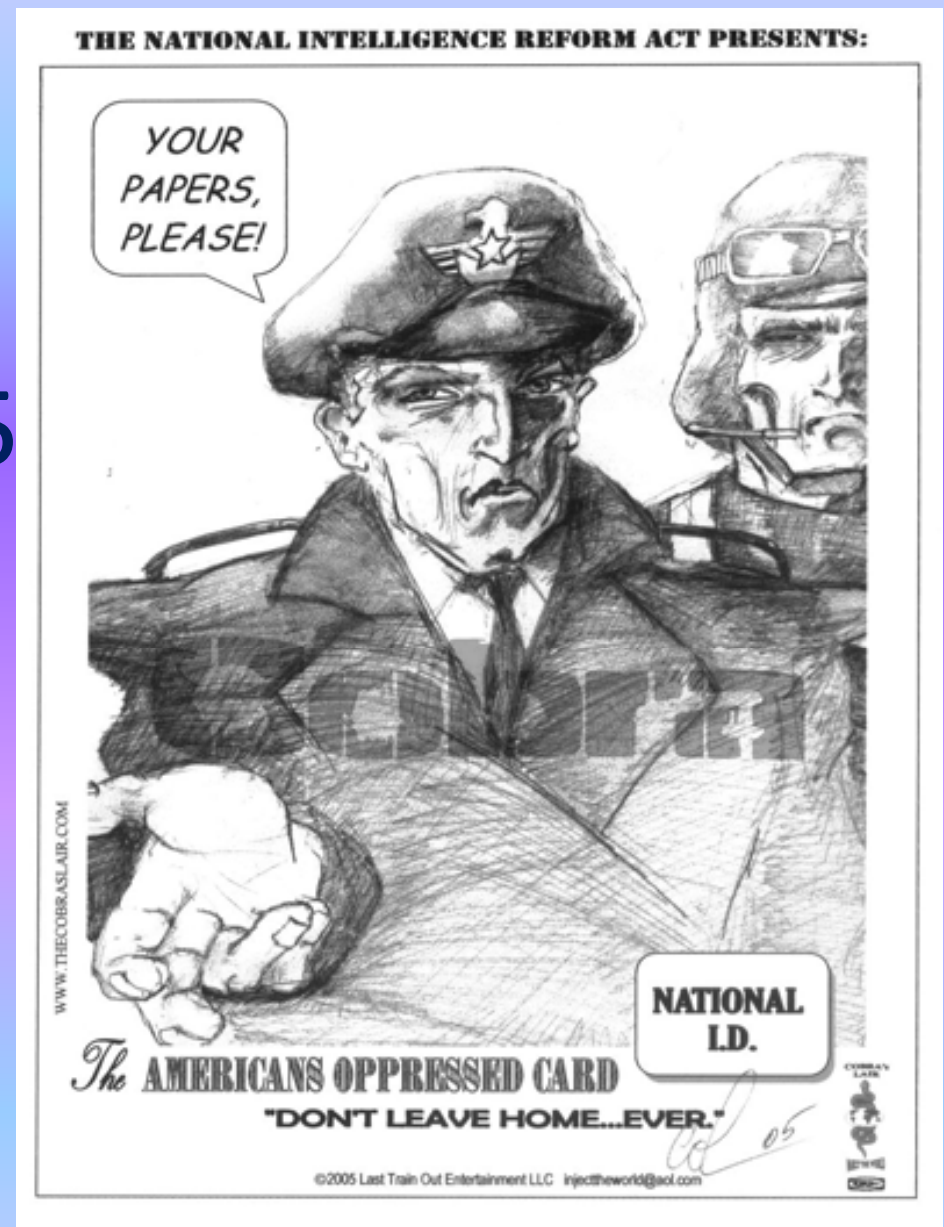


Real ID Act of 2005

Should We Have National ID Cards?

By: Sweta Vajjhala

CS 4001



No, We Should Not!

- In 2005, Bush administration passed Real ID Act of 2005
 - Requires every legal resident of the United States to have a national ID card by the year of 2008
- Act should be repealed because:
 - Implements RFID technology
 - Still developing & not fully researched
 - Violates rights of privacy
 - U.S. citizens
 - Companies
 - Not helped prevent illegal immigration
 - Not helped prevent threats of terrorism

Around The World: Where Are National ID Cards Used?

- Successfully implemented fully functional national ID cards in:
 - Germany, France, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Spain, and Portugal
 - U.K. started planning its own card
- Also working national ID cards in countries in Asia
 - Primarily China & Pakistan

Around The World: What Information Do National ID Cards Generally Contain?

- Small plastic cards which include:
 - Cardholder's name
 - Date of birth
 - Photograph
 - Thumb print
 - Personal identification number
 - Citizenship status (or alien resident)
 - Signature of cardholder
- Cards from Chile, Korea, Germany, Italy, and Pakistan include (in addition):
 - Permanent address
 - Military records
 - Religion
 - Parents' names
 - Ethnicity
 - Physical characteristics (eye color & height)
- Most national ID cards also have a magnetic strip or a barcode embedded in them

Around The World: What Are National ID Cards Used For?

- Pakistan: “enforce a quota system”
- China: “they are used as a tool of social engineering”
- U.K.: Fight crime & proof of residency
- Generally, across countries:
 - Fighting tax evasion
 - Establishing social welfare entitlements
- Since 1994, national ID cards have functioned smoothly for countries listed above
- Controversies with introduction of biometrics
 - Uses unique traits to identify different individuals
 - Implemented on national ID cards, passports, other forms

What Is The Real ID Act of 2005?

- Passed in 2005 as an addition to a tsunami & military appropriations bill
- Creates a de facto national ID card for all US citizens and legal residents of the United States by adding mandatory items on to a driver's license
- Will include, at minimum:
 - Full legal name
 - Date of birth
 - Gender
 - ID number (probably a driver's license number)
 - Digital photograph
 - Principle address
 - Signature
 - Physical security features
- Will implement “common machine-readable technology” (most probably RFID tags)
- May also include additional features in the future, including:
 - Digital fingerprints
 - Workplace information
 - Health care coverage
 - Can eventually also be used as debit or credit cards
- Will cost over 11 billion dollars over a ten-year time period
 - Only 40 million allocated
 - Rest of the money is from taxpayer pockets!

RFID Technology: Overview

- Radio Frequency Identification
 - “use radio waves to automatically identify different people and objects”
- Currently used in passports
 - Prevent additional terrorist threats
 - Speed up customs at borders
- Controversies with passports
 - “...a relatively new technology and somewhat unreliable”
 - “Privacy advocates are concerned that the chips, which can be read remotely through clothing and purses at a debatable distance, could subject passport holders to spying, theft and other unsavory activities.”
- Imagine all of the problems that can arise from national ID cards!

RFID Technology & National ID Cards

- Cardholder may not be aware of the RFID tag present in the ID card (privacy violation)
 - All states will be able to read driver's licenses of any other state
 - Different DMVs will "provide electronic access by a state to information contained in the motor vehicle databases of all other states."
- High security risks
 - Conduct secretive gathering of possessive data
 - Non-authorized individuals (terrorists)
 - No current solutions, if security breach occurs
- System & network not yet fully developed
 - 51 different networks
 - National ID Card = 1 giant network
 - "If 51 databases are tied together, and 50 of them have great security but one is easy to break into, the entire conglomeration is vulnerable... We know that any kind of sophisticated hacker, ID thief, organized criminal, or terrorist will be able to hack into this system. There are so many points of entry." (Larkin, 2005, p. 2)
 - Unauthorized individual can access piece of information on every cardholder
 - Where are the guaranteed privacy rights from Real ID Act?
- Possible Advantages:
 - Easiest card reader to implement
 - RFID chips are very cheap (< \$1 per chip)
- Easy card reading → easy to obtain information
 - Any time or place the card is swiped or read, all of the information on the card can be read or seen.
 - Local grocery store
 - Do you want the cashier to know who your health care coverer is?
 - Unnecessary violation of privacy

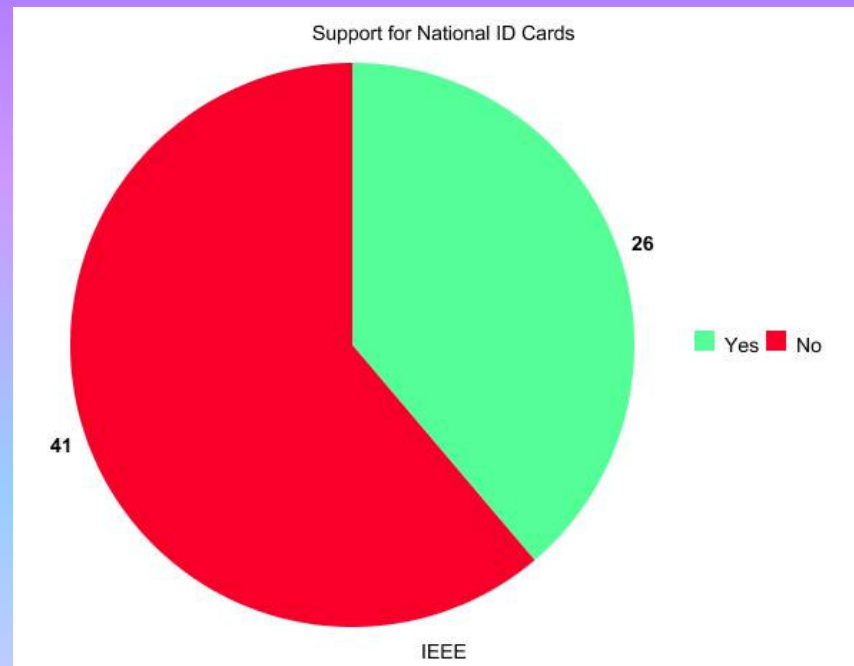
Violation Of Privacy



- Fourth Amendment of U.S. Constitution:
- “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”
- National ID cards violate:
 - Personal privacy
 - Company privacy

Personal Privacy

- “While proponents of national ID cards will contend that such concerns are overblown, there is no denying that a national ID card could become the equivalent of a domestic passport that citizens are required to produce for the most routine daily tasks.”
- Any scan of the card can release all information on the card
- Potential U.S. cardholders not in favor of this, as seen in chart below



Company Privacy

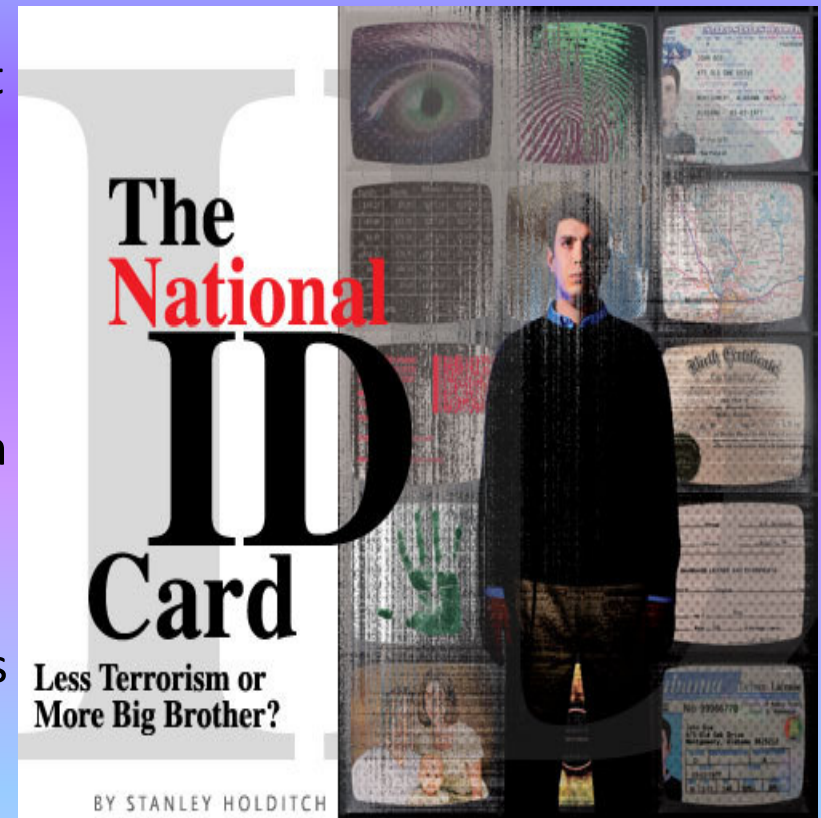
- 43 different requests to Bush to veto the Real ID Act
 - “an even more comprehensive ID program [such as the Real ID Act] would garner tremendous opposition”
- Could have leak of business tactics, annual revenues
 - This type of information should be kept internally, within the company

Prevention of Illegal Immigrants

- “Get a handle on illegal aliens in the United States”
- Concerns:
 - Will current illegal immigrants receive national ID cards?
 - Will the children of current illegal immigrants receive national ID cards or legal resident status, so they have the chance to receive an ID card?
 - Will the national ID card fully replace the green card (a card that gives official immigration status)?
 - Effects on privacy rights of aliens?
 - If needed, how will employers determine which immigrants can be subsidized for national ID cards?
- Seemingly creating more problems with immigration, rather than solving them

Prevention of Terrorism

- “Hamper the ability of terrorist and criminal aliens to move freely throughout our society by requiring that all states require proof of lawful presence in the U.S. for their drivers' licenses to be accepted as identification for federal purposes such as boarding a commercial airplane, entering a federal building, or a nuclear power plant”
- National ID card already implemented in Minnesota
- “The bill would not have prevented the 9/11 terrorists from getting driver's licenses. The terrorists obtained licenses legally, using ‘valid’ documents”
- Easier record-keeping could identify terrorists
 - Security and privacy issues arise once again



Conclusion

- National ID cards can potentially work, but not in the way the Real ID Act of 2005 is proposing
- Therefore, the Real ID Act of 2005 should be repealed

