

Bibliographic note:

PRIJATEL, Alan J. *The Right to Privacy Deconstructed: International Law in an Age of Virtual Surveillance*, 72p. Master's Thesis. Univerzita Karlova (Charles University), Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Studies: Prague, Supervisor: JU. Dr. Milan Lipovský, Ph.D.

Abstract:

In order to understand the process to which the right to privacy operates under current international and regional legal frameworks, we ask ourselves the question if “the digital age” merits an interpretation of privacy unique to this phenomenon of cyberspace. If indeed the right to privacy can be interpreted in this way, we ask whether or not there is a deficit to legal protections to the. This “right to privacy in the digital age” will be taken in context of international law, conventions, principles, and norms in addition to being explored in case-law from the European Court of Human Rights to draw an understanding of the right to privacy in the digital age- if any such right does indeed exist. This thesis essentially, as the title implies, “deconstructs” what puts together the right to privacy and examines what parts of the law that was intended to fortify privacy in the first place, has shortcomings to its defense. I am arguing that there indeed are normative deficits to the right to privacy. In examining key examples of case-law from primarily the European Court of Human Rights, it will be seen if threading apart the important backgrounds of international legal and normative frameworks addresses the function of privacy in the digital age. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) operates separately to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); however, the core of the analysis assesses whether or not such a relationship can be drawn between them and develops an argument of where privacy stands in the “digital age” under this European context.

Keywords: Cyberspace, digital-age, virtual, surveillance, privacy, human rights, international law