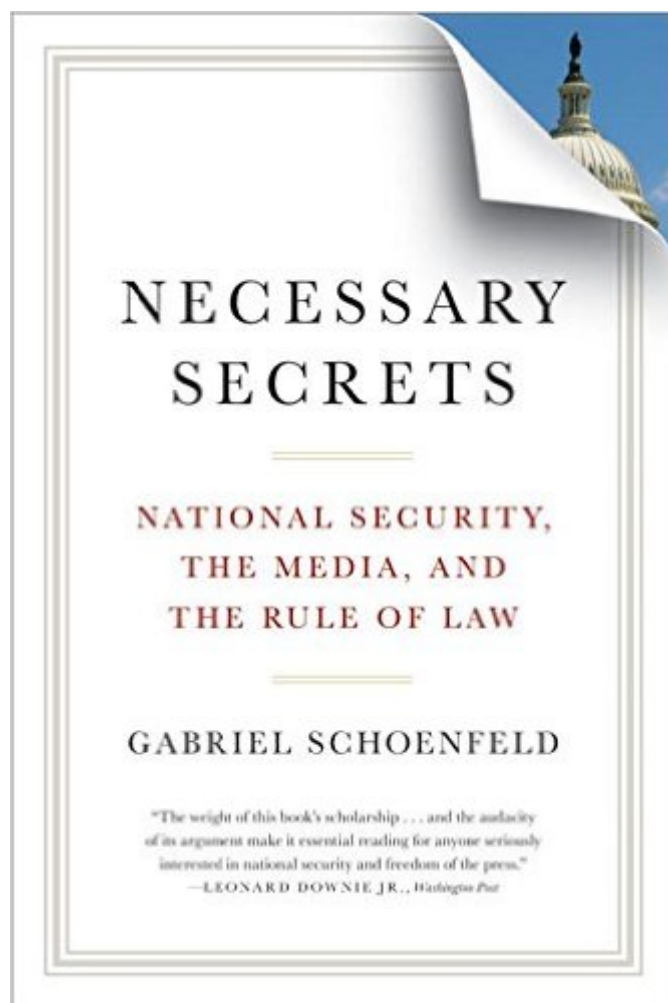


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# Necessary Secrets: National Security, The Media, And The Rule Of Law



## Synopsis

• Essential reading for anyone seriously interested in national security and freedom of the press. • Leonard Downie Jr., Washington Post Gabriel Schoenfeld • brilliantly illuminates • (Wall Street Journal) a growing rift between a press that sees itself as the heroic force promoting the public's right to know • and a government that needs to safeguard information vital to the effective conduct of foreign policy. A masterful contribution to the enduring challenge of interpreting the First Amendment, *Necessary Secrets* offers a gripping account of how our national security, now and across the American past, has been compromised by disclosure of classified information.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Consider the following quote from the New York Times story "Iran Fights Malware Attacking Computers" dated September 25, 2010. "The New York Times reported in 2009 that President George W. Bush had authorized new efforts, including some that were experimental, to undermine electrical systems, computer systems and other networks that serve Iran's nuclear program, according to current and former American officials. ...The program is among the most secret in the United States government, and it has been accelerated since President Obama took office, according to some American officials. "If it's "the most secret" program, why is the New York Times reporting it? Schoenfeld doesn't discuss this particular case in his book but he looks carefully at the arguments made for and against such revelations. Frankly I'm surprised by the lack of other five star ratings. His book is well researched, well written and his arguments are balanced, thorough and clearly presented. He follows the subject from the historical period through to the present. I preferred

reading his twentieth century examples over those from earlier periods, but I understand his reasons for reaching back. I wouldn't say it's a gripping read, but it's clear, fluid writing allows the reader to move quickly through parts of less interest. I also give it credit for succeeding in a somewhat more difficult literary category, which blends history, law and political philosophy. He covers the Pentagon Papers release by Daniel Ellsberg. Having read Ellsberg's "Secrets" years ago, Schoenfeld's alternate perspective was enlightening.

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