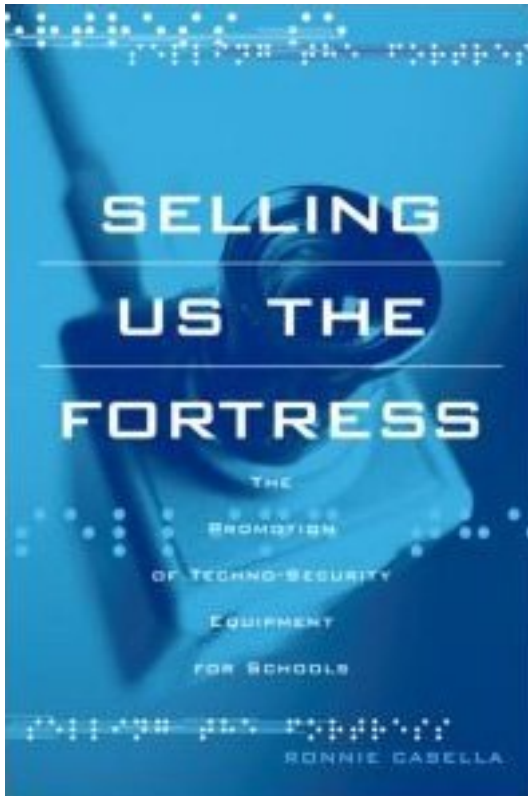


# Selling Us the Fortress



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Equipment developed for wartime is now being seen more often in everyday institutions, and even our schools have become sites of high-tech security and, some would say, paranoia. The justification for the presence of this network of surveillance, screening, detection and tracking systems is that it is the only sensible reaction to the fears for personal safety brought about by the school shootings and terrorist attacks of recent years - we must protect our children, perhaps even from their school friends. Casella here questions this assumption, shining an investigative light on the political

and commercial forces that have led to the present climate of fear. He shows how expensive security equipment is sold in the same slick business-like way as any other commodity, and highlights the trend of turning schools into corporatized and militarized zones that prepare young people for a life spent accepting limitations of certain freedoms in return for an ill-defined and problematic concept of "safety".

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