

The 'Super-Panopticon' Scandal of Athens 2004 Olympics and its Legacy

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BOOK ABSTRACT

This book elucidates the “super-panopticon” scandal at the Athens 2004 Olympics, that is the technological fiasco of the C4I—Command, Control, Coordination, Communication, and Integration—surveillance system, designed by the American SAIC corporation and subcontracted to the German company Siemens AG, which did not work during and long after the Games, despite its multi-million cost. The study also unfolds the additional interrelated scandals, i.e., the alleged Siemens bribes of Greek officials to ensure the C4I contract, and prolonged phone tapping against the Greek government, as well as their serious implications on Greek sovereignty, freedoms and democracy, especially on the budget deficit and the ensuing bankruptcy of Greece. As a critical “glocal” analysis, it relates the nature and legacy of this scandal to post-9/11 neoliberal “securitization,” which has transformed the Olympics into security-surveillance and consumption Games with a loss of any true Olympic meaning, and finally thus reviving the discussion for alternative, pure Olympics.

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