperback edition. This is the adventurous, insightful, and often chilling story of a road trip through a shadow nation of state secrets, clandestine military bases, black sites, hidden laboratories, and top-secret agencies that make up what insiders call the "black world." Here, geographer and provocateur Trevor Paglen knocks on the doors of CIA prisons, stakes out a covert air base in Nevada from a mountaintop 30 miles away, dissects the Defense Department's multibillion dollar "black" budget, and interviews those who live on the edges of these blank spots. Whether Paglen reports from a hotel room in Vegas, a secret prison in Kabul, or a trailer in Shoshone Indian territory, he is impassioned, rigorous, relentless-and delivers eye-opening details.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As in his previous books, artist and geographer Paglen (*Torture Taxi: On the Trail of the CIA's Rendition Flights*) explores the clandestine activities of the U.S. military and the CIA, giving readers a thorough and provocative tour of places that officially do not exist. Paglen has a brisk reporting style and is an engaging storyteller. His journey into what he calls the "black world" of classified locations—from research facilities to secret prisons—this time takes him across the country and around the world. The classified region he describes is shockingly vast, well funded, and not accountable for its activities. At times, Paglen has a subtle touch, allowing the facts he describes gradually to convince the reader of how essentially undemocratic all this secrecy is. Unfortunately, his approach at other times seems unnecessarily theatrical. For example, his

description of camping out in a hotel room in Las Vegas to watch planes come and go comes off as a bit gimmicky. Such narrative is likely meant to make the book more readable, but the story Paglen is telling is gripping enough without any stunts. Highly recommended. — Rachel Bridgewater, Reed Coll., OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Trevor Paglen set out to map the darkest corners of the U. S. national security apparatus. He has done that and more. The result is a fascinating, deeply troubling, and absolutely essential book. — Andrew J. Bacevich, professor in international relations at Boston University, retired colonel in the US Army, and author of "The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism" — Trevor Paglen gets into the black heart of America's black sites. There is no better guide to this great American mystery. What goes on inside these bases will determine the future of warfare and who we are for the rest of the century. — Robert Baer, former case officer at the CIA and author of "See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism" — "Blank Spots" is an important, well-researched, and insightful expose that opens a window into the black world of secret operations. Paglen's conclusion that our own history, in large part, has become a state secret is both a warning and a call to arms. It is time to heed the warning and take up arms. — John Perkins, author of "Confessions of an Economic Hitman" — A chillingly literal tour de force. Paglen doesn't so much fill in the blanks as trace their outlines and give their shifting shapes a density that says as much about the future of democracy as it does about the dismal confines of the black world. — Derek Gregory, Professor of Geography, University of British Columbia — Living among us is an entire shadow industry of secret careers, unmarked flights, and razor-wired compounds evoking stereotyped images of the Cold-War Soviet Union. In what is still the world's most open society, Paglen adroitly exposes this dark geography. His book is fascinating and necessary. — Laurence Smith, Professor of Geography, University of California Los Angeles — Some of the worst crimes in the American landscape are hiding in plain sight, and nobody has ever pursued them more thoroughly or explained them more chillingly and engagingly than Trevor Paglen. What he is doing is important, fascinating, and groundbreaking. — Rebecca Solnit, National Book Critics Circle Award Winner and author of "Wanderlust"

I am still reading, and studying, this book, but I am extremely impressed with Trevor Paglen's reasoning and the inspired way he manages to see around obstacles to normal investigations. I had expected another vague "conspiracy" type of book, but Paglen proves numerous details and facts,

to support his theories. He does a great job of coaxing informative details out of the hidden covert world. (The only complaint I have with this book is that he uses the term "black" so often. I would prefer he used other terms, such as "covert" or "hidden," to break up the repetitiveness.) But, he reasons out a good way to approach what appears to be an insurmountable wall of secrecy and find a way over or around it. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would be impressed, I think, with Paglen's use of logic. Also, I admire the way that this author supports the American ideals of openness and accountability to the people of the United States, which the government too often seems to want to ignore, push aside or suppress. Altogether, I find this an educational and inspirational search for unraveling the truth from the many-layered onion of subterfuge and deception foisted on us, in the alleged interest of "national security." Bravo, Mr. Paglen! I look forward to purchasing your other works.

More than just the typical Area 51/Nellis/Edwards stuff. I really enjoyed the read, even the more disturbing parts (terrorist renditions and Iran /Contra). The introductory material on actual blank spots on maps was better written than some of my graduate geography coursework. Highly recommend if you have an eye towards investigative geographies.

Slow start, had to stick with it. About 50 pages it peaked my interest and got quite interesting. Nicely separated subjects in each chapter. Great recap last chapter. A real eye opener, very good interesting information. Lots of food for thought!

Gives a great understanding of secret spots that created the map blank spots and the programs that created them. Great review of early programs--secrets.

I found the author by watching his 30c3 presentation called "Six Landscapes." I googled him, found he had a book, and bought it. I've learned quite a lot from this book - 5/5 would recommend to anyone interested in the topic.

A+

Interesting and sometimes unsettling facts presented from the point of view of a geographer. Not much "geography" in this book, other than the locations of the many semi secret to top secret (mostly government run) installations around the country and around the world. If you like this book

you might also like "Top Secret Tourism: Your Travel Guide to Germ Warfare Laboratories, Clandestine Aircraft Bases and Other Places in the United States You're Not Supposed to Know About" by Harry Helms.

Kind of a surprise not just about UFO ops and bases, sections on Iran-Contra, black prisons, nameless spys and who they really are and politicians and what they really do. keeps you holding onto the book makes you late to work.

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