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News / World

Why Edward Snowden, NSA whistleblower, is more hero than traitor: Burman

When assessing Edward Snowden, the man behind perhaps the biggest intelligence leak in American history, conscience is the key.

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MARIO TAMA / GETTY IMAGES

A supporter holds a sign at a small rally in support of Edward Snowden in Manhattan's Union Square on June 10, 2013.

By: **Tony Burman** Special to the Star, Published on Sat Jun 15 2013



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Daniel Ellsberg, take your leaked Pentagon Papers and step aside. There's a new gunslinger in town: Edward J. Snowden — former CIA employee, 29 years of age and now whistleblower on the run.

Whether Snowden ends up jailed in the U.S., dead in some dumpster overlooking Hong Kong's harbour, or — even worse — if he winds up as a regular contributor to CNN or Fox News, we will be hearing about him for years to come in any history of audacious American whistleblowers.

Snowden is the man behind what might be the biggest intelligence leak in American history. In a series of explosive disclosures to The Guardian newspaper, he has revealed that the U.S. National Security Agency is collecting more than 200 billion pieces of intelligence a month, gathering a vast quantity of emails and web searches from the world's largest Internet companies and routinely misleading the people who are supposed to oversee its actions.

Read more: NSA leaker Edward Snowden gives new interview: 'I am not here to hide from justice'

NSA leaker Edward Snowden knew the personal risks

Was Hong Kong a good place for U.S. surveillance whistleblower's escape?

Snowden's disclosures reveal a scale of global eavesdropping that is greater

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realistic if people didn't think that the government wasn't randomly listening to phone calls
sing data they were being naive. This must have been happening on some scale for
e. I'd hate to pick on one generation but I am going to. This 20 something generation
n a time when their parents gave them everything and never said no. If they did try to
les they would challenge them and do want they want anyway. Rules they don't believe
This person seems to have seen something he didn't like and said to hell with the
in the contract I signed to work here I am going to tell the world what I know. If he had
gence to evaluate the potential implications from what he was doing and the lives he
putting at risk he may have acted differently. But I get the sense he is just a selfish
ho really didn't do this to help his fellow citizens rather just to his get his way.

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u are an internet start-up company with some new software forgetaboutit!!!
ases, the information gathered may be used not just to defend the nation but to help
computers of its adversaries.

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911 was something? It was nothing. Two towers down, a few other buildings destroyed?
n't kind yourself, those who hate America - for good reason, bad reason, or no reason -
d one day may well, get hold of a nuclear device, or a clever snippet of DNA, and then,
you'd be happy to settle for 911. Three thousand dead? A drop in the bucket. When the
t number in the thousands, but hundreds of thousands, or millions, 911 will seem like a
collecting telephone metadata makes that nightmare more likely to remain the stuff of
ere's my cell phone number . . .

1 

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hose who would sacrifice freedom for security deserve neither..." Benjamin Franklin
y don't make American Leaders like they used to do they Karl... Keep your Cell number
, no one's gonna call ya....

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nklin needed to worry about muskets and cannon. Times change. If you base your
ons on the mores of the past and the adages of the dead, you'll soon be both.

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eah.... Muskets and Cannons are now Cell Phones... heheheheh... Or I guess that's
lear Cell Phones... Good Grief, Security is achieved by indulging the Democratic ethic
undermining it...

reply...

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