

Chapter 3 Democracy, Civil Liberties, and Terrorism

Abstract

Edward Snowden's public disclosure of several top-secret U.S. and British government mass surveillance programs has sparked intense debates over the proper balance between internet privacy and national security. These debates are also related to the broader discussion on whether democratic countries should restrict civil liberties in their attempts to deter acts of terrorism. In the spirit of this debate, Chapter 3 investigates an empirical question of whether countries with large winning coalitions (i.e., democracies) are likely to decrease the protections afforded by civil liberties when confronted with the threat of terrorism.