Blank Spots on the Map is an expose of an empire that continues to grow every year—and which, officially, it isn’t even there. It is the adventurous, insightful, and often chilling story of a young geographer’s road trip through the underworld of U.S. military and C.I.A. “black ops” sites. This is a shadow nation of state secrets: clandestine military bases, ultra-secret black sites, classified factories, hidden laboratories, and top-secret agencies making up what defense and intelligence insiders themselves call the “black world.” Run by an amorphous group of government agencies and private companies, this empire’s ever expanding budget dwarfs that of many good sized countries, yet it denies its own existence.

Author Trevor Paglen is a scholar in geography, an artist, and a provocateur. His research into areas that officially don’t exist leads him on a globe-trotting investigation into a vast, undemocratic, and uncontrolled black empire—the unmarked blank areas whether you are looking at Google Earth or a U.S. Geological Survey map. Paglen knocks on the doors of CIA prisons, stakes out the Groom Lake covert air base in Nevada from a mountaintop 30 miles away, observes classified spacecraft in the night sky with amateur astronomers, and dissects the Defense Department’s multibillion dollar black budget. Traveling to the Middle East, Central America, and even around our nation’s capital and its surrounding suburbs, he interviews the people who live on the edges of these blank spots.

Paglen visits the widow of Walter Kazra, who, while working construction at Groom Lake, was poisoned by the toxic garbage pits there. The U. S.
Air Force defense to his estate’s suit? The base does not exist. The U. S. Supreme Court declined to review the case. Whether Paglen reports from a hotel room in Vegas, Washington D. C. suburbs, secret prisons in Kabul, buried CIA aircraft in Honduras, or a trailer in Shoshone Indian territory, he is impassioned, rigorous, relentless—and eye-opening. This is a human, vivid, and telling portrait of a ballooning national mistake.

My Personal Review:
This book is a good follow up to the authors work Torture Taxi: On the Trail of the CIA's Rendition Flights about "Extraordinary rendition." This is the incredible story of "the black world". The Black sites....and some of the philosophy of the black ops themselves.

This one goes deeper into the bigger picture.
The reader gets a glimpse of the so called "black world"
Use of the word "black" is good espionage trade craft jargon. Gives the feeling not just "secret" but also not legal.
The author’s definitions of secrecy itself are quite interesting.
One fact you learn that makes the book itself worthwhile is the black world or the secret state got its start or excuse from the massive buildup when the US was making the bomb...The Manhattan Project. Paglen sites that there has been even more cash spent since then. Where has all this cash gone?
Some reviewers mentioned this book is not for the conspiracy researcher. I think there is plenty in this book for the research or lay reader. Although it is "lucid" enough for the conspiracy hater as well.
A great fast read!

Note we have a black operatives world complete with super weapons and a secret torture airlines as big as Air America during Nam. All above the Law and often private off the books ect. Yes this book is ok for the conspiracy reader.
Bravo Zulu

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Blank Spots on the Map: The Dark Geography of the Pentagons Secret World by Trevor Paglen - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!