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A liberty blog

WikiLeaks cable release — less significant than most think
 November 29th, 2010, 1:24 pm · 3 Comments · posted by [Alan Bock](#), Register editorial writer

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I am still, as we say, gathering string on the WikiLeaks release of State Dept. cables, but thought that Web customers might appreciate information and links that might help them form their own decently informed opinions. For starters, here's a link to [WikiLeaks itself](#) where a few hundred of the promised 250,000 or so documents are available now. The Daily Beast named the "[9 Most Shocking WikiLeaks Secrets](#)," none of which struck this cynical soul as especially shocking. Today's [NYT article highlights](#) many of the same revelations, including Yemen covering for U.S. attacks on AQ in Yemen, the Chinese govt. was behind cyber-attacks on Google and others, Hillary and Condi both asked U.S. diplomats to gather info on furrin diplomats in possible violation of laws governing the U.N., but probably something most countries do, etc. At Cato foreign policy analyst Chris Preble has what strikes me as a [pretty balanced assessment](#) of the significance of all this. I am more critical than he seems prepared to be of the classification system. So much stuff is classified, and so many people have access to it, that it strikes me as a system more designed to cover up embarrassment and feed peoples' puffed-up sense of self-importance than something bearing much real relation to core national security concerns — indeed sometimes disserving national security concerns as the 9/11 commission noted on the barriers to information-sharing within the government that made it harder to "connect the dots." Major reform of the classification system strikes me a desirable, but I doubt if the WikiLeaks stuff will lead to it. Indeed, it's more likely to lead to more tightening, more internal surveillance, more punishment of leakers, and thus discouragement of whistle-blowers.

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About this blog

Orange Punch bloggers write from a particular libertarian point of view. We're dedicated to advancing human freedom and believe that the primary role of government is to defend Americans' liberties. We seek a smaller, more limited government, expanded and freer trade at home and abroad, open markets and secure property rights. We believe in the power and goodwill of the individual; that he or she will aspire to a better tomorrow for themselves, for their family and for the community. We would hope for people to exercise integrity and self-responsibility along the way. The bloggers are Alan Bock, Brian Calle and Mark Landsbaum. The genesis of this particular brand of libertarianism is R.C. Hoiles, founder, Freedom Communications, Inc., parent company of the Orange County Register.

Meet the bloggers

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