Daniel Ellsberg
The Most Dangerous Man Alive
Robert McNamara Commissions Secret Study

- Secretary of Defense
- Kennedy holdover
- Historical study of Vietnam decision making - 1966
- Ellsberg recruited for his Pentagon and RAND background

- completed 1969
- 47 volumes
- 7,000 pages
- classified
Russo and Ellsberg Copy “Pentagon Papers”

- Documents taken out two volumes at a time, copied on a Xerox machine at Russo’s girlfriend’s place of employment
Share Papers with Fulbright, McGovern Kissinger
Pentagon Papers Released
I just say that we've got to keep our eye on the main ball. The main ball is Daniel Ellsberg. We've got to get this son of a bitch. You can't be in a position of ever allowing, just because some guy is going to be martyr, of allowing the fellow to get away with this kind of wholesale thievery, or otherwise it's going to happen all over the government. Don't you agree?

*Telephone conversation with John N. Mitchell, White House Tapes - Presidential Recordings Program, Tape 006-021*
Russo and Ellsberg Indicted

“Let’s face it. Copying seven thousand pages of top secret documents and giving them to the New York Times has a bad ring to it.”

• Before 1973 criminal trial under 1917 Espionage Act
Ellsberg Trial Ends

The New York Times

PENTAGON PAPERS CHARGES ARE DISMISSED;
JUDGE BYRNE FREES ELLSBERG AND RUSSO,
ASSAILS ‘IMPROPER GOVERNMENT CONDUCT’

White House Says Attacks ‘Improbable’
Will Continue in Cambodia

Air of Expectancy, Then Tears, Shouts, Endovaces
Nixon on Outcome of Pentagon Papers Saga

• We have the rocky situation when the sonofabitching thief [Ellsberg] is made a national hero and is going to get off on a mistrial and the *New York Times* gets a Pulitzer prize for stealing documents...They’re trying to get at us with thieves...What in the name of God have we come to?

• *Richard Nixon, White House tapes, May 11, 1973*
Whistleblowers

- Edward Snowden, b. 1983
- Brief military career
- Recruited by CIA; technical computer specialist, leaves 2009
- Works as contractor for NSA
- 2013 releases classified NSA documents, probably through Julian Assange
Edward Snowden

- 2013 charged under 1917 Espionage Act
- then flees country, to Hong Kong, then to Russia
- US seeks extradition
- Snowden seeks asylum
Chelsea Manning
Chelsea Manning

- born Bradley Manning in 1987
- difficult childhood, confused sexual identity
- joins army in 2007
- posted to Iraq in 2009
- 2010 began downloading from intelligence sources she had internet access to because of her job and computer skills
- releases Iraq and Afghanistan material to WikiLeaks, probably through contact with Julian Assange
Chelsea Manning

- arrested 2010
- court martialed 2013
- Espionage Act 1917 and UCMJ
- 35 year sentence
- 2017 Obama commutes sentence
- 2019 contempt of court
War against the Leakers

Lloyd Gardner,

The War on Leakers: National Security and American Democracy, from Eugene V. Debs to Edward Snowden

(2016)