



# Unwarranted: Policing Without Permission

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**Unwarranted: Policing Without Permission** Barry Friedman

**As the debate about out-of-control policing heats up, an authority on constitutional law offers a provocative account of how our rights have been eroded**

In June 2013, documents leaked by Edward Snowden sparked widespread debate about secret government surveillance of Americans. Just over a year later, the shooting of Michael Brown, a black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, set off protests and triggered concern about militarization and discriminatory policing. In *Unwarranted*, Barry Friedman argues that these two seemingly disparate events are connected—and that the problem is not so much the policing agencies as it is the rest of us. We allow these agencies to operate in secret and to decide how to police us, rather than calling the shots ourselves. The courts have let us down entirely.

*Unwarranted* is filled with stories of ordinary people whose lives were sundered by policing gone awry. Driven by technology, policing has changed dramatically from cops seeking out bad guys, to mass surveillance of all of society—backed by an increasingly militarized capability. Friedman captures this new eerie environment in which CCTV, location tracking, and predictive policing has made us all suspects, while proliferating SWAT teams and increased use of force puts everyone at risk.

Police play an indispensable role in our society. But left under-regulated by us and unchecked by the courts, our lives, liberties, and property are at peril. *Unwarranted* is a vital, timely intervention in debates about policing, a call to take responsibility for governing those who govern us.

## Unwarranted: Policing Without Permission Details

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Author : Barry Friedman

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## From Reader Review Unwarranted: Policing Without Permission for online ebook

### Ailith Twinning says

First author I've read that had the stomach to work thru issues like this using the same painful formal logical rules that this system exists within (rant on deliberate elitist linguistic barriers notwithstanding). I recommend supplying your own narrative and pathos to the framework here, or just reading Naomi Klein or someone alongside this.

Eh, long, ranty thing deleted - point is, it's a pretty solid book around the thesis "We need more democracy in policing."

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### Alex Yard says

This was disappointing. Not egregiously bad at any certain points, but just underwhelming. It had a lot of fair points to be made, but nothing much that really compelled me to take action, or to share something I learned back with a friend. I agree for the most part with everything he presents here, but that doesn't mean it makes for an engaging read. The author just comes across as a lightweight. You'd do better to read Naomi Klein or Glenn Greenwald.

My full formal review won't come out until just before this book is published in February.

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### Tim Collingwood says

It was a good book that detailed the history of policing and connecting it to modern struggles with overuse of policing. I just wish the author paid more attention to racial issues, but he's white, so that's bound to not happen. Still, a good book to encourage those to consider how positive community policing can actually be. He does meet you where you are and challenge you beyond a point covering all areas one could cover.

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### Sharron says

First impressions, as I'm not done yet...It takes on too much. I think it should have left out or just given a mention to the issues of wiretapping and data collection stuff and focused on the policing the police do. That is the book's stronger parts.

Finally finished. It was interesting, but dry reading especially the sections with lots of case law. The epilogue was really interesting to realize the book was planned so long ago and how it changed along the way. But, the biggest change was ignored and that is that now the courts will be so much worse than they have been and the hopes for improvements are much less likely than before.

Update: A week later and I'm still frustrated by this book. The topic is so important. I saw a discussion about Evicted and realized that this book needed more focus on the human stories, not the court details. The one

that sticks out in my mind is the Florida man's business that was destroyed because of a police mistake, it could have used a lot more details. There were a couple of personal stories that should have been the main focus.

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### **Sam Motes says**

In Unwarranted Friedman addresses the battle between police and government agencies rights to do searches using advanced technology versus our rights to privacy as citizens with inalienable rights. Much of it focuses on the stretching of reasonable cause, sampling, and other age old legal questions, but the new technology available to the policing agencies has hyper-powered the capabilities of the policing agencies and in the process trampled many citizens rights to privacy.

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### **Ben says**

The author repeats several times that there are no easy solutions to fixing policing in this country but that we should not avoid issues simply because they are difficult. Yet the author--while laying out example after example of police acting out of control, and acknowledging the blue wall of silence, the common practice of "testilying," and the out-sized influence of the police unions--not only does not point a single finger at actual police officers but both at the beginning and the end goes out of his way to write that the police officers are not the problem. He has other issues he wants to tackle, and he may be correct on those issues. But to completely ignore the role actual police play in this issue and the falsity of "oh it's just a few bad apples," is somewhere between naive to reckless. If he wanted to focus only on other areas, he could have done so in a different manner. But by neglecting to address at all the role actual officers play in fixing the problem of policing in America--going so far as to write, "The real problem . . . is not the police. It is us."--the author is essentially calling his neighbor to tell him that he left his trash cans in the street while neglecting to mention that his house is also on fire. Want to fix policing in this country, let's start with not accepting the blue wall of silence that we know exists, not accepting testilying that we know exists, and not deferring to police unions at every turn who on issue after issue reflexively scream any restrictions/guidelines/oversight will let criminals go free. The other issues discussed in his book are important and even related, but they cannot be instead of addressing the problems with actual police officers who are the ones too frequently forgetting their primary responsibility is to protect the entire community they signed up to serve.

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### **Blaine says**

Lots of great information in this book but really was full of depicting stories throughout history. I get the author was trying to get a point across. Could have been more efficient. Good read none the less.

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### **Ellis says**

This book should be read by all law students, law enforcement professionals, civil servants, and citizens. It's GROSS how policing is done today. Harassment isn't protection.

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