ABSTRACT

JEFFERY THOMAS STRANGE. The Snowden Operation. (Under the direction of Professor Hans Kellner.)

My essay analyzes and discusses corporate media’s rhetorical handling of the Edward Snowden disclosures and how such rhetoric projected to the world and particularly to Americans a dubious reality that singled out the USA for censure and sowed discord among her citizens. My thesis argues that Snowden can accurately be perceived (from a distance) as having been instrumental for a coordinated Media operation resulting in (a) *introducing* America and the world to a new (to most) reality that incorporates expanded foreign and domestic surveillance activities while (b) *undermining* USA domestic unity, USA foreign and domestic intelligence-gathering efforts, and the status of USA diplomatic and military policies, by falsely casting her rhetorically as an enemy of privacy. To support my thesis armed with Media reports and reportedly whistle-blown, leaked, declared-classified, declared-declassified, or declassified information (a difficult distinction to make at best), it is necessary: (a) to point out problems with and to show why the Media narrative of Snowden is false; (b) to offer for your consideration a substitute narrative that explains the problems inherent in the official narrative; (c) which requires me to introduce the concept, *realities behind realities*; and (d) which entails a responsibility to consider Snowden in relation to Intelligence Communities in the world. Legal scholars in America have been formulating theory to justify what they term, National Surveillance State. It remains evident from history that in a surveillance society, such as those that occurred in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Nazi Germany, and the People's Republic of China, that it becomes advantageous to inform their subjects that surveillance is reality. Self-policing of speech and action follows. Thus Snowden fits such a model.