

# HOW A BATMAN MASK RESISTS A SURVEILLANCE STATE: THE REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL OF A SECRET IDENTITY

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# THE POWER OF THE MASK



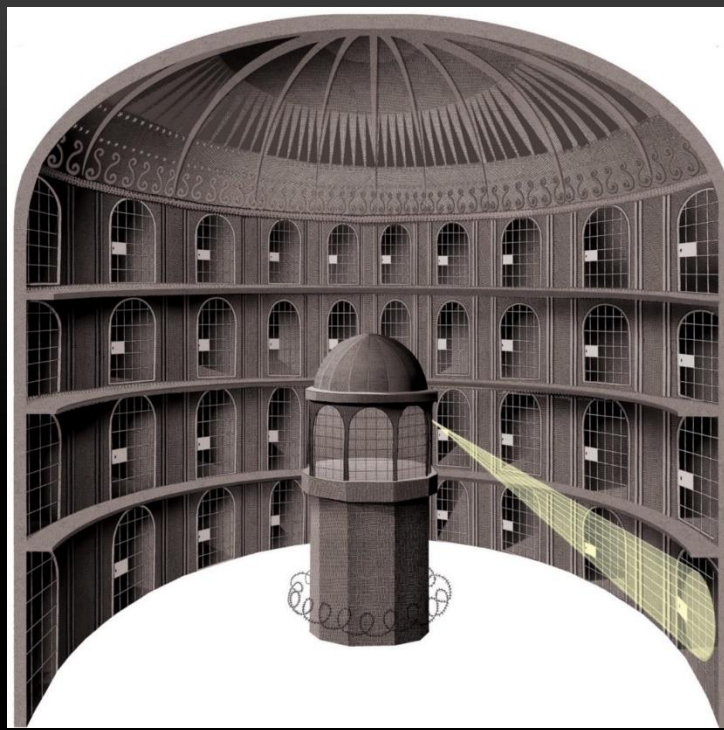
- “The mask plays a central role to civilization; it has **deconstructive and subversive effects to society and is recognized as a device for rebellious behavior.** “

-Lars Konzack (53)

- To be masked is to be able to rebel.

## GOALS FOR TODAY

- Detail the Panopticon.
  - Use *Inglourious Basterds* to express the dangers of a surveillance state and “the bureaucratic process of destruction.”
  - Touch on how Batman shows the attraction of the surveillance state as well as the ways to resist.
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**“Visibility is a trap.”**

**-MICHEL FOUCAULT**

# DANGERS OF SURVEILLANCE: BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS OF DESTRUCTION

- The destruction of the Jews may have the appearance of an... impenetrable event. Upon closer observation it is revealed to be a process of sequential steps that were taken at the initiative of countless decision makers in a far-flung bureaucratic machine.”

-Hilberg (53)

# BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS OF DESTRUCTION

- The three steps:
    1. DEFINITION
    2. CONCENTRATION
    3. ANNIHILATION
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CLIP:

*INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS* DIR. TARANTINO (2009)

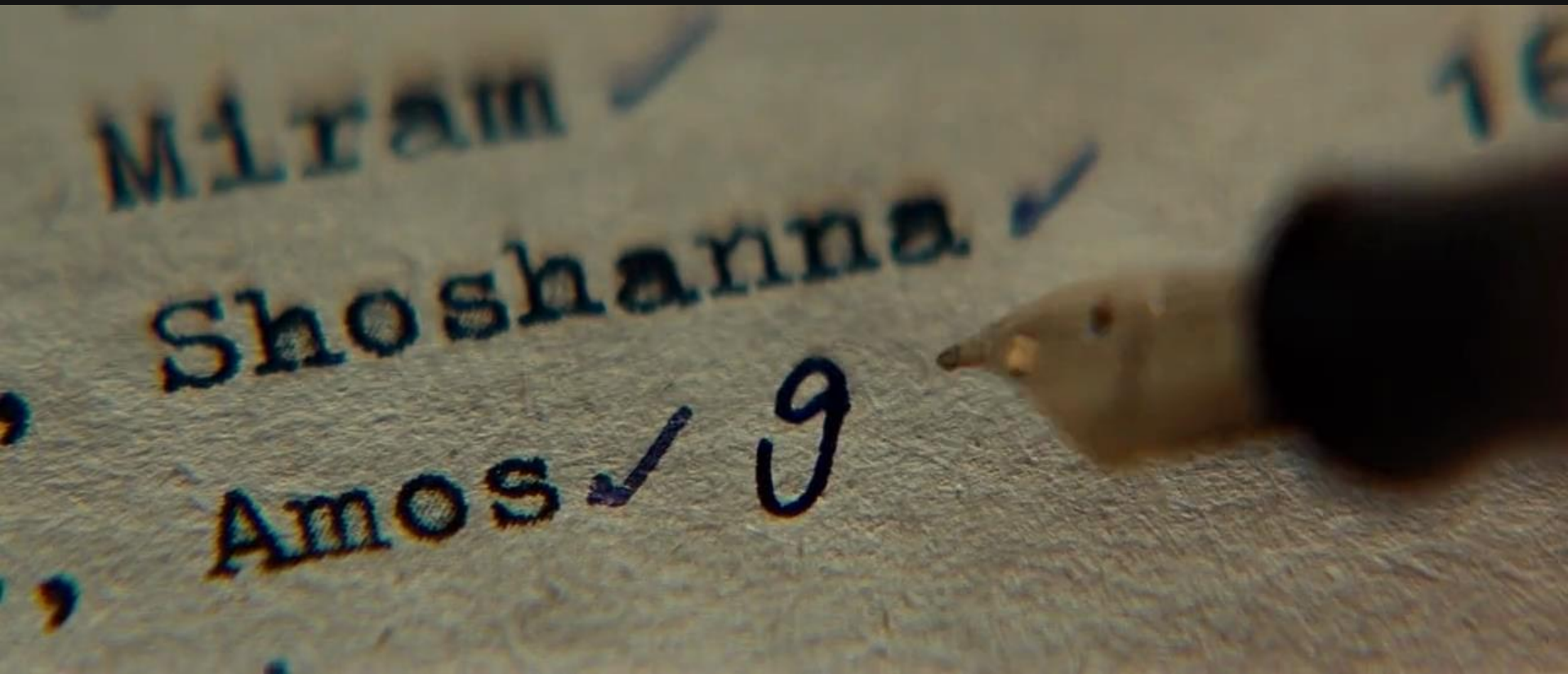


事実は誤った予断を与えるが

- 7:39 – 20:27



STEP 1:  
IDENTIFICATION



## STEP 2: CONCENTRATION

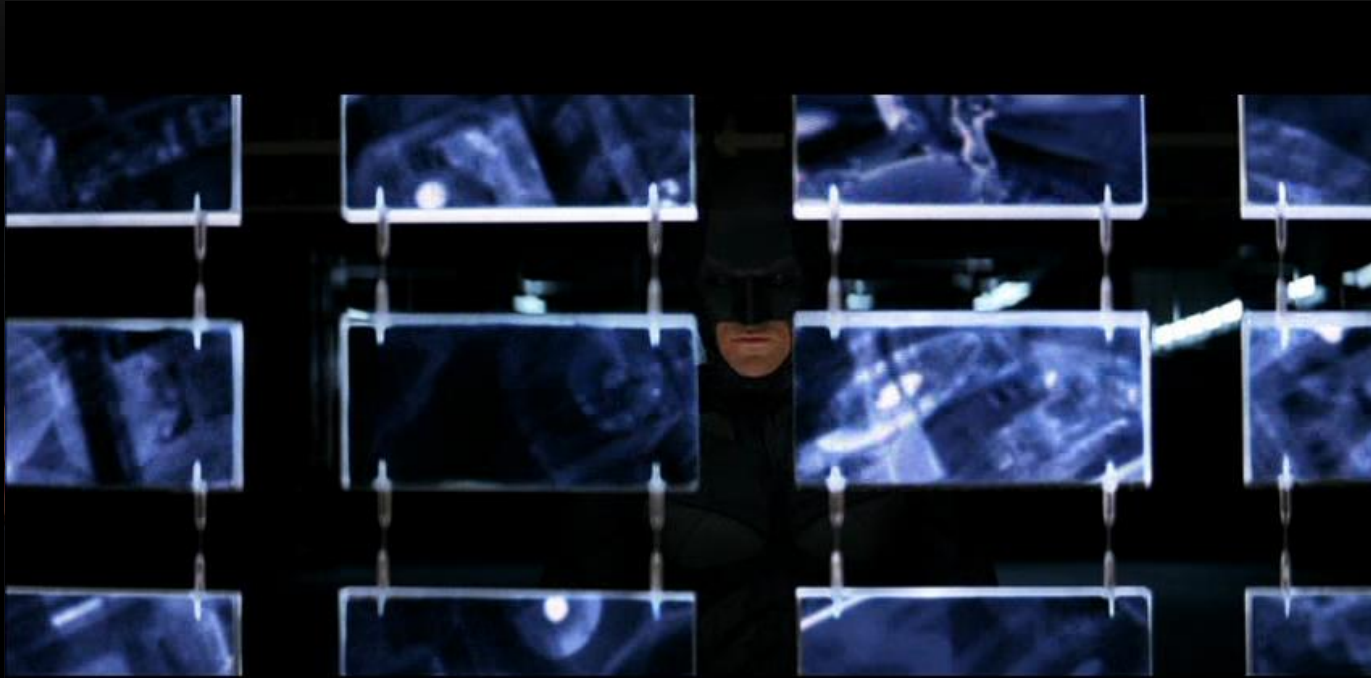


君は国家の敵を匿っている  
そうじゃないか？

# STEP 3: ANNIHILATION



# THE ALLURE OF SURVEILLANCE: *THE DARK KNIGHT* DIR. NOLAN (2008)



- “Beautiful, isn't it?”

# REVOLUTION THROUGH A MASK: PAUL POPE'S *BATMAN: YEAR 100*

- "I used the state apparatus as the villain. It seems to me that the state uses technology to control and direct. In a police state, there's no room for a masked man fighting crime outside the law."
- "I tried to toss out all that earlier Batman legend and just look at the idea of a surveillance state dealing with a masked man. My Batman is essentially an accidental home-grown terrorist against the state... the state apparatus requires a rational, knowable and categorizable antagonist. My Batman is a mystical or irrational figure"

-Paul Pope

# SHOWING SURVEYORS THE FEAR THEY CAUSE: *BATMAN: YEAR 100*



## CONCLUSIONS

- “Visibility is a trap” extends from moments of historical trauma to today.
  - Surveillance apparatuses need to be questioned and resisted.
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THANK YOU!