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## **The Day the Free Press Died**

People in the past have died to protect the integrity of the press. Today, the media has no integrity

# **Brian W. Kelly**

# The Day the Free Press Died

**People in the past have died to protect the integrity of the press. Today, the media has no integrity**

The free press was created by the first amendment to the US Constitution. It serves as the fourth estate of power alongside the presidency, the Congress, and the courts. Many believe that through corruption and affiliations with political parties, the idea of a fourth estate to protect the people from all other aspects of government has passed on with the dodo bird. The corruption of the press after its death is most obvious in the tireless effort to destroy the legitimate Trump presidency

The way the press hopped on President Richard Nixon in 1974 after he had won two electoral landslides is seen by many as the beginning of the death of the press as a protective element of the people's power. The Washington Post and the US Press brought down the Nixon Administration. Like today v Trump, the Beltway media had it out for Nixon and, right or wrong. They were able to marshal public opinion against him. Nixon did not own the media and so he lost the battle.

In those days, approval of the media by the public was in the high seventies, while today, approval sits in the low teens with little respect from people who think.

Despite devoting many dozens of reporters to bring down Trump, the corrupt press has been unable to do so as "The Donald" knows their game better than they do, and so far, he has played it better than they. The press, is supposed to be above politics but recently it aligns itself with government, political parties, corporations, unions, and other entities, instead of the people. It has not been serving its constitutional role, and so it deserves no special treatment as a fourth estate of US power.

Brian W. Kelly wrote this book so that all Americans can understand the correct role of the press, and the power of the press and how sometime in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the free press died and so far, it looks like it will not be back for some time to come. A resurgence of honesty in journalism would be appreciated by all



# BRIAN W. KELLY

## The Day the Free Press Died

Author:  
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# Dedication

*I dedicate this book*

*To my wonderful brothers and sisters:*

*Angel Edward J. Kelly, Jr.*

*Nancy "Ann" Flannery*

*Mary A. Daniels*

*Joseph A. Kelly*

*I surely am a lucky person to have*

*Such wonderfulness in the family of*

*Edward J Kelly and Irene McKeown Kelly*

.





# Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of the other 148 books from the past.

My acknowledgments were so large at one time that readers complained that they had to go through too many pages to get to page one.

And, so I put my acknowledgment list online, and it continues to grow. Believe it or not, it now costs about a dollar less to print my books. No kidding!

Thank you and God bless you all for your help. Please check out [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com) to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book.

In this book, I received some extra special help from many fine American patriots including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Robert Gary Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly, Diane Kelly, Brian P. Kelly, Mike P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly, Angel Ben Kelly, and Budmund (Buddy) Arthur Kelly.

*Thank you all!*



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# Preface:

The free press was created by the first amendment to the US constitution. It serves as the fourth estate of power alongside the presidency, the Congress, and the courts. Many believe that through corruption and affiliations with political parties, the idea of a fourth estate to protect the people from all other aspects of government has passed on with the dodo bird.

The way the press hopped on President Richard Nixon in 1974 after he had won two electoral landslides is seen by some as the beginning of the death of the press as a protective element of power. The Washington Post and the US Press brought down the Nixon Administration. Like today v Trump, the Beltway media had it out for Nixon and, right or wrong, they were able to marshal public opinion against him.

In those days, approval of the media was in the high seventies, while today it sits in the low teens.

Despite devoting many dozens of reporters to bring down Trump, they came up empty. The mainstream media was defeated big-time.

Unable to knock Trump out of the game, as he knows their game well, Trump has played it better than them. The press is still shell-shocked.

Americans know from basic civics that the press, is supposed to be above politics. When it aligns itself with government, political parties, corporations, unions, or other entities rather than the people it is not serving its constitutional role

Brian W. Kelly wrote this book so that all Americans can understand the role of the press, and the power of the press and

how sometime in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the free press dies and so far, it looks like it won't be back for some time.

Those who love America and the Constitution viewed the Nixon massacre as a national tragedy. The press also tried to destroy George Bush and most recently, their efforts were to stop the Trump Presidency and quickly after his election they began a fake news campaign to impeach him.

Nonetheless, worse than their inability to destroy the man they considered to be public enemy number one to the ruling class, the big newspapers and media chieftains found themselves unable or unwilling to properly cover Hillary Clinton, who they and their owners wanted to see signing laws.

Because the people have freedom in the US, at least for now, on both fronts, our major media outlets including the top newspapers lacked major influence, and more and more looked like the Pravda of the terminal-stage Soviet Union, in both behavior and suitability as the butt of jokes.

The establishment media played dirty and plays dirty all the time run with the leaks made possible by some technologically adept maverick journalists such as Julian Assange. They all should have been jailed.

As the printing press came into wide use, the court-historian, serving the old power structure, was displaced by the print journalists of the new technology, who believed they had the right to speak and print freely. Thus, the fourth estate was born.

Though I believe it was in the Nixon period, with the election of Donald Trump, the fourth estate has surely died and there is nothing to take its place save a slew of alternative media, and the leakers and hackers of the new technological estate.

They don't get it, but the fact is that when the media colludes and attacks Trump, they are really attacking the millions of citizens who detest them (the media) and who choose to no longer buy what they're selling. For those who are sick of corrupt Democratic Leadership that favors foreigners above American citizens, support for Trump is the default position of those of us who cannot stomach the elite media's engineering of public opinion on behalf of establishment interests.

The media's cozying up to Hillary and abandoning neutrality may have made the media feel good, but it has sounded the death knell for the establishment media and made half or more of the country immune to anything they say.

The free press is dead. Long live the Free Press. Media trust is gone, and it simply is not coming back for many reasons. One big reason is that the media still doesn't get it.

Brian W. Kelly, Author

MI found a ditty today in my email that I felt would be most appropriate to offer a "Why," regarding my deep sense of need to offer a countervailing thought to the mainstream media, aka, the drive-by media of today. With these bums controlling the thought we all experience, can there be much hope for the truth? Yes, but only if we pay no heed to their drivel:

From: George Reeves; Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:51 PM  
 To: [reevesxxx@aol.com](mailto:reevesxxx@aol.com); Subject: Journalism... This is very good!  
 Sent from my iPhone. It is today's journalism in a nutshell...

### **The 13 Greatest Reads**

1. The Wall Street Journal is read by the people who run the country.
2. The Washington Post is read by people who think they run the country.
3. The New York Times is read by people who think they should run the country, and who are very good at crossword puzzles.

4. USA Today is read by people who think they ought to run the country but don't really understand The New York Times.
5. The Los Angeles Times is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country, if they could find the time and if they didn't have to leave Southern California to do it.
6. The Boston Globe is read by people whose parents used to run the country.
7. The New York Daily News is read by people who aren't too sure who's running the country and don't really care as long as they can get a seat on the train.
8. The New York Post is read by people who don't care who is running the country as long as they do something really scandalous, preferably while intoxicated.
9. The Chicago Tribune is read by people who are in prison who once ran the state, and would like to do so again, as would their constituents who are currently free on bail.
10. The Miami Herald is read by people who are running another country, but need the baseball scores.
11. The San Francisco Chronicle is read by people who aren't sure if there is a country or that anyone is running it; but if so, they oppose all that they stand for. There are occasional exceptions if the leaders are gay, handicapped, minority, feminist, atheists, and those who also happen to be illegal aliens from any other country or galaxy, provided of course, that they are not Republicans.
12. The National Enquirer is read by people trapped in line at the grocery store.
13. The Seattle Times is read by people who have recently caught a fish and need something to wrap it in.

And remember in your brightest thoughts that Mark Twain once said, "Those who do not read the newspaper are uninformed. Those who do read a newspaper are misinformed."

The above is true never more-so than today with fake news being the order of the day. The press is actually more dangerous to our freedom than the Democratic Party. Being a Democrat all my life, I know what I am talking about. Enjoy this book! I think we can do well, without a dishonest press. How about you?



# About the Author



**Brian W. Kelly** is a retired Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and midrange systems technical advisor to the IT faculty. Kelly developed and taught many college and professional courses in the IT and business areas. He is also a contributing technical editor to IT Jungle's "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru" Newsletters.

A former IBM Senior Systems Engineer, he has an active consultancy in the information technology field, ([www.kellyconsulting.com](http://www.kellyconsulting.com)). He is the author of 147 other books and hundreds of articles about IT and topics about America.

Kelly is a frequent speaker at US conferences such as COMMON, IBM Technical conferences, as well as computer user group meetings across the United States. Your author is always ready to accept invitations to speak at political rallies on behalf of conservative and nationalist candidates.

Brian ran for Congress as a conservative Democrat in 2010, took no donations, and shook up the political world in Northeastern PA when he scored 17% of the vote in a three man-race.



# Chapter 1 All Men Are Created Equal

## They just don't behave that way

The most powerful force in America today since we are not a totalitarian regime is public opinion. Unfortunately, there are seven biased network news outlets that favor the liberal progressive socialist line of thinking. There is one news outlet that says it is fair and balanced on its news and so, taken at its word, that would give leftist commentary a thirteen to one edge over material from the right.

From the “Big 13 network shares,” the public today is either served fake news or lies or nothing at all about major happenings that might make a citizen positive about the philosophies and accomplishments of the conservative right, aka, the Republicans. Likewise, the “*Little 1 network share*” is antagonistic and suspicious of the philosophies and accomplishments and the thinking of the left. Aka, the Democrats.

Considering this one *rightish* network share of broadcasting is combined with another share of the same network that is leftish and so there is no one network that delivers a totally conservative picture on conservative issues or values. The notion of fair and balanced does not work well when the other six networks don't consider your chatter either fair or balanced and they do their best to damn your “stuff” to their audiences.

The point of course is that without Talk Radio, blogs, podcasts, and other modern information innovations, the only news that the people in America hear could very well be written by the

Democratic Party and it probably is. From the parroting that goes on in all the network broadcasts, one might believe that lots of dollars are saved every day as only one version of the news with the same words needs to be used on all the networks and all their affiliated channels.

The effects on public opinion are overwhelming. This is not freedom of the press. It is a distortion of the powers of the press and it surely has a deleterious effect on public opinion. The big loser in America today is the truth. And as such, truth-starved citizens are none-too pleased.

Despite being fed pure poppycock, there are those listeners and readers and viewers who believe they know what they obviously do not know. They are convinced they are being fed the truth and do little investigating on their own. With the bulk of programming, including public broadcasting, being directed by the left, to the otherwise uninformed public, it does take a strong will to not be a 100% leftist. It is not fair, but it is what it is.

Rush Limbaugh has analyzed this more than any other broadcast personality and he has a plausible explanation for this phenomenon of how public opinion on political matters is formed. He also has a very exact name for those who are “duped” by the saturation of the 13 to 1 ratio of the media outlets. Limbaugh calls his idea, the low information voter theory and thus the people in that group by definition become the low information voters, or the low information crowd, etc.

By receiving filtered news that is often fake, and nothing else with which to go by, this segment of the electorate approaches elections without adequate information to make a proper decision. The causes for the ignorance or ‘stupidity’ are many—with anything from inattentiveness, mis-education or, perhaps even ideology to blame. However, it is clearly leftist oriented

news saturation that is the biggest culprit. It is all they see and hear. Richard Bernstein would say they had been duped. Duped does it for me.

On June 29, 2010, Richard Bernstein, the author, released a book titled, *Duped America: How Democrats and The Mainstream Media Have Duped the American People and Are Harming Our Country*. It was originally in hardcover format.

I immediately thought of the low information voters who through the mainstream media at a 13 to 1 ratio receive their daily dosage of Democrat propaganda. And, so I was immediately attracted to the book. You might ask,

“What makes Duped America so different from other political books?”

Well a generous look at the table of contents shows the difference. Most political books cover one or two topics. Bernstein’s Duped America surely tries to provide all the information an information-seeking voter needs about most of the important issue facing America today. Like me, Bernstein saw the Democratic Party leaving him in the dust.

At 69 years of age, having been a lifetime Democrat myself, for all but my first two years of voter eligibility, when I signed up as an independent, I was pleased to see that author Bernstein also had saw the light or perhaps better said, “The new darkness of the Democratic Party.”

In my case, I stayed with the Party by registration but left by heart many years ago. Perhaps because I had evaluated running for office and Republicans do not win elections in Northeastern PA. I ran for Congress in 2010, and for Mayor in 2015 and though the experience was enlightening, the expense was not worth it. Moreover, I am convinced I was met head-on by the

Rush Limbaugh nemeses in the electorate—the low information voters. I did not have a reasonable chance, but I got on the ballot and took a shot anyway.

Author Richard Bernstein was also a lifetime Democrat, but he now calls himself a former lifelong Democrat. Having written 147 books myself before this book, I know he took the time to organize his masterpiece of 31 chapters, with the mission of explaining how the Democrat Party and mainstream media allies repeatedly attempt to dupe Americans.

I saw that Duped America has almost 1,000 footnotes about which his publisher attests were thoroughly researched. Bernstein puts out the facts about a corrupt Democratic Party and a corrupt press in one place.

My concern in my book of course is to demonstrate how all of a sudden, the free press, aka the fourth estate died an ignominious death at the hands of the big-shots in all our lives. Bernstein attaches the major guilt to the Democratic Party who today are as fake as the fake news they produce day-in, and day out. Why there is no countervailing Republican-oriented press to confront the “mainstream media,” remains a puzzlement to me.

You can take a look at Bernstein’s chapters and if you have lived through it, and I have, you can see his plan to expose Democrats and the mainstream media as the truth cheats that they are. For some specifics about what is covered in his all-encompassing book about Democrat corruption through the duping of the low-information electorate, check out these chapters and facts from Bernstein’s 2010 book. The list of facts below tells a story unto themselves.

Those of us who once played on the Democrat team but quit because they cheat, will find this list like a cleansing and will find the book as a greater cleansing. We knew Democrats and

the complicit mainstream press cheated and lied and told false stories or made them up, but this book shows you exactly where. This little list is enough to bring back those feelings of frustration that maybe everybody has forgotten to tell the truth. Here goes:

- Next time your friends tell you Bush lied to get us into the Iraq war, with the power of this book, you'll be able to tell them about the investigations demanded by Democrats that proved otherwise (Chapter 3).
- When your least favorite friends insist Republicans caused the mortgage crisis, and their deregulation caused the financial crisis, you'll be able to prove otherwise (Chapters 6 and 7).
- Next time you hear that the Democrats are the party looking out for all Americans and the only party looking out for black Americans, you'll be able to tell them why that isn't true and why Martin Luther King Jr. was a Republican (chapter 13).
- With most Wall Street Tycoons being Democrats, you will be better prepared to fend off the diatribes that try to convince you that Republicans are the party of Wall Street and large corporate money, you'll be able to refute that misconception with facts. (Chapter 10).
- When your "friends" insist that Bill Clinton created a great economy, you'll be able to explain how it was the Newt Gingrich Contract with America and a dedicated Republican Congress and other factors unrelated to Bill Clinton's policies that helped make the '90s economically prosperous (Chapter 11).

- After reading Chapter 22 of this book, you'll understand why the green jobs agenda is a sham along with most of the Global Warming gibberish, and you will know who actually caused the jobs to be lost.
- Though your friends may turn you in for new faux friends, you will learn why wind and solar cannot work on a national scale (Chapter 16). You will see why we suffer in our proper usage of nuclear power in this country (Chapter 17), and why Democrat policies have been making all energy less available and more expensive (Chapter 15).
- You will be glad to know, and Duped America will thoroughly explain to you the science, politics and money behind the global warming scam (Chapter 14).
- You will see that the pure former president was not necessarily so pure as an American when Duped America exposes Barack Obama's radical past and his radical appointees (chapter 27), the influence of radical Saul Alinsky on him (Chapter 29), and how Democrats still attempt to stifle dissent and manipulate the election process (Chapter 28).
- You won't have to read much before you know you are reading a great book. In fact, after reading chapter 1 you'll understand in detail how the Democrat Party has been dangerous to our national security over the past 40 years. Chapters 25 and 26 will show you specifically how Democrat policies today are making us more vulnerable to our enemies.
- You probably have heard your "friends" try to convince you that the special interest groups of the Republican



Party have been harming our country. You will now have enough solid knowledge to be able to explain how unholy alliances between Democrats and their special interests (unions, plaintiffs' lawyers, environmentalists and more) resulting in corruption and bad policies that are continuing to harm our country (Chapter 21).

- Wonder no longer why high taxes do not bring in more revenue. You will be armed with the facts to explain why Keynesian economic models using large amounts of government money to stimulate the economy (advocated by Democrats) have never worked and what has worked in the past. Even Keynes if he saw a Democrat plan would not recognize it as helpful. (Chapter 19).
- Duped America explains in detail the six fatal flaws of the Stimulus Bill of 2009, a while ago but never refuted by Democrats. The Democrats knew Obamanomics was a roadmap to fiscal ruin, but they moved on it anyway. (Chapters 20 and 18).
- Have your friends been telling you that Obamacare will eventually be good for this country, but eventually has never come. you'll be able to explain with clarity the reasons why its precepts are designed to decimate our health care system and further bankrupt our country. It is not by accident. No, you cannot keep your health plan or your doctor and yes, the former president was only kidding. The corrupt press knew Obama was kidding but chose not to tell (Chapter 31).

The beauty of this book is that this author, Richard Bernstein knows and proves that a well-informed public, not an over-duped low-information- crowd, is the best antidote to the onslaught of propaganda and he has worked hard to

warn his fellow Americans that if the mainstream press swears about something being good, cover all your options.

## Chapter 2 Is the Entire Press Corrupt?

### The fastest way to do something

I have a few pet sayings in life that I have created for my own use but every now and then I get to use one in formal writing. The saying I refer to now is: “The quickest way to get something done is to find, right before you begin, that the task, is already completed.”

And, so as I contemplated forming a response to a George Seldes’ question of “Is the Entire Press Corrupt?” I found him writing for FAIR.US at <https://fair.org/extra/is-the-entire-press-corrupt>

As my good fortune would have it, Seldes had already written a response to this question. Moreover, he did as good a job as anybody could have done. I wish he had written a book about it.

Before we begin receiving the answer to that question together, let me tell you about FAIR.ORG, the folks who host Seldes’ article for our edification and enjoyment. They tell a lot about themselves on their web site.

FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting) is a national media watch group that has been offering well-documented criticism of media bias and censorship since 1986. They work to invigorate the First Amendment by advocating for greater diversity in the press and by scrutinizing media practices that marginalize public interest, minority and dissenting viewpoints.

As an anti-censorship organization, they expose neglected news stories and defend working journalists when they are muzzled.

As a progressive group that leans more left than right politically, FAIR believes that structural reform is ultimately needed to break up the dominant media conglomerates, establish independent public broadcasting and promote strong non-profit sources of information. They have my blessing on this endeavor.

FAIR works with both activists and journalists. The organization maintains a regular dialogue with reporters at news outlets across the country, providing constructive critiques when called for and applauding exceptional, hard-hitting journalism. They also encourage the public to contact media with their concerns, to become media activists rather than passive consumers of news.

In its role as a watch group, *FAIR Extra!*, publishes a newsletter of media criticism, from which the article we show was taken. It also produces the weekly radio program *CounterSpin*, a show that brings the public the news behind the headlines. In addition, FAIR has a huge email list and it distributes articles and Action Alerts to its international network of over 50,000 activists. You can sign up their homepage to be included. [www.FAIR.ORG](http://www.FAIR.ORG).

Not everybody thinks FAIR is totally FAIR and unbiased. In 2011, for example, NPR's ombudsman stated that "groups that claim to be media watchdogs are guilty of using AstroTurf-type names that disguise their real missions." He pointed to FAIR, stating that "FAIR leans to the left and often criticizes the news media for giving too much time to conservative viewpoints"

Since this book is written to appeal more to those closer to the right than the left, consider that when you read this piece from

their site. For my money and time, George Seldes, the esteemed author of this work, was the real deal (He passed away a few years after writing this piece.), and there are few who could match him. This article by Seldes is thought provoking for the right and the left alike.

If all men and women were honest, George Seldes would have had little to write about way back in 1994. We humans, led by corporations, the powerful, and governments at all levels have not improved the lot of the common man since 1994 for sure. In fact, we have worsened it. If we could get George Seldes out of his entombment, and place his hands on a typewriter again, we would perhaps learn even more lessons than the lesson he gives us below as he provides his answer to the question, “Is the Entire Press Corrupt:”

One thing I will take bets on. You have asked yourself that question many times and you still are not 100% sure. Maybe 99% sure?

NOVEMBER 1994

Is the Entire Press Corrupt?

GEORGE SELDES (1890-1995)

Editor’s Note: George Seldes is one of the premier journalists and press critics of the 20th Century. He wrote this piece when he was 103 years old and he passed away a year later after a life well lived. In his reporting on World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise of Fascism and the Spanish Civil War, he always displayed a commitment to telling the whole truth — which often got him into trouble. From 1940 to 1950, he published “In fact,” the first American magazine of media criticism, which inspired I.F. Stone’s Weekly.

A member of FAIR's advisory board, Seldes at 103 years of age was still raising hell. A collection of his writings, *The George Seldes Reader*, has just been published by Barricade Books (edited by Randolph T. Holhut). The following excerpt from that book originally appeared in Seldes' self-published 1942 book, *The Facts Are...*

**What is the most powerful force in America today?**

Answer: Public opinion.

**What makes public opinion?**

Answer: The main force is the press.

**Can you trust the press?**

Answer: The baseball scores are always correct (except for a typographical error now and then). The stock market tables are correct (within the same limitation). But when it comes to news which will affect you, your daily life, your job, your relation to other peoples, your thinking on economic and social problems, and, more important today, your going to war and risking your life for a great ideal, then you cannot trust about 98 percent (or perhaps 99 1/2 percent) of the big newspaper and big magazine press of America.

**But why can't you trust the press?**

Answer: Because it has become big business. The big city presses, and the big magazines have become commercialized, or big business organizations, run with no other motive than profit for owner or stockholder (although hypocritically still maintaining the old American tradition of guiding and enlightening the people). The big press cannot exist a day without advertising. Advertising means money from big business.

I have written several books on the press and I am publishing a weekly newsletter devoted largely to criticizing

the big city newspapers (the public opinion-making newspapers) and exposing their corruption, because I still believe that the press is the greatest force in the world and can be used for good or evil. And I believe that the American press by its control of public opinion can either fool all the people into restoring a world in which one-third of the nation will again live in economic slavery without sufficient food, clothing and shelter, or it can, if it wants to, bring out of this united effort against native as well as foreign Fascism a world approaching the Jeffersonian ideal.

In 1787 Jefferson declared that “the basis of our government is the opinion of the people”: Given the choice of “a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government,” he would prefer the latter. Think of it! Jefferson was willing to let the press itself rule the country instead of merely creating the public opinion that rules.

But Jefferson did not foresee that the American press which creates opinion and which rules indirectly would become almost exclusively a millionaire’s press, or a corporation influenced press, or the medium of big business via its advertising, and therefore the corrupt press which serves private interests rather than the public interest.

If America is to be bossed by the public opinion created by its press, if it is to fight and win this war, if it is to make a great peace, then it should know the power of the most powerful force which is abroad in this land.

The press which attacked George Washington, which denounced him as everything from a traitor to a drunkard, was not a corrupt press. It was in fact a free press. But the press which from 1932 (or thereabouts) to the present-day attacks New Deal F.D. Roosevelt, the same press which tried to suppress the Old Deal Teapot Dome scandal and

the doings of Harding's Ohio gang, while sniping at every governmental action for the general welfare of the American people, is a corrupt press.

**Why has the press become corrupt?** So long as it was possible for an itinerant printer or any tiny minority possessing a few hundred dollars to set up shop and issue a newspaper, there was no monopoly of public opinion. And there was no corrupt press. In Boston, in New York, in colonial days, and later in Washington, and in every city and town in the wake of the pioneers marching westward, wandering printers kept alive the free press and produced the most picturesque era in the nation's journalism. It was still possible toward the end of the 19th Century to get out a newspaper without being a millionaire in a big city, or a company with a soul mortgaged to the banker in a small town.

But, as William Allen White — the man always chosen to prove the publishers' claim that the press still has integrity — now confesses, it takes a comparatively large bank roll to start a paper anywhere — his own *Emporia Gazette* is worth \$70,000, and if a man with another viewpoint wanted to start an opposition sheet in Emporia, it would involve a much greater sum. In Chicago or New York, it would mean the risk of a million dollars a year for many years.

Mr. White does not disagree with Frank Munsey, the great newspaper wrecker whom he saved from oblivion with the famous phrase: He turned a great profession into an 8 percent investment. The fact is now accepted that the newspaper is big business. Whether it is therefore ipso facto corrupt because big business is corrupt is still being debated.

There is only one viewpoint which the entire press of the nation expresses, respects, represents and works for: the



viewpoint of business, money, wealth and power represented by what is generally known as the *God of Things As They Are*, or the Status Quo.

The press has been united almost to a paper in defending existing conditions and opposing not only some radical plan for change but even all those mild reforms which friends of big money and the status quo, the latest of whom is Franklin Delano Roosevelt, have initiated for the double purpose of helping the Have-Nots and saving and preserving the system of the Haves.

The change that has come over America is this: that beneath the uproar the press made in our early history, the motivation was not money, it was not commercial. Today the press is motivated almost entirely by the motive of profit for itself and its backers. This profit motive not only affects the handling of all the news about labor, “defense” strikes, wage increases, the whole problem of taxation, a large part of the legislation of state and nation, but it also affects the news of world events.

It is my claim that the press, which could be the most powerful force in making this country over into an industrial democracy in which poverty would be unknown, wealth equitably distributed, every man certain of the minimum requirements of decent living (as well as the four freedoms), has, on the contrary, become the most powerful force against the general welfare of the majority of the people.



## Chapter 3 Do We Really Have a Fourth Estate?

### One day the free press just died

The press according to some, actually “own,” run the Democratic Party in 2018. They are clearly joined at the hip and consequently, they no longer deserve the title of *The Fourth Estate*

Intrinsically, the media of today train their surrogates to have a major penchant for the liberal progressive way of life. Becoming a politician of course, or a biased, corrupt, pot-smoking journalist is the perfect soft landing for the once often-stoned hippies of the sixties. The way these folks lead from the left side of our government convinces me that the weed has great staying power in the brain. Maybe it never leaves while it continues to deceive the beholder.

What conservative would not have predicted that when these demented and charred progressive minds became successful in gaining more power in governments at all levels across this nation that they would be pushing marijuana to become either the national flower or perhaps even the national bird? Have the Rose as the National Flower and the Bald Eagle as the national bird not served US well enough that it is now necessary for us to dismiss them from their service? Should the Colorado weed take the place of both as it is a plant and it makes two-legged animals believe they can soar with the most powerful of the birds.

I am convinced that The Constitution would never have been completed by 1787 if Madison knew about the 20th century

loco weed, attempts at its legality, and its potential effects on future leaders of America and their dependent families.

Whenever I read early American history, I am very impressed that so many great men, with truly brave souls and strong hearts, were able to come together to create this great country. I am sure they had their faults, and none were angels, but they were good men and women, nonetheless. They sacrificed much to come to America to avoid British tyranny, and they risked their lives to create our nation as a union of individual great states.

To make it all work, of course, there needed to be a limited central government and the states would hold the bulk of the power. They used the press to make sure that no man in an official capacity acted against the good of states.

The founders understood more than that for which they receive credit today. Like today, in America's formative years, there were evil doers from their personal experiences in the old world. I am sure it would break the hearts of the brave founders to find that the almost perfect government that they had welded together was handed off to a bunch of spoiled brat hippies from the 1960's. This new power group has little regard for how hard the founders worked to keep America for the people for eternity.

When you read the founding documents, you can sense the mistrust that the founders had for all leaders, especially those who they never met, and who they would never meet. These were men who would come long after them. Again, they valued a free press that would report on the unsavory elements in business and government and keep everybody honest. They never dreamed that the press itself would become the tyrannical agent of the rich and powerful and the political swamp.

After being cheated by England, the founders preferred to stipulate their requirements in no uncertain terms in the Constitution and Bill of Rights, rather than have a johnnie-come-lately try to usurp them. Freedom and liberty formed their core beliefs and the founders' objective was to frame a government that by its very nature would have checks and balances. The whole idea was for future generations of Americans to keep their freedoms, never having to give them up to an unjust government of unjust officials.

All men have faults. All women have faults. When the preponderance of the actions of good men and women are good, despite their faults, goodness prevails despite the faults.



# Chapter 4 The Right to Bear Arms

## Power through strength and the best armaments available

The founders believed that in order to keep America strong, and of, by, and for the people, among other things, in case the government went sour, the population needed to be armed. Since the US has an armed government, if it becomes corrupt, it stands to reason that the citizens would need an armed populace to help equal the odds to regain power if need be.

The original institution of the press stood for all of the actions of the founders. However, even if the press did its job and pointed out the transgressions and the tyranny of a government gone bad, the people still needed a means to solve the problem. They needed to be armed in order to regain control.

It was not just muskets that needed to be protected. From day one, weapons have evolved since the beginning of mankind. Rocks became sharper rocks, sharper rocks became clubs, clubs became swords, swords became spears and spears became guns of all types, with each generation of weapons getting better.

By the time the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment was written, so called assault weapons already existed. For example, there was the Belton Flintlock developed during the revolutionary war that could fire 20 or so rounds in 5 seconds with one pull of the finger.



The Belton Flintlock

There was also the Italian-made Girandoni Repeating Air rifle, where a 22 high-capacity round magazine accurately could be fired within 30 seconds. This rifle used compressed air instead of gunpowder. It was used even after the revolution when Thomas Jefferson outfitted the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The Girandoni Repeating Air Rifle



Of course, there was also the Puckle Gun, which was a big early version of a Gatling gun created 60 years before the Revolutionary War. There were others such as the Pepper box



revolvers. Some could hold over 20 rounds and were developed hundreds of years before the founding fathers. The pepperbox is shown below:



Pepper Box Revolver

Not only were the founding fathers aware of these weapons, they were fans of such weapons for the good of America. The founders were aware of such great guns of the day and when they talked about the right to bear arms, they were not talking about pea shooters.

The original purpose of the second amendment was to offer citizens the opportunity to avoid the type of tyrannical rule that they came to America to escape. Fortunately, we do not see our modern government shooting at American citizens, because our government was designed to be fair to all. Even with the abdication of the fourth estate, Americans still understand the sweet smell of freedom.

However, throughout history, political and social unrest can cause a poor governmental response and there may be

unforeseen consequences that impugn the rights of individuals. Having the ability to fight back is key to a long-standing democracy.

To protect themselves from a government that, however inadvertently, no longer chooses to protect the people, or even worse, attempts to persecute them, citizens must be able to maintain their own arms. It is not at all about hunting and target shooting.

The second amendment was not written so that Americans could enjoy the recreation of hunting or find pleasure in target practice. The right to bear arms is one of the founding principles for both self-protection and for the ability of the citizenry to resist an oppressive government.

The founders knew that imperfect humans would in time; try to snatch their "more perfect union" from the people. So, they worked hard to save us from that eventuality. The right to bear arms gives all people an opportunity to fight back when government begins to get too grabby.

Think about the big black car showing up because Dad said something wrong. Do you want Dad taken away or do you think after the first tire is blown out, the car may choose to wobble down the street?

One can define an oppressive government as a government that takes from the producers and gives to the non-producers. During the Obama years, there were many who referred to the former president as redistributive and our liberal progressive CEO as biased towards the Democrat position on the Second Amendment.

The founders worried that this might happen and it seemed to be happening under President Obama. President Trump came

along non-too-soon. Despite the solid framework of the Constitution, including separation of powers and a default mode that always favors the people, the prior administration reminded us that a government of unscrupulous leaders might someday take over. That day arrived for many and this time we survived it. Donald Trump made America believe in itself again.

My point is that the second amendment is written in a way that applies to all weapons, contrary to what today's corrupt press teaches. The founding fathers wrote it this way in full knowledge, so as to include very serious, effective weapons. Why should the citizen militias or state militias be less powerful than the feds if the feds become oppressive?

The bottom line is that when a progressive socialist journalist says that the second amendment is for muskets, it is fake history. The press needs to stop misinforming the American public.

The last thing Americans should agree to do is to give up our arms. It sure would help to have a loyal press on our side in this important matter. But, those days are gone.

As time went by, the press grew in power and stopped being 100% allegiant to the cause of democracy. As the press became more formal as a business, Americans saw the notion of the modern newspaper as emulating a European invention.

Making a buck became the prime directive.



# Chapter 5 The Power of the Press

## Press history & politics

The oldest direct ancestors of any early US newspapers were the handwritten news sheets that circulated widely in Venice as early as 1566. Printed newspapers were published weekly in Germany from 1609. However, governments, when powerful enough, resisted the publishing of government information. Once the government had disarmed the people, it was able to disarm the press. Governments in autocratic nations especially, do not like accountability to the people.

Consequently, the press was often heavily censored by the government and were permitted to report only “foreign” news. If they complained, there would be a change in the name under the title: Editor in Chief. This is why Americans want a truly free press and are not about to give up their guns.

Trying to be a better government, the English relaxed censorship in 1695. After that, newspapers flourished in London and a few other cities including in the colonies in Boston and Philadelphia. It was still some time for the Revolution to begin in the 1770’s, with the Constitution coming forth in the late 1780’s.

Just fifty years later in the America of the 1830s, the newspaper “industry” had progressed to the point in which there were already high-speed presses capable of printing thousands of newspapers cheaply. Thus, low cost daily papers appeared in major cities, and a big paper information industry was born.

Somebody always owned the newspapers and they were not always motivated by pure patriotism. Somebody had to pay for the newspaper owners to make money. Most had political sponsors, one way or another. Some say that in about 1900, advertising revenues became more important than political party support.

The papers were becoming more of a business than a check on runaway government. In New York City, newspaper wars eventually pushed circulation to the level of a million copies a day. In England and Scotland, the tendency was for national newspapers to dominate sales. But, their countries were much smaller than the US.

Of course, like today, not all opinions on the matter of news were the same. American newspapers clearly were very partisan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. “Editors,” wrote one historian examining the period, “unabashedly shaped the news and their editorial comment to partisan purposes.” Perhaps there was some fake news back then. The papers had their own philosophies and often their editorial pages sought to “convert the doubters, recover the wavering, and hold the committed.” To what? Answer: to whatever the paper was selling.

The power of the press, one journalist from that era candidly explained, consisted “not in its logic or eloquence, but in its ability to manufacture facts, or to give coloring to facts that have occurred.”

There were Party newspapers like today’s Democratic Party that gave one-sided versions of the news. Papers in opposition to Andrew Jackson for example, in 1828 attacked him for marrying a woman before her divorce had been finalized. He was the violator of marital virtue, a seducer. Does that sound familiar? Where would America be without great men like Andrew Jackson?

It was all newspapers until the rise of radio in the 1930s but even then, newsprint was the favored media, delivered everyday by paperboys across the country. Radio had a small impact but when television became prevalent in the 1950's and onward, this third arm of the media undercut the newspaper audience, wherever there was a B/W TV and still does with Color models.

At the time, afternoon papers could barely survive. Newspapers as we know are still struggling. From then, there was the rise of the Internet in the 1990's and into the 2000's. Then, smart phones after 2010 proved financially crippling as an alternative to morning papers as advertisers deserted, and subscribers found other ways to spend their money. Additionally, a new phenomenon sprung up called social media.

This was not based on new hardware per se but used the newest iterations of all types of computer hardware—clients, servers, phones, mainframes etc. Social media is the collective of all online communications channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content-sharing and collaboration.

Websites and applications dedicated to such newer notions as forums, microblogging, social networking, social bookmarking, social curation, and wikis are among the different types of social media. This area is evolving so quickly, that there may be others before this book is released.

Most of us know the prominent examples of social media by their brand names as opposed to their generic functions.

**Facebook**, for example is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.

**Twitter** is a free microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called tweets. Twitter members can broadcast tweets and follow other users' tweets by using multiple platforms and devices.

**Google+** (pronounced Google plus) is Google's social networking project, designed to replicate the way people interact offline more closely than is the case in other social networking services. The project's slogan is "Real-life sharing rethought for the web."

**Wikipedia** is a free, open content online encyclopedia created through the collaborative effort of a community of users known as Wikipedians. Anyone registered on the site can create an article for publication; registration is not required to edit articles. Wikipedia was founded in January of 2001.

**LinkedIn** is a social networking site designed specifically for the business community. The goal of the site is to allow registered members to establish and document networks of people they know and trust professionally.

**Reddit** is a social news website and forum where stories are socially curated and promoted by site members. The site is composed of hundreds of sub-communities, known as "subreddits."

**Pinterest** is a social curation website for sharing and categorizing images found online. Pinterest requires brief descriptions, but the main focus of the site is visual. Clicking on an image will take you to the original source, for example.

In big cities, the popularity of newspapers ratings mattered and because of the chase for higher ratings and circulation the media fell prey to populism. Because good revenue was essential for good businesses, they began to fail in their primary fourth estate



duty to keep the public properly informed. After all, nobody was feeding them cash. Without subscription and advertising revenue, they could not afford ink, newsprint, or people. But, nonetheless, newspapers had such control over the opinion of people, they still do exist but in a diminished role.

A natural tension always seemed to exist between politics and the media and scholars will say that is right and necessary. Without a free press there is no public sphere, no informed citizen and thus no democracy. But, there have been times, and today is one of those times that collusion between the fourth estate and one or both of the political Parties has diminished the objectivity of the press.

The fourth estate, however, appears to be more powerful than ever today but not necessarily in its role as protector of truth and watchdog of government. The press seems to produce a daily soap opera against Donald Trump seven days a week to keep control over the low-information crowd.

The fourth estate if we can call it that is now shaped by two dominating principles - sensationalism and simplification. American sociologist Robert McChesney, in his book *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*, defines this as the consequence of "hyper commercialization".

It led to ever fiercer ratings and circulation wars, which inevitably led to what is called the "dumbing down of America". To succeed, all parts of the media industry, paper, voice, video, and social. Attempts to appeal to the lower instincts of people—especially the low information crowd. The less information people have, the more they fall for the drivel of those that appear to be important.

In the "Democratic age," news and information have been transformed. The Democratic Party learned the public relations

game first and they learned it very well. It is a game that manipulates voters rather than attempts to encourage their candidates to please the voters.

The way politics is covered by the media has also changed radically. Papers don't "report" news. They most often present the news according to their preferences and prejudices. Some important news personalities actually question whether the fake news tail is actually wagging the dog. They pray that it is not as once in bed with the Democratic Party even the dogs can tell a feathered tick from a feathered tick.

Study after study shows that the “mainstream media” leans left, and that an overwhelming fraction of journalists are liberal. Moreover, the work of journalists today exudes their bias for the left and they no longer try to hide it. They wear it like a badge of honor.

Some might disagree, but the extent of the observed bias, of course, depends on personal definitions of liberal and conservative. The media is not close to perfect and in the years approaching 2020, they care less about being true to their profession.,

For example, the media has other biases: towards controversy and producing content that is profitable. Nonetheless a reporter would be laughed out of town if he or she did not acknowledge that the median journalist in America is way to the left of the median American voter, and that this affects how the news is presented to the public.

Some ask if the Democratic Party own all the media or does it just seem so. Or does all the media together own the Democratic Party. The Republicans are still in the stone age and without Trump, they never would have ever elected a president until 3000, and then there is no certainty.

The growth of media columnists has led to the birth of a "Commentariat". It contains a few excellent and analytical minds, but all too often reasonable, balanced voices are drowned out by journalists who seem untainted by facts or deeper knowledge but replace this with gleefully presented prejudices.

A prime example of this is that Democrats can get away with fake news today. It is actually expected and there are few consequences other than Trump's Fake News Wards. More interestingly, journalists can get away with fake news also by having the Democrats swear to it. The public seems to give all things liberal a pass. Meanwhile, people by being exposed to all the lies and little truth, are slowly getting sick of the media games.

And, so, sensationalism and oversimplification affect the output of all media. There is less room for a balanced approach, and maybe no room at all. Why not just go for a crass headline or an extraordinary story? The merciless hunt for weaknesses and inconsistencies of politicians and other public figures has become prevalent.

If the worst thing for example, to happen in real-time for President Trump in one day's time was that he woke up ready to go to work, somebody would have a piece ready to put down the notion of work as desirable.

I know you know what I mean. It is getting so disgusting that the yokels from fly-over country as the mainstream press likes to think of them, are none too happy after telling their kids for 40 years not to lie.

The free press is dead. Long live the free press. Humph! All this has nonsense has contributed to a change of Democratic politics

for the worse. The electorate has become hostile and distrustful of the media and politicians alike.

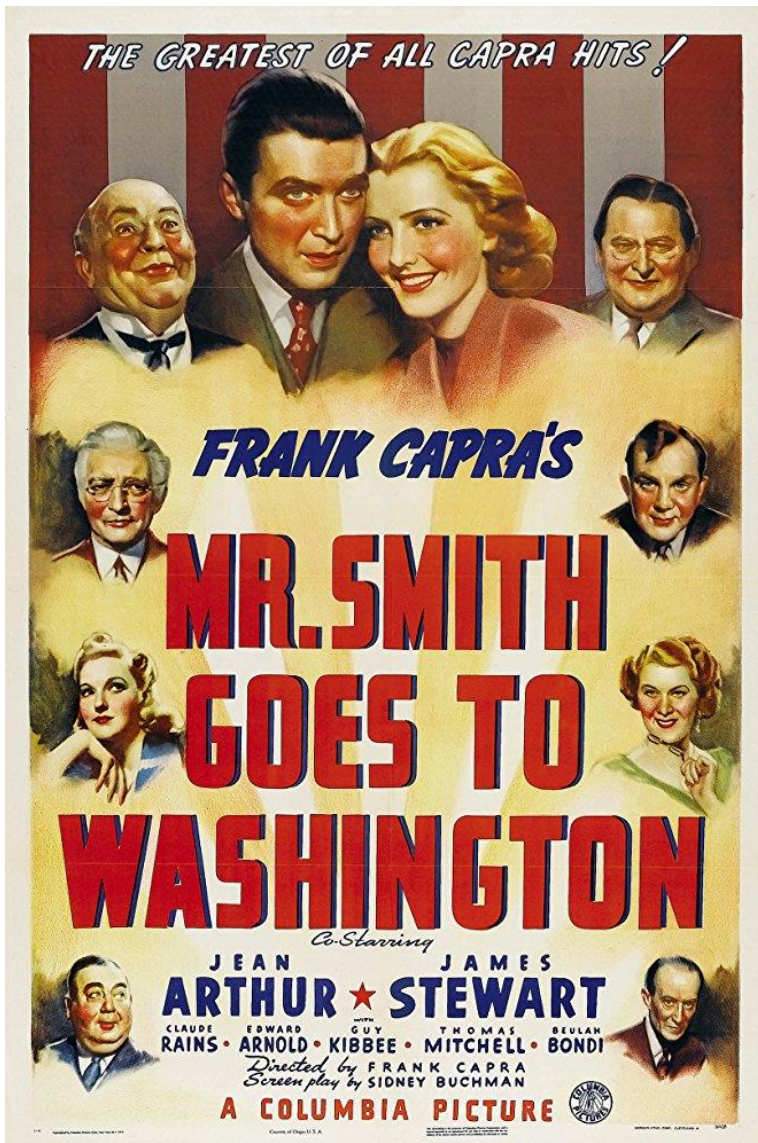
Trust has broken down threefold, between people and politicians, media and people, journalists and politicians. The latter now observe each other with deep distrust and mutual antipathy. A vicious circle has established itself. *Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive.*

The US Republic, using its ancient form of Democracy and its imposition of a civil society, need informed citizens for the tools provided by the founders to work. Too many citizens today decide that governments and politics do not matter, and they have no interest in learning what is going on. There are what have been called by more and more, the low information voters, who hang on every word of the corrupt press. These hurt our democracy worse than intelligent citizens who are simply disinterested.

Without a resurgence of interest by the people in what is happening, we will keep getting the poor government we deserve. The country and its people will have difficulties in surviving as a free and promising land. Without media organizations made to be aware of their own power and responsibility, an informed citizenship cannot be sustained. And thus, the end of a fourth estate.

What our Republic has today is an electorate which is highly informed about entertainment, consumer goods and celebrities, while being uninterested in and/or deeply cynical about politics, equipped with short attention spans and a growing tendency to demand instant gratification. Politics in our country and in other western democracies is morphing into a strange kind of hybrid, a semi-plebiscitary system, in which the mass media represent the new power.

So, we ask rhetorically but for real, *does the Democratic party in the US own the media or does the media own the Democratic Party?* Maybe only the Republicans if like *snakes, sick of their skins*, can discard their current personalities they may be able to survive as a party and save America. But, the prospects do not look good as Republican Party leadership seems disinterested. They too love their power more than their roles in our democracy.



I can't see the corrupt press or the ultra-compromised Democratic Party bringing anything good to America in the future. Perhaps a new party such as the American Party or The John Doe Party, or The Values Party can emerge and become our best hope for the future.

Maybe, we can even find great leaders such as Ronald Reagan or Donald Trump. Maybe there is a younger version of Obe Wan Kinobe out there someplace waiting to rescue America from its muck. Perhaps if it is Mr. Kinobe, he can affect the people as did Jimmy Stewart in *It's a Wonderful Life* or Jefferson Smith in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. For sure something that is not happening today needs to happen. If we need the power of the FORCE, so be it!

Would that not be wonderful?

If this trend cannot be reversed the political arena might become even emptier than it is now. It might only be filled again if seductive populism calls. When democracy is running out of control, it is the politicians who suffer first. Once the democrats in ancient Athens and during the French Revolution had developed a taste for more power, they looked for and found victims as easily as the authoritarian tyrannies did and they disposed of them quickly. Human nature often spoils all attempts at perfection.

# Chapter 6 Great Patriots Are Few & Far Between

## Many great writers among the founders

James Madison, Fourth President and a valuable member of the founding team, is given credit for writing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He was the primary author of both historical documents. The overriding model for the nation was limited government and power of the people, for the people, and by the people.

By all standards, Madison was a conservative. He was not aware that about 150 years later, new age hippies would be creating issues with his great work. Otherwise, this articulate patriot would have created specific verbiage restricting hippies and former hippies from ever engaging in any government leadership activity. Unfortunately, we are now stuck with them, since they already run the country from the deep state. One by one, they do seem to be getting flushed out, though too slowly for those of us paying close attention.

Madison had a negative view of liberalism and progressivism. They were not terms in use back then. Quite simply Madison saw no *greater good* in taking from the treasury of the people and giving it to anybody. Madison believed that if you earned it; you keep it! Conservatives today wish some leader would emerge with similar thoughts.

John Boehner, when he was House Leader, proved countless times that he was not to that man, much to the chagrin of those who put him in office.

Today, populists, nationalists, and conservatives are watching President Trump so that he practices all the great ideas he preached in his great campaign speeches. Even Donald Trump does not get a pass on trust even though he is doing better than anybody in office since Reagan.

An example of Madison's conservative views was when he rejected a request to subsidize some 1800 era US fisherman with funds from the public treasury. Here is what he wrote:

"If Congress can employ money indefinitely to the general welfare, and are the sole and supreme judges of the general welfare...in short, everything, from the highest object of state legislation down to the most minute object of police, would be thrown under the power of Congress.... Were the power of Congress to be established in the latitude contended for, it would subvert the very foundations, and transmute the very nature of the limited Government established by the people of America."

This is more than simply suggesting that money is the root of all evil. There is no doubt that James Madison was against social welfare. As the main architect of the Constitution, Madison intended that which is yours to continue to be yours and that which is mine to continue to be mine. With Madison, charity, a desirable attribute in all men, is an individual thing, not a government thing.

How could a conservative of today not again vote for Madison for President? Davey Crocket, known for his last fight in the Alamo, was a member of the House of Representatives when he said, "Every member on this floor knows it. We have the right



as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right to appropriate a dollar of the public money."

Another famous Madison quote comes right to the point: "I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents." Today, at least two-thirds of what at the time was a \$2.5 trillion federal budget is spent on what Madison would call the "objects of benevolence." That is why we are broke. Our representatives choose to represent their next election more than they represent the people.

The well-to-do hippies of today, a.k.a., our finest politicians living in their golden years in gated communities far away from the people, would love to undo the Second Amendment and perhaps the whole Bill of Rights, along with many other freedoms. The more powerless they can make the people; the more powerful this new breed of corrupt politicians can become. The higher in government they get, the more they choose to attack the entire Bill of Rights.

The Fourth Estate, aka the press, aka the mainstream media, is supposed to serve as a watchdog so that Congress does not give it all away. Nonetheless Democrats in Congress would give every dime they could from our treasury until of course, asked to replace a dime from their own pockets.

Alone and in groups, there are more and more people talking about how we can re-achieve a trustworthy press that works for America and not just for the Democratic Party.

One such group, known as the Daily Signal offers this solicitation and a major caution about the press to its readers:

## **Note for our Readers:**

Trust in the mainstream media is at a historic low—and rightfully so given the behavior of many journalists in Washington, D.C.

Ever since Donald Trump was elected president, it is painfully clear that the mainstream media covers liberals glowingly and conservatives critically.

Now journalists spread false, negative rumors about President Trump before any evidence is even produced.

Americans need an alternative to the mainstream media. That's why The Daily Signal exists.

The Daily Signal's mission is to give Americans the real, unvarnished truth about what is happening in Washington and what must be done to save our country.

Our dedicated team of more than 100 journalists and policy experts rely on the financial support of patriots like you.

Your donation helps us fight for access to our nation's leaders and report the facts.

You deserve the truth about what's going on in Washington.

Please make a gift to support The Daily Signal.

# Chapter 7 Down with the First Amendment!

## Democrats are against long-standing American principles

After showing their disdain for the Second Amendment, and getting away with it, the First Amendment has become a target of modern Democrats and the corrupt press. They work in tandem along with coffee-breath university professors who beat the drum for Marxism and socialism, and anything that is un-American.

It was tough running America during the Obama presidency on the brink of socialism, with the First Amendment hanging out there like a big sore on the backs of enlightened progressive leadership. What is in the First Amendment to the Constitution that annoys progressive politicians so much that places it in jeopardy today?

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."*

That is it folks, in its entirety. If there is any part of Amendment One that progressives think is valid, they are surely not out there advocating for it. Do the readers find any value in the First Amendment? Go ahead, take a chance. Read it again!

The First Amendment is not a list of words and it is not a lot of words; but it is very clear. Free speech is essential for freedom and liberty to exist. Freedom of the press can be considered a subset of free speech. Yet, the founders were so concerned about the press being a major voice in government that they gave the “fourth estate,” its own mention in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Consequently, over the ages, journalism schools in our finest universities taught that the primary purpose of journalism is to hold power to account. Somewhere between then and now, many American Universities forgot about the important mission they served. The First Amendment guarantees the right, but it is not good enough to merely be free to speak.

On today’s college campuses, misguided millennials, led by beleaguered coffee-breath anti-American professors have such low regard for free speech that they have confined it to just a few places on campus. The notion of a free speech zone would be anathema to James Madison and the founders for all the blood that was spilled in the Revolution.

The Trump Administration does not like Universities taking away the right of free speech anywhere in public and the Department of Justice is taking action slowly but surely. Maybe the free press can also be reinvigorated.

The DOJ filed a statement of interest in October 2017, in the case of Kevin Shaw, a California student at Los Angeles Pierce College, who tried to hand out copies of the Constitution on campus and was told he was only allowed to do so in a small, designated, free speech zone after he obtained a permit. Shaw said the college’s system of applying for permits allows administrators unchecked authority to grant or deny permits.

In countries that are one-man-shows, it starts by silencing the press, then healthcare, then all guns are confiscated. The one man gets to consolidate power with no obvious opposition. I wonder if that is what students and faculty and coffee-breath university administrators actually want.

The implication of the press being mentioned in Amendment One is that (honest) journalists have an obligation to confront the government when it strays from basic US principles in any way. Wouldn't that be nice if it were the way journalists chose to behave today?

The notion of a free press came about at the same time that America came about. It was a part of our government from day one. It was deliberately constructed by the framers of our Constitution to instill the spirit of self-determination as a consummate, essential ingredient in the building, continuance, and the durability of a free society. A strong and free country and a strong free press were deemed forever inseparable.

Over the years, the press, not the free society, has abdicated its important role. If your children are journalists, please remind them to be honest with the people.

The founders and the early patriots were fully tuned into the value of a free press being essential to the Republic. John Adams; from an essay written for the Boston Gazette cautioned new Americans in this writing:

"Be not intimidated, therefore, by any terrors, from publishing with the utmost freedom whatever can be warranted by the laws of your country, nor suffer yourselves to be wheeled out of your library by any pretense of politeness, delicacy or decency. These, as they are often used, are but three different names for hypocrisy, chicanery and cowardice."

How to govern a sovereign nation is a topic with which the most famous historical leaders have grappled at one time or another from the beginning of time. We can learn a lot from Napoleon Bonaparte, for example, though he never lived in the US.

Bonaparte deeply feared, yet respected, a free press:

"A journalist is a grumbler, a censorer, a giver of advice, a regent of sovereigns, a tutor of nations. Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

Benjamin Franklin was a staunch advocate for religious tolerance and a free press. He firmly believed that human beings had a right to control their own lives and he had an unshakeable faith in the wisdom of the common man. Here are some cautions about a free press from one of America's finest patriots:

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freedom of speech." and "No tyrannical society can long exist when it cannot control the flow of information."

Franklin in these passages was advocating that Americans and the American free press be able to continue to posterity the right to speak or write with impunity.

Franklin had a well-known sharp wit and he used it frequently such as in a 1779 letter to his friend Andre Morellet (translated from the French): "Behold the rain which descends from heaven upon our vineyards, and which incorporates itself with the grapes to be changed into wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy." Many breweries have produced great beer T-shirts, projecting Franklin's comments about wine onto the beer population. One thing is for sure, Ben Franklin believed that God loves us all.

Thomas Jefferson was another believer in the freedom of the press:

"The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure."

Abraham Lincoln is revered as one of the founders though he was born after America was well established. Nonetheless, he too had a proper perspective on freedom of the press:

"Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe."

Democratic Leadership in recent years has become very progressive and the Party appears on the way to advocating a toppling of capitalism in favor of socialism. Historians know that socialism has never worked in any country from the beginning of time. For their own reasons, today's leaders of the Democratic Party do not see eye to eye with the founding principles, including freedom of expression.

This is a big problem and the overriding thesis in this book explores the value of the free press and offers solutions for dealing with the problems with the rampant corruption of the press (aka media) today. An institution founded to protect the people from tyranny is now exerting tyrannical tendencies in its unholy alliance with the Democratic Party. This does not serve the people.

Many, including your humble author believe the press in general today have become corrupt by being too closely aligned in ideology with the liberal progressive socialists who run the Democratic Party. With a press as established in the

boardrooms of secret corporations always favoring a progressive agenda, we the people today are not free; nor is our press.

Before we continue on, it is noteworthy that there have been regimes in history that have feared the press because they (the regimes) preferred to operate in secrecy and to keep the people in the dark. Here are two quotes from two separate world leaders of the early 20th century. In their time, these two were very powerful and neither were about to be bullied by the press for any reason. Both of these leaders offered very negative opinions on the right for a free and powerful press to exist.

They both understood that the great power of the press could persuade people to insist on correcting the failings of rulers, no matter how powerful. Thus, as rulers, they knew they could not tolerate a press that was free to speak the truth. They also knew that as an aid to maintaining their power, it would help for them to compel the cooperation of the press to serve the ends of the state.

"Why should freedom of speech and freedom of the press be allowed? Why should a government which is doing what it believes to be right allow itself to be criticized? It would not allow opposition by lethal weapons. Ideas are much more fatal things than guns. Why should any man be allowed to buy a printing press and disseminate pernicious opinion calculated to embarrass the government?" Nikolai Lenin circa 1920

"The organization of our press has truly been a success. Our law concerning the press is such that divergences of opinion between members of the government are no longer an occasion for public exhibitions, which are not the newspapers' business. We've eliminated that conception of political freedom which holds that everybody has the right to say whatever comes into his head." Adolf Hitler circa 1939



Think of a world in which these men ruled autocratically with no constraints. Contrast that with the words of Winston Churchill below:

"A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that free men prize; it is the most dangerous foe of tyranny. ... Under dictatorship the press is bound to languish, and the loudspeaker and the film to become more important. But where free institutions are indigenous to the soil and men have the habit of liberty, the press will continue to be the Fourth Estate, the vigilant guardian of the rights of the ordinary citizen."

It is important for all Americans to understand the intention of the founders and the origins of the free press in America. It helps demonstrate how essential extremely bright people believe that the press as an instrument of the people, is essential for the continuance of liberty and freedom, and the avoidance of totalitarian and tyrannical regimes.

Let us step back a minute here so we can review the meaning of tyranny, a notion which is often misunderstood, and which must be understood so it can be avoided.

**Tyranny** is usually thought of as cruel and oppressive, and it often is. However, the original definition of the term was—rule by persons who lack *legitimacy*, whether they be malign or benevolent. Historically, benign tyrannies have tended to be insecure, and to try to maintain their power by becoming increasingly oppressive. Therefore, rule that initially seems benign is inherently dangerous, and the only security is to maintain legitimacy — an unbroken accountability to the people through the framework of a written constitution that provides for election of key officials and the division of powers among branches and officials in a way that avoids concentration of powers in the

hands of a few persons who might then abuse those powers.

If the founders and the patriots had believed that America would never face the possibility of a tyrannical government, they would not have been so careful in the crafting of the documents forming our government. Their objective therefore was to capture forever our precepts of life, liberty and individual ownership of property. The founders gave all rights to the people and even with that, scoundrels in the government have stolen many rights with impunity, while we the people sleep, unaware.

We no longer have this patriotic founding government in place. We, the people must therefore fight our own fight for our own homes, our own freedoms, and our own values. If we elect the wrong people, our republic along with our freedom may disappear. We have what we have.

Over the years, our leaders, mostly in the Democratic Party (I admit I am a Democrat) have drifted off the path the founders outlined, and they have weakened the fundamental precepts of our republic. These precepts include the notion of a free and independent press.

Historians do not argue that this has happened to US. Some idealists think it is for the better. I think it is for the better for only the most powerful, the elitists, the government, and the huge news corporations. It is not good for the people upon which and for which this great form of government was originally crafted.

The free press died in America in the 20th Century. Everybody paying attention is aware of its death, but some suggest different dates. My facts show that somewhere between the 1970's and today we lost our free press. In the 1970's the liberal media

hung President Nixon out to dry for a cover-up in which nobody died. Meanwhile in our time, the liberal media, run by the crazed and illogical hippies of yesteryear, permitted the President and the Secretary of State to cover-up four American deaths in Benghazi. Between then and now, the free press was killed dead and it died without a whimper. Nobody in the establishment press with enough honesty was left to write about it.

Bye Bye Miss American Pie. Along with the music of the masters, the free press has died.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/04/08/gloomy-don-mclean-reveals-meaning-of-american-pie-and-sells-lyrics-for-1-2-million/?utm\\_term=.eea59501ec66](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/04/08/gloomy-don-mclean-reveals-meaning-of-american-pie-and-sells-lyrics-for-1-2-million/?utm_term=.eea59501ec66)

But, there is always hope. The Deep State is now minimized after just a year of President Trump. Let's hope this subversive idea of taking over America and leaving the electorate behind is erased forever by the next seven years of good government.

None of this is funny or cute. I am convinced that if the hippies from the '60's believe they have the power, or they can pretend to the Republicans that they have the power, we may see social calamity in the short term in the name of social justice.

Republicans without Donald J. Trump as the man willing to take it all on would again weep for their defeat rather than try to win as it seems that is their new nature. Many Americans thank God for the impact of Donald Trump, a truly refreshing soul, who seems to enjoy tackling the corrupt press of today for our behalf. Oh, yes, we do enjoy that battle immensely!

Even with a press that is dominated by liberal corporations and which thus is no longer free, people can still communicate with each other better than when Nikolei Lenin and Adolph Hitler

dominated the messages in their regimes. The difference now is that many Americans are fooled by a corrupt press influenced by the Democratic Party.

Because it is easier to believe than to confront, the weakest Americans have decided that nothing bad can happen to America, and so they are not alert to any imminent danger. Many countries such as the Roman Empire get the government they deserve and when they fall, they fall hard, and the most surprised are those who trusted their government with blind faith.

In History, it is documented that the Russian and the German people did not believe their good lives would change. But, they learned otherwise as their “charismatic leaders” amassed huge power...but it was too late. They’d given up their guns, their doctors, and their free press to their government. There was no salvation until the allies won the big war.

Can freedom be a right that can never be taken away when the people willingly vote in regimes whose major interests include doing away with their inalienable rights? The un-free press of today, which I simply call the corrupt media, has become the left's major conduit in its fight to change the nation fundamentally. They do not like our American and they think they might be happier with something looks more like Cuba, Iran, Afghanistan, or Venezuela. That, my friends, is why I write so many essays and so many books. It is my resistance to the takeover of America by a foreign power from within.

The founders and even Napoleon present valid arguments that an independent media, a free press, is critical for the very existence of an informed democracy. Today we find the corrupt, bought and paid for corporate owned media in bed with the economic and political powers, which they are supposed to monitor.

Ironically, it seems that only Fox News is watching the Hen House! Repeat that to yourself a few times and you will see how silly it is. Fox is the only media group guarding our precious country, and it does it with hands tied behind its back. Of course, there is Talk Radio and that truly is a godsend to counteract the lies of the so-called *mainstream journalists*. Who is out there loudly advocating for America and Americans? If they were out there, we would have heard them. We would know their names.

Conservative Americans are a big force in American politics today, but we cannot last much longer if we are represented only by one media source. As good as it may be, Fox News, the group that claims it is fair and balanced, is simply not enough to sustain liberty and freedom for US all. We must do better.



# Chapter 8 Germany & Russia Provide Lessons

## Honesty of the press—first attribute to go

Corporations lie with far more authority, and far greater frequency than the public might believe. Corporations spend a lot of dollars staffing a PR department for public relations purposes. There is little concern and no budget for honesty in the messages that come forth.

Actually, it is not just corporations that have a penchant for spinning communications with the public. Institutions, organizations, governments, as well as corporations have huge PR staffs, whose mission is to provide a mix of as much as 90% propaganda for each 10% of truth. Actually, the 10% is probably a high number.

In government, the propaganda is even more sinister today than in the days of the Reich, when the head of the PR Department held the title, *Minister of Propaganda*. Today, no organization calls its spiel propaganda, but it is what it is.

While Germany was proud to have a Minister of Propaganda, Russia stayed away from a prime communicator, with such a title. Instead, after the revolution; it continued to use the name Pravda, as the name of its propaganda arm.

Hard to believe but nonetheless, Pravda means "truth." At one time before the revolution, Pravda was a newspaper that gave the people the truth. Instead of using the word "propaganda," in

any form, the communists in Russia stole the once people-oriented Pravda newspaper's authenticity and permitted it to continue as the sole voice of the people in the country. Its message changed to state propaganda. Any truth that could be discussed in private could not be printed, without somebody facing the ultimate punishment.

We still have truth left in America, from talk radio, bloggers, Internet news outlets, and other sources galore. But the truth has vacated the mainstream media and much has been replaced by fake news. Thus, the truth is rarely heard in the still corrupt and still popular corporate "drive-by" media.

In 2017, this media met a foe like never before, Donald Trump. He labeled the lot of them the *fake news media*, and he has won most of his battles so far. President Trump is doing so well in his battle that more and more people are taking Trump's side instead of the side of the *fake news media*.

Human nature is what it is and there are still many good, trusting people in America, who simply refuse to believe the truth. For a variety of reasons, they have no problem believing the daily soap opera of agenda-driven fake news.

Nobody knows how long the truth has left before, as in all socialist and communist countries; it is shut down by the government. With President Trump, it looks like we have at least seven more years of good times until the people forget how bad it was for truth in the last administration.

Whoever ran Pravda was the Russian de-facto minister of propaganda. However, in Russia, the individual in charge changed so frequently that he never got the credit as in Germany. In Deutschland, the master of the lie, Joseph Goebbels was fully in charge of the untruth machine. He was by



title, The Reich Minister of Propaganda. In Germany of course, this translated to Der Reichsminister der Propaganda. Whether in English or German, that title for an official government position should scare the heck out of us all—unless of course that is unless we are OK with hearing lies delivered as the truth.

The word, propaganda (same in German and in English) took a bad hit after the Nazis and Soviets more or less used its philosophy to dominate their people. US Children in the 1950's were told all about propaganda as a way for the communists to suppress the people. Consequently, governments today, including the US choose to lie about the propaganda mission of their PR departments. Corporations, governments, and other establishments do the same.

Nonetheless, the mission continues to be to disseminate 90% falsehoods, but the terms have been softened to "public relations," "psychological operations", "education", or simply "information." Propaganda is a *no-no* word, because it hits the nail on the head, and the message makers fear the truth more than anything—even in the United States.

Reich Minister Goebbels is credited with alerting regular people to the value of the truth, in the press and in speech. Think about how a corrupt government would be happy to win your every thought and every word and shudder. These are Goebbels words

*If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension the truth becomes the greatest enemy of the State.*



# Chapter 9 Corporate Media

## Conservatives are well outnumbered

I regret to say that corporate ownership of today's media extends even to Fox. It is the nature of the “press” today. The players and owners are changing all the time, but the theme is the same.

Though this ownership profile may not be 100% accurate these days, it is close. MSNBC is owned by NBC and Microsoft. Comcast and GE own NBC and CNBC. CNN is owned by Time Warner and Turner Broadcasting. ABC is owned by Walt Disney Corp. CBS is owned by CBS Corporation a huge company with many interests. Fox News is owned by News Corp, the second largest media conglomerate in the world, just behind Disney, which is # 1. Rupert Murdoch and his family own a controlling interest in News Corp.

Rupert Murdoch has often shown disdain for Democrats in the past and is documented to have conservative tendencies. However, he cannot be relied on as a valid conservative since he viewed the 2008 version of Obama as a rock star, with great ideas for the country, especially in education. You may recall the dictate from the Department of Education that Kinder tots sing: Mmm Mmm Mmm—Barack Hussein Obama!

Murdoch's sons now run the organization and they are ideologically liberal, but they like making money so they do not make themselves well known at Fox.

I do wish the only thing separating conservatives from no-TV-network was somebody like Sarah Palin or Sean Hannity, or Mark Levin—rather than Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch may be a fine man. I have never met him.

However, he clearly loves money and success a lot more than country, so he would not be the guy that I would pick to be the top dog in the hierarchy that owns Fox News. The best he has done for conservatives with Fox is to give us fair and balanced.

Conservatives are a large enough pro-American group that we need our own TV network that is biased solely for the cause of conservatism, nationalism, and populism. Fox is not going to be that organization for US in the long haul. Thank the Lord for talk radio.

Ideally, from the plans of the founders, especially Madison, there would be a free press in the lower 48, Alaska and Hawaii; but there is not. If this were the case, the truth would be told in many independently owned news outlets. Today, there are many news stations, but they are mostly owned by large groups with ownership shared by just a few powerful people. Too many media outlets are owned by big corporations that care lots more about dollars than they do about you or me or America.

A look at reality will tell us that the days of the free press are over. Try to get a letter to the editor published today. We should not expect our news to be untarnished by institutionalized bias ever again.

The corrupt press gains its power by being successful in having Americans believe its drivel, and so far, low brain amperage Americans, aka “Low Information Voters,” are well up to the task. They adore the stars, the broadcasters, and anybody that looks like they are Democrat and important.

In my quiet time, I fear that perhaps Americans have been free for too long to be able to appreciate freedom. If ever I am quoted for saying anything, let it be the last sentence as it is the only way I can explain how such good people in America can be duped by such bad people for so long.

And, so if and when we can reestablish a free press, the next best thing conservatives and other America-loving people can do is to marshal a ton of countervailing power, so we never lose our press again. Countervailing power is the only solution to one-sided news, delivered by a nefarious press. It is actually the only solution to one-sided anything. Fake news is one sided news with a few extra lies thrown in to make the story more interesting.

## Countervailing Power

Without an appropriate countervailing power, on September 23, 1952, Jersey Joe Walcott would have arrived for the Heavyweight Boxing Championship of the World, and there would have been no opponent that day for the big fight. In that scenario, if lifetimes were unlimited, Walcott might still be champion today.

History records this event with Walcott having to make a title defense that day in the hope of retaining his champion status. As most things in a free and competitive society; there was a countervailing power. It was enough to overcome even the great Jersey Joe Walcott.

Rocky Marchegiano (Marciano), 28 years old at the time, showed up as the countervailing power. Yet, after the first round, it appeared that Marciano was not even in the building. Both Elvis and Marciano reportedly had left the ring, but

Marciano eventually came back later in the fight. Elvis is still lost.

Walcott dropped Marciano and continued to add points round after round. Sometimes countervailing power does not succeed at first, but it is there to limit the success of the most powerful.

Marciano was undefeated going into the fight, and as history shows, though a bit unsteady after the first-round knockdown, he survived the Walcott onslaught until the thirteenth round. In the thirteenth, Walcott was tired from being punched in the body for twelve straight rounds and he dropped his guard hoping to guard against the punishing body and arms onslaught. This is characterized by some as his preparing to go into a clench and by others as his trademark feint, preparing his right hand for the kill.

However, Marciano, known for his "Suzie Q," landed before the setup was arranged. A right cross softened up Walcott and then a left hook brought Walcott to his knees. His arm was hanging over the ropes. After the fight, the world learned Marciano was headed for his first loss as the count was 8–4, 7–5 and 7–4. But, he won by a knockout, despite how bad it once looked for him.

So, what does this have to do with a free press? With no countervailing power, the powerful (champion in this case) always wins. With no other press than a 6.5 to .5 lopsided media in the US, (6 straight liberal and one—Fox, half and half) it might as well be a Walcott v a Tiny Tim version of Marciano showing up every day to root for conservatives. The message is that conservatives need a real Marciano in our corner. Thirteen to one odds; does not give non-liberals much of a chance for the future without a big change in popular media coverage.

If this were a nation interested in fairness today, all journalists would recognize that they compromise themselves each time they falsely lift up their guy and they damn the other guy. Yet, they do it all the time.

Look at their attempts to destroy Donald Trump every day. The odds are one to thirteen that a conservative word can ever leak out in this corrupt press environment. So, as a conservative, I ask, "Can this ever be fixed?"

Yes, it can! Other news organizations must be created to face off with the liberal progressive press in all media types. Without a countervailing view, most Americans actually will continue to think that MSNBC is fair and balanced. That was not a joke! But, it sure is a joke! The Daily Signal is a start.

Fox's notion of fair and balanced is another way of saying that the network does not advocate for conservatives. Yet, all the other networks listed above are in the tank for the liberal progressive socialist ideology. So, from what I see, conservatives are stuck with just half a network. Half a network is better than none. I sure do agree with that.

Tonight, at news time, I engaged in the old channel flip flop. I flipped, and I flopped, I saw all the superstar anchors across all of the progressive networks giving their one-sided view of the world. They all said the same thing. To make it fair, I used only my left eye.

How can Republicans and staunch conservatives with a ton of money (the "rich" if you will—if that word has not been sullied too much by hypocritical rich news anchors on network TV), think that our message can get out without owning a few conservative news stations, or at least a few regular for-profit stations with extended conservative news coverage.

The people were unquestionably duped in two of the three last elections by the liberal media who were in the tank for Obama. How could Obama have lost with such media favor and no charge for all the positive press that he received?

He did not lose and thus, we rarely see Dick Morris and Carl Rove on Fox to this day. Donald Trump broke through the barrier and literally outfoxed the news media. But, how many Donald Trump's or Ronald Reagans will we see in our lifetimes. We need better than a one-time fix.

Conservatives must answer this challenge with a few conservative news networks of our own. Conservative pundits getting half the time on Fox is not close to being enough.

In the next election, just like this past one, the American people are not about to do library research to determine who is worthy of their vote. Moreover, without a countervailing news power on the conservative side, they are not going to hear many encouraging words about any conservative candidate. The big-time news organizations that I already listed are corrupt and they will lie and create fake news all day for the Democrat's daily soap opera. I sure hope you do not fall for it.

If capable Republicans or conservatives really do not want liberal progressives to rule America, it is time to put up or shut up. Get your wallets out and build or buy about four or five or six new TV networks and begin to acquire newspapers and radio stations. Otherwise just shut up because without countervailing power, Jersey Joe wins the fight every time and knocks Marciano and the American people out of their rightful place in history.

I have heard some Americans ask if corporations (especially those owning the major news networks) have lost their ethical



compass (if they ever had one)? Well, there are no ethics or morals on network TV so how is that for an answer?

In this light, should Americans be surprised that lies are being served up on television stations across the US, 24 hours a day, and the truth has become an endangered species? Thank Donald Trump for the term “fake news.” Just having that term available helps we the people be wary of it.

Must it hit us all directly in the face for us to get it? Without new conservative networks, there is no hope for conservative thought in America—at least on network TV. Just about a year and a half ago, as an example, a typically conservative news anchor on a Fox morning show, Martha MacCallum; grilled a conservative about why the Republicans in Congress won't just go ahead and give Obama his tax rate increase to solve an impasse?

The representative explained that the Republicans were willing to give \$800 billion in revenue, but no tax rate increases and yet MacCallum kept at him, looking for him to make a mistake or give her some juicy news. She could have been on the other side as far as I was concerned. My point is that Fox is not pro-conservative, and when a middle-of-the-roader that we send to Fox finds Jehmu Green or Juan Williams as the conservative spokespersons, they have reason to believe there is no hope.

When Jehmu Green, for example, is on Fox or the greatest voice against goodness, spinner Bob Beckel, neither Martha nor any of the other Fox stars hammer them like all good conservatives get hammered. So, where does a conservative American go for news without having to defend conservative principles when the "conservative" news channel takes the other side?

Perhaps EWTN is the only honest conservative channel out there. I have never seen any liberal thought there... ever... I admire Democrats for their tenacity in their many impure and deceitful endeavors, but I do not want them to get the last word on a supposedly conservative network.

One might conclude by watching them in action that going to hell had become popular again like in the good old Sodom and Gomorrah days. I admire Democrats not for their honesty and goodness, for sure. Progressives, however, are especially brilliant at lying, and that talent may be worth an accolade from someone, but not me.

My take is that if conservatives want to hear the truth again in the national media, somebody in our ranks with a few bucks, better start gobbling up news outlets or the Republican / conservative message for 2014, and 2016, will either be missing or distorted.

If that happens even one more time, the slash and the word Republican must be removed, and conservatives will be pressed (if you will pardon the pun) to go it alone.

It is time to get off the Fox bandwagon by having another valid choice. Let Rupert Murdoch or somebody else set up his own conservative full-time station. Another idea would be for Dick Morris, Lou Dobbs, Pat Buchanan, Michelle Malkin, Laura Ingraham, Mark Steyn, Mark Levin, and maybe even el Rushbo put a few bucks together to create the type of network station that would have the TV messaging needed to win elections. It surely does not exist today. After that of course, at least three or four other conservative stations would still be needed. But, give us at least one more please!

Without Fox, it is possible that conservatives would have nothing at all. So, we do thank the Lord for the Fox we have.

The Democrats do so well in elections because they own the media—the rest of the cable and network media. Considering that Rupert Murdoch can change his mind any day about his stance on conservatism, Fox is not an assured thing for the long haul for avowed conservatives, especially with the Murdoch progeny being liberal advocates.

The progressive presence on Fox dilutes a surprisingly good Fox message. This is why I turn Fox off right away when these people appear. I bet many, like me, do the same. Though he bugged me, O'Reilly's bloviations rattled the opposition also. Yet, he was take out and replaced by even less conservative shows. I know I listen more to Talk Radio than Fox other than Hannity and Fox & Friends anymore.

How did we get to this non-free-press moment? All of this dialogue began by a discussion about the free press in America. There is none today. There is no non-partisan voice to champion the rights of all people because all news outlets today are not only impure; they are biased and beholden to corporate interests.

In the past, the press was impure, but it had factions on all sides of an issue. In those days, even before Congress could figure it out, the press would offer cogent thoughts for sane politicians. Today's press is corrupt and only the people by revolting; can ever make it again pure. And so, countervailing power is our only hope.

I am encouraged by one-time Democrats who choose not to eat the media garbage. Despite their great opportunity to enrich themselves as Democrats, they awaken and choose to do the right thing. My heart melts for people of such a mind.

For example, I have come to love Democrat Pat Caddell in a metaphysical way. Caddell got a lot of work from the

Democrats in his career, and so, as I too am a distraught conservative Democrat, his words mean an awful lot to me. He worked for presidential candidates George McGovern in 1972; Jimmy Carter in 1976 and 1980; Gary Hart in 1984; Joe Biden in 1988; and Jerry "Moonbeam" Brown in 1992.

Caddell is a smart and wholesome man. He is a good man, unlike most Democrats with an eye on ascending. He represents goodness. I would like the Democrats to represent old time values and Pat Caddell would like the press to be a free press again even if it put him out of a job.

I will mostly end this op-ed with his profound words. He spoke them right before the big Obama win in 2012. I will then provide a nice surprise.

Pat Caddell: "...

If I were the Romney campaign... I would be telling the American people, they're [the corrupt press] not trying to stop me; they're trying to stop you! ... And I would have made the press themselves an issue because, until you do, what happens is, they are given the basic concession of authenticity and accuracy, or that they are credible...

"But all I want to conclude to this is that we face a fundamental danger here. The fundamental danger is this: I talked about the defense of the First Amendment. The press's job is to stand in the ramparts and protect the liberty and freedom of all of us from a government and from organized governmental power.

"When they desert those ramparts and decide that they will now become active participants, that their job is not simply to tell you who you may vote for, and who you may not, but, worse—and this is the danger of the last two weeks—what truth that you may know, as an American, and what truth you are not

allowed to know, they have, then, made themselves a fundamental threat to the democracy, and, in my opinion, made themselves the enemy of the American people.

"And it is a threat to the very future of this country if we allow this stuff to go on. We have crossed a whole new and frightening slide on the slippery slope this last two weeks, and it needs to be talked about."

The free press is dead! Long live the free press.

Bravo Pat Caddell!... and thank you! Now the surprise, borrowed with "free press" modifications from the legendary great, Don McLean

A long long time ago  
 I can still remember how  
 Liberty and freedom of the press made me smile  
 And I knew if I could help out  
 That I could teach what it was all about  
 And I could do it freely for a long while  
 But all the lies they made me shiver  
 In papers to me I had delivered  
 False news, lies, on the doorstep  
 I couldn't take one more step  
 I can now remember when I first cried  
 When I read untruths about American pride  
 It touched me really deep inside  
 \*\*The day the free press died\*\*  
 ... Bye Bye....

As Typing Instructor—Charles E. Weller may have said many times:

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their [country]."

So be it!

We can do a lot better when we again choose to try! It's about time...don't you think?

## Chapter 10 Freedom of Speech



Taken from The Heritage Guide to the Constitution.

### Freedom of Speech and of the Press

by the Heritage Foundation

As a Heritage Foundation member, I thank the foundation for permitting this piece to be included in this book with attribution.

Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press....

#### AMENDMENT I

What exactly did the Framers mean by "freedom of speech, or of the press"? Surprisingly, there is little definitively known about the subject. The debates in the First Congress, which proposed the Bill of Rights, are brief and unilluminating. Early state constitutions generally included similar provisions, but there is no record of detailed debate about what those state provisions meant. The Framers cared a good deal about the freedom of the press, as the Appeal to the Inhabitants of Quebec, written by the First Continental Congress in 1774, shows.

The last right we shall mention regards the freedom of the press. The importance of this consists, besides the advancement of truth, science, morality, and arts in general, in its diffusion of liberal sentiments on the administration of Government, its ready communication of thoughts between subjects, and its consequential promotion of union among them, whereby oppressive officers are shamed or intimidated into more honorable and just modes of conducting affairs.

The statement mentions some of the values that the Founders saw as inherent in the principle of freedom of the press: the search and attainment of truth, scientific progress, cultural development, the increase of virtue among the people, the holding of governmental officials to republican values, the strengthening of community, and a check upon self-aggrandizing politicians. But broad statements such as this may tell us less than we would like to know about what "the freedom of the press" meant to the Founders as a rule of law, when the freedom would yield to competing concerns, or whether the freedom prohibited only prior restraints or also subsequent punishments.

There were very few reported Founding-era court cases interpreting the federal and state Freedom of Speech and of the Press Clause, and very few Founding-era political controversies that would have excited some detailed discussion of what the clauses meant. The governments of the time were quite small, and the statute books thin. There were few laws restricting commercial advertising.

There was only one state law banning pornography, and that appears to have been unenforced until 1821. There were a few state blasphemy laws, but they were largely unenforced from the early 1700s until the 1810s. There were



no bans on flag-burning, campaign spending, or anonymous speech. This may but does not necessarily mean that such speech was broadly believed to be constitutionally protected; then as today, the government did not ban all that it had the power to ban. But the paucity of such bans meant that few people in that era really had occasion to define what the constitutional boundaries of speech and press protection might be. The only speech restriction that was broadly enforced was traditional libel law. Defaming another person was understood to be constitutionally unprotected.

In fact, the most prominent free press debate of the years immediately following the Framing—the Sedition Act controversy—illustrated that there was little consensus on even as central an issue as whether the free press guarantee only prohibited prior restraints on publications critical of the government, or whether it also forbade punishment for "seditious" speech once it was made.

In 1798, the country was fighting the Quasi War with France. The Federalist Party controlled all three branches of the federal government, and its members suspected many Republican party stalwarts of sympathizing with France and the French Revolution and thus of fomenting disloyalty. Congress consequently made it a crime to publish "any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings...with intent to defame" the government, the Congress, or the President, "or to stir up sedition within the United States, or to excite any unlawful combinations...for opposing or resisting any law of the United States, or to aid, encourage or abet any hostile designs of any foreign nation against the United States, their people or government." Notably, malicious falsehoods about the Vice President—Thomas Jefferson, who was a leading Republican—were not covered by the law, and the law was scheduled to expire on March

3, 1801, the day before Federalist President John Adams's term was to end. Several publishers were in fact convicted under the law, often under rather biased applications of the falsity requirement.

Then Federalist Congressman John Marshall, although doubtful that the Sedition Act was wise, nonetheless argued that the free press guarantee meant only "liberty to publish, free from previous restraint"—free of requirements that printers be licensed, or that their material be approved before publication. Under this view, which echoed the British law as expounded by Sir William Blackstone, criminal punishment after publication was constitutional. Others, such as James Madison, the principal drafter of the Bill of Rights, argued the opposite: "[T]his idea of the freedom of the press can never be admitted to be the American idea of it; since a law inflicting penalties on printed publications would have a similar effect with a law authorizing a previous restraint on them."

Likewise, Marshall and other Federalists argued that the freedom of the press must necessarily be limited, because "government cannot be...secured, if by falsehood and malicious slander, it is to be deprived of the confidence and affection of the people." Not so, reasoned Madison and other Republicans: even speech that creates "a contempt, a disrepute, or hatred [of the government] among the people" should be tolerated because the only way of determining whether such contempt is justified is "by a free examination [of the government's actions], and a free communication among the people thereon." It was as if half the country read the constitutional guarantee one way, and the other half, the other way.

The Founding generation undoubtedly believed deeply in the freedom of speech and of the press, but then, as now,

these general terms were understood quite differently by different people. Many people did not think about their precise meanings until a concrete controversy arose; and when a controversy did arise, the analysis was often influenced by people's political interests as much as by their honest constitutional understanding.

A 1995 Supreme Court case, *McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission*, illustrates the continuing debate over the original meaning of the clause. The question in *McIntyre* was whether the government could outlaw anonymous electioneering. The majority dealt with the question based on the Court's twentieth-century case law and twentieth-century First Amendment theories. Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, the Court's most devoted originalists, however, did focus on the original meaning discussion but reached different results.

Both Justices recognized that there was "no record of discussions of anonymous political expression in the First Congress, which drafted the Bill of Rights, or in the state ratifying conventions." They both recognized that much political speech in the time of the Framers (such as *The Federalist* itself) was anonymous. Indeed, much political speech justifying resistance to Parliament before the Revolution was also anonymous. To Justice Thomas, the experience of the Founders in their own use of anonymous speech was dispositive of what they would have regarded as a vital part of the freedom of speech, particularly where political speech was at issue.

Justice Scalia, however, who has [had] a narrower view of what can be accepted as evidence of original intent apart from the text of the provision itself, argued that "to prove that anonymous electioneering was used frequently is not to establish that it is a constitutional right"—perhaps the

legislatures simply chose not to prohibit the speech, even though they had the constitutional power to do so.

Justice Thomas did produce evidence that some Founding-era commentators saw anonymity as constitutionally protected, Justice Scalia replied that many of these were mere "partisan cr(ies)" that said little about any generally accepted understanding. Justice Thomas found the evidence sufficient to justify reading the First Amendment as protecting anonymous speech.

Justice Scalia did not think the historical evidence of what people did necessarily showed much about what people were seen as having a constitutional right to do. Instead, Scalia turned to American practices of the 1800s and the 1900s, a source that he considers authoritative where the original meaning is uncertain. A consensus on the original meaning on this subject thus remains elusive.

Despite the originalist debate between Justices Thomas and Scalia, today's free speech and free press law is not much influenced by original meaning. It is mostly the creature of the experience and thinking of the twentieth century, as the Court first began to hear a wide range of free speech cases only in the late 1910s. This approach has produced the following free speech rules:

1. As with all of the Bill of Rights, the free speech/press guarantee restricts only government action, not action by private employers, property owners, householders, churches, universities, and the like.
2. As with most of the Bill of Rights, the free speech/press guarantee applies equally to federal and state governments, which includes local governments as well as all branches of each government. In particular, the civil courts are subject to the First Amendment, which is why libel law and other

tort law rules must comply with free speech/press principles. *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan* (1964).

3. The free speech and the free press clauses have been read as providing essentially equal protection to speakers and writers, whether or not they are members of the institutional press, and largely regardless of the medium—books, newspapers, movies, the Internet—in which they communicate. Newspapers enjoy no more and no fewer constitutional rights than individuals. The one exception is over-the-airwaves radio and television broadcasting, which has for historical reasons been given less constitutional protection. *Reno v. ACLU* (1997).

4. The free speech/press guarantee also extends to any conduct that is conventionally understood as expressive—for instance, waving a flag, wearing an armband, or burning a flag. It also extends to conduct that is necessary in order to speak effectively, as, for example, using money to buy a public address system or to buy advertising. Restrictions on independent campaign expenditures, for instance, raise First Amendment problems because restricting the use of money for speech purposes is a speech restriction. *Stromberg v. California* (1931); *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976); *McConnell v. Federal Election Commission* (2003).

5. The free speech/press guarantee extends not just to political speech but also to speech about religion, science, morality, social conditions, and daily life, as well as to art and entertainment. In the words of a 1948 case, "The line between the informing and the entertaining is too elusive for the protection of that basic right. Everyone is familiar with instances of propaganda through fiction. What is one man's amusement, teaches another's doctrine." And the guarantee extends to low-brow expression (such as jokes or even

profanity) as well as high-brow expression. *Winters v. New York* (1948); *Cohen v. California* (1971).

6. The free speech/press guarantee extends to all viewpoints, good or evil. There is no exception, for instance, for Communism, Nazism, Islamic radicalism, sexist speech, or "hate speech," whatever that rather vague term may mean. "Under the First Amendment there is no such thing as a false idea. However pernicious an opinion may seem, we depend for its correction not on the conscience of judges and juries but on the competition of other ideas." *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.* (1974); *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan* (1964).

7. There is, however, a small set of rather narrow exceptions to free speech protection:

a. Incitement: Speech may be restricted if it is (i) intended to persuade people to engage in (ii) imminent unlawful conduct, and is (iii) likely to cause such imminent unlawful conduct. Outside this narrow zone, even speech that advocates lawbreaking is constitutionally protected. *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969).

b. False statements of fact: False statements of fact may generally be punished if they are knowing lies, though generally not if they are honest mistakes (even unreasonable mistakes). There are, however, some situations where even honest mistakes can be punished, and a few where even intentional lies are protected. *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.* (1974).

c. Obscenity: Hard-core pornography is punishable if (i) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to a shameful or morbid interest in sex or excretion;

(ii) the work depicts or describes, in a way that is patently offensive under contemporary community standards, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and  
(iii) the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. *Miller v. California* (1973).

d. Child pornography: Sexually themed live performances, photographs, and movies that were made using actual children may be punished even if they do not fit within the obscenity test. This does not cover digitized pictures, drawings, or text materials, which are constitutionally protected unless they are obscene. The Court has reasoned that child pornography is unprotected because it hurts the children involved in its making, so the exception only covers cases where actual children were indeed involved. *Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition* (2002).

e. Threats: Speech that is reasonably perceived as a threat of violence (and not just rhetorical hyperbole) can be punished. *Virginia v. Black* (2003).

f. Fighting words: Face-to-face insults that are addressed to a particular person and are likely to cause an imminent fight can be punished. More generalized offensive speech that is not addressed to a particular person cannot be punished even if it is profane or deeply insulting. *Cohen v. California* (1971).

g. Speech owned by others: Intellectual property laws, such as copyright law, may restrict people from using particular expression that is owned by someone else; but the law may not let anyone monopolize facts or ideas. *Harper & Row Publishers, Inc. v. Nation Enterprises* (1985).

h. Commercial advertising: Commercial advertising is constitutionally protected, but less so than other speech

(political, scientific, artistic, and the like). Misleading commercial advertising may be barred, whereas misleading political speech cannot be. Commercial advertising may also be required to include disclaimers to keep it from being misleading; such disclaimers can't be required for political speech. It is an open question whether commercial advertising may be restricted for paternalistic reasons, because of a fear that people will learn accurate information but will do bad things based on that information—for example, buy more alcohol, smoke more, or use more electricity when there is a shortage. This exception applies only to speech that proposes a commercial transaction between the speaker and the listener; it does not apply to speech that is merely sold in commerce, such as books, videos, and databases. 44 *Liquormart, Inc. v. Rhode Island* (1996).

8. All of the preceding rules apply to restrictions that relate to what the speech communicates—to the tendency of the speech to persuade people, offend them, or make them feel unsafe. Content-neutral restrictions that relate to the noncommunicative impact of speech—for instance, noise, obstruction of traffic, and so on—are easier to justify.

The test for content-neutral restrictions is complicated, but the key point is that the government may generally impose content-neutral "time, place, and manner restrictions" so long as those restrictions leave open ample alternative channels for communication. All such restrictions, however, must be neutral as to content: if they treat speech differently based on content, they are generally unconstitutional even if they focus only on the time, place, and manner of the speech. *Ward v. Rock Against Racism* (1989).

9. Finally, all of the preceding rules apply to restrictions that are imposed by the government acting as sovereign and



backed by the threat of jail terms, fines, or civil liability. They also apply to the government controlling what is said in "traditional public fora," such as parks, streets, sidewalks, or the post office. But when the government is acting as, for instance, (a) employer, (b) K–12 educator, (c) proprietor of government property other than traditional public fora, (d) subsidizer, (e) speaker, or (f) regulator of the airwaves, it has broader (though not unlimited) authority. The rules for that, unfortunately, are too elaborate to set forth here. *Connick v. Myers* (1983); *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969); *ISKCON v. Lee* (1992); *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia* (1995); *FCC v. League of Women Voters of California* (1984).

Free speech/press law is sometimes called the tax code of constitutional law.

The discussion above suggests how complex the law is, but while some of the complexity may be needless, much of it is inevitable. Communication is in many ways the most complicated of human activities, and no simple rule can properly deal with all the different kinds of harms that it can cause—or all the different kinds of harms that restricting communication can cause.



Gary T. Schwartz, Professor at Law

Thank you, Professor Schwartz

# Chapter 11 Is the Fourth Estate Dead?

## The Fourth Estate is dead

A former CIA analyst declared it was so.

<https://www.rawstory.com/2010/12/former-cia-intelligence-analyst-fourth-estate-is-dead/>

Some of us have suspected that the free press has died and thus, the fourth estate.

Exclusive: ‘The Fourth Estate is dead,’ former CIA analyst declares. Here is what she had to say:

10 DEC 2010 AT 12:53 ET

‘The Empire’ is ‘being threatened by a slingshot in the form of a computer’

Traditional lines of communication between the people and the press have fallen into such disrepair in America that a whole new approach is necessary to challenge the military-industrial-governmental complex, according to a former CIA analyst sympathetic to WikiLeaks.

“The Fourth Estate is dead,” Ray McGovern, of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, told Raw Story in an exclusive interview. “The Fourth Estate in his country has been captured by government and corporations, the military-

industrial complex, the intelligence apparatus. Captive! So, there is no Fourth Estate.”

McGovern explained that the term the “Fourth Estate,” known today as the news media in the US, was first coined by 18th century British statesman Edmund Burke. Burke is said to have pointed to the balcony in Parliament and lauded the print media of his day for being the safeguards of democracy.

“That was very powerful back then,” McGovern said. “And just a century later you get Tom Paine, James Madison. You know what Thomas Jefferson said? He said if we have to make a choice between having a government and having a press, I’ll go for the press every time. He understood that any government without a free press will resort to despotism.”

McGovern, a CIA analyst for 27 years, whose duties included preparing and briefing the President’s Daily Brief and chairing National Intelligence Estimates, said that he preferred to focus on the First Amendment battle of WikiLeaks’ founder Julian Assange than on the current “cyber war” in which WikiLeaks is embroiled.

McGovern said that modern people can now become informed through what he termed “The Fifth Estate.”

“Luckily, there is a Fifth Estate,” he said. “The Fifth Estate exists in the ether. It’s not susceptible of government, of corporations, or advertisers or military control. It’s free. That is very dangerous to people who like to make secrets and to make secret operational things. It’s a huge threat.

And the Empire – the Goliath here – is being threatened by a slingshot in the form of a computer and a stone through these emissions thrown into the ether to our own computers.”

“It’s quite amazing,” he added.

“Will the United States and its slavish allies present in Sweden... succeed in making such an object lesson of what happens to an organization and a person – a demonized person – namely Julian Assange? What happens to them if they defy the Empire if they break the rules which they have?” McGovern asked.

He also questioned former Attorney General Eric Holder’s handling of the WikiLeaks founder’s case in the wake of habeas corpus being thrown “out the window” by the previous administration. Specifically, he wondered what Holder, the highest law enforcement officer in the US government, meant by the federal government using “other tools” to get Assange and shut down WikiLeaks.

Assange’s attorney said...that he expected his client to be indicted by the US.

“The broad hint is the extra-judiciary tools,” he said, referring to the news media. “And yet not one of those stenographer correspondents sitting before him there has the guts to say, ‘What do you mean ‘other tools?’ You going to assassinate the guy?’”

McGovern continued, “They’re just letting it hang out there like other stuffed shirts like Jeff Merrell at the Pentagon (who says to the effect,) ‘Everything is on the table. We don’t rule anything out.’ Well, you know that reflects the state of the defunct Fourth Estate. That’s precisely why you need people to be able to get out of the framework of the Fourth Estate and to the new.”

McGovern also noted the demise of the Fourth Estate, with an anecdote about the 30th anniversary of the Pentagon Papers’ release in June 2001, months before the 9/11 attacks.

He said that at the reunion, most of those in attendance did not believe the press would publish such information were it made available today.

“They went down the line, two guys from the [New York Times], two guys from the [Washington Post], and they all said, ‘I don’t know,’” McGovern said. “I’m looking at that, and I’m thinking, ‘Holy shit!’”

He continued, “The amazing thing was that these people still had a lot of self-identification with these newspapers – some were still actively employed by them. And not only did they say this, but there was no hint of embarrassment or remorse. It was just the way it is today.”

Even while the Fourth Estate may be dead, WikiLeaks learned one important lesson from Daniel Ellsberg’s release of the Pentagon Papers, McGovern admitted. That lesson was to tell the news media that the documents are being given to more than one outlet at the same time.

WikiLeaks addressed that question by making sure that when they gave documents to the Times, they said The Guardian, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and El Pais also had them, McGovern said.

“These guys are very, very clever,” he said. “As you can see, I wish them all the success in the world.”

McGovern said that WikiLeaks’ benefit is that it gives people the chance to become informed and place a check on government. He added that WikiLeaks’ information on the wars is the “ground-truth,” in that the data came from the American troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan.

McGovern said that WikiLeaks — or outlets like it — has the potential to make the world safer to the degree American

people get exposed to this information, draw adult conclusions from it, and pressure the US government to change its policies.

“You have no doubt about the authenticity of what these people are reporting, and it’s a new ballgame once these things become accessible to the American people,” he said.

I am not making value judgments here about the veracity of the reports or the reporters. Guys like me in this muck add little to the debate but a perspective, not facts. The deal is that those in power want nobody to know anything and those trying to survive as citizens want everything known but items that would hurt our fellow citizens.

That is a dilemma for sure but only because more and more good Americans are compromising their goodness for the spew from government. Congress, the Senators and the rest of officialdom need to swear to themselves if nobody else that they serve all of the great people of the United States.

Unlike all mortals who fall, who by biology will never rise again, the free press actually can come back to life. But, of course, it would be mortals who would bring it back and hopefully stronger than ever. WC Fields said *never give a sucker an even break and never smarten up a chump*. He, of course was interested in fleecing their holdings for his own benefit.

Fields identified two attributes of man that to survive, Americans must swear off- being a sucker, and being a chump. Listening to Democrat spew makes one both. Think about that! Who wants to be that?

The message in this book is “So Don’t!”

Thank you for being a friend.





## Chapter 12 Solving a Problem Like a Corrupt Press?

### **The Founders never believed that America would be held captive by a corrupt press!**

Finally it has been noticed so long that not having an unbiased public press is causing fair people to look and say, “this ought not be!” And, so, to add emphasis to the notion that our press is not really free as corporate insiders control it, the few honest journalists who do not pay tribute to the owners of the presses are speaking up. By the way, the press in the US is free to operate by law but not free in the sense that it is shackled by opinionated owners who want their opinions to be the only opinions known by the public while hiding beneath a cloak of silence.

George Monbiot of The Guardian, calls it as he sees it “This media is corrupt – we need a Hippocratic oath for journalists.” What a great idea. But then instead of lying and producing fake news, would the media make their fabrications even worse by breaking their Hippocratic oath? Today, nobody knows if the press will ever be honest again when half of the people in the country encourage their lies and deceit.

Monbiot notes that Janet Daley in the Sunday Telegraph recently wrote . “British political journalism is basically a club to which politicians and journalists both belong,” she wrote. “It is this familiarity, this intimacy, this set of shared assumptions ... which is the real corruptor of political life. The self-limiting spectrum of what can and cannot be said ... the self-reinforcing cowardice which takes for granted that certain vested interests are too powerful to be worth confronting. All of these things are constant dangers in the political life of any democracy.”

Monbiot believes that “most national journalists are embedded, immersed in the society, beliefs and culture of the people they are meant to hold to account. They are fascinated by power struggles among the elite but have little interest in the conflict between the elite and those they dominate. They celebrate those with agency and ignore those without.

But this is just part of the problem. Daley stopped short of naming the most persuasive force: the interests of the owner and the corporate class to which he belongs. The proprietor appoints editors in his own image – who impress their views on their staff. Murdoch's editors, like those who work for the other proprietors, insist that they think and act independently.

“It's a lie exposed by the concurrence of their views (did all 247 News Corp editors just happen to support the invasion of Iraq?), and blown out of the water by Andrew Neil's explosive testimony in 2008 before the Lords select committee on communications.”

Monbiot continues eloquently:

“The papers cannot announce that their purpose is to ventriloquise the concerns of multimillionaires; they must present themselves as the voice of the people. The Sun, the Mail and the Express claim to represent the interests of the working man and woman. These interests turn out to be identical to those of the men who own the papers.

According to Monbiot, “The corporate media is a gigantic astroturfing operation: a fake grassroots crusade serving elite interests...”

“Journalism's primary purpose is to hold power to account. This purpose has been perfectly inverted. Columnists and bloggers are employed as the enforcers of corporate power, denouncing people who criticize its interests, stamping on new ideas, bullying the powerless. The press barons allowed governments occasionally to promote the interests of the poor, but never to hamper the interests of the rich. They also sought to discipline the rest of the media. The BBC, over the last 30 years, became a shadow of the gutsy

broadcaster it was, and now treats big business with cringing deference. Every morning at 6.15, the Today programme's business report grants executives the kind of unchallenged access otherwise reserved for God on Thought for the Day. The rest of the programme seeks out controversy and sets up discussions between opponents, but these people are not confronted by their critics."

Monbiot asks: "So what can be done?" Because of the peculiar threat they present to democracy there's a case to be made for breaking up all majority interests in media companies, and for a board of governors, appointed perhaps by Commons committee, to act as a counterweight to the shareholders' business interests.

"But even if that's a workable idea, it's a long way off. For now, the best hope might be to mobilise readers to demand that journalists answer to them, not just their proprietors. One means of doing this is to lobby journalists to commit themselves to a kind of Hippocratic oath. Here's a rough stab at a first draft. I hope others can improve it. Ideally, I'd like to see the National Union of Journalists building on it and encouraging its members to sign.

'Our primary task is to hold power to account. We will prioritise those stories and issues which expose the interests of power. We will be wary of the relationships we form with the rich and powerful, and ensure that we don't become embedded in their society. We will not curry favour with politicians, businesses or other dominant groups by withholding scrutiny of their affairs, or twisting a story to suit their interests."

'We will stand up to the interests of the businesses we work for, and the advertisers which fund them. We will never take money for promulgating a particular opinion, and we will resist attempts to oblige us to adopt one.

"We will recognise and understand the power we wield and how it originates. We will challenge ourselves and our perception of the world as much as we challenge other people. When we turn out to be wrong, we will say so."

Monbiot continues: "I accept that this doesn't directly address the power relations that govern the papers. But it might help journalists to assert a measure of independence, and readers to hold them to it.

Just as voters should lobby their MPs to represent them and not just the whips, readers should seek to drag journalists away from the demands of their editors. The oath is one possible tool that could enhance reader power.

“If you don't like it, suggest a better idea. Something has to change: never again should a half a dozen oligarchs be allowed to dominate and corrupt the life of this country.

*A fully referenced version of this article can be found on George Monbiot's website. On Twitter, @georgemonbiot.*

Thank you Mr. Monbiet for a gruesome but truthful look at the corrupt press of today, for your insights, and suggestions for a solution. I wonder why you are the only person in Marica and perhaps the world calling for a solution? Sounds like we need another God-sponsored intervention.

Here is a note from the Guardian that we includes to help them for their noble work and for their permitting me to host most of .George Monbiet's article. It is more than insightful. It is downright frightening.

### **Note from the GUARDIAN.**

Since you're here...

... we have a small favour to ask. More people are reading the Guardian than ever but advertising revenues across the media are falling fast. And unlike many news organisations, we haven't put up a paywall – we want to keep our journalism as open as we can. So you can see why we need to ask for your help. The Guardian's independent, investigative journalism takes a lot of time, money and hard work to produce. But we do it because we believe our perspective matters – because it might well be your perspective, too.

The Guardian is editorially independent, meaning we set our own agenda. Our journalism is free from commercial bias and not influenced by billionaire owners, politicians or

shareholders. No one edits our Editor. No one steers our opinion. This is important because it enables us to give a voice to the voiceless, challenge the powerful and hold them to account. It's what makes us different to so many others in the media, at a time when factual, honest reporting is critical. If everyone who reads our reporting, who likes it, helps to support it, our future would be much more secure. For as little as \$1, you can support the Guardian – and it only takes a minute. Thank you.

## Other books by Brian Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

**Taxation Without Representation** Can the US Afford Another Tea Party?  
**Delete the EPA** You won't believe what they are up to now!  
**Wipe Out All Student Debt Now!** How to improve the economy with one bold move  
**Boost Social Security Now!** Hey Buddy Can You Spare a Dime?  
**The Birth of American Football.** From the first college game in 1869 to the last Super Bowl  
**Obamacare: A One-Line Repeal** Congress must get this done.  
**A Wilkes-Barre Christmas Story** A wonderful town makes Christmas all the better  
**A Bov, A Bike, A Train, and a Christmas Miracle** a Christmas story that will melt your heart  
**Pay-to-Go** America-First Immigration Fix  
**Legalizing Illegal Aliens Via Resident Visas** Americans-first plan saves \$Trillions. Learn how!  
**60 Million Illegal Aliens in America!!!** A simple, America-first solution.  
**The Bill of Rights by Founder James Madison** Refresh your knowledge of the specific rights for all  
**It's time for the John Doe Party!** Republicans can no longer handle the load.  
**Great Players in Army Football** Great Army Football played by great players..  
**Great Coaches in Army Football** Army's coaches are all great.  
**Great Moments in Army Football** Army Football at its best.  
**Great Moments in Florida Gators Football** Gators Football from the start. This is the book.  
**Great Moments in Clemson Football** CU Football at its best. This is the book.  
**Great Moments in Florida Gators Football** Gators Football from the start. This is the book.  
**The Constitution Companion.** A Guide to Reading and Comprehending the Constitution  
**The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, & Madison** – Big type and in English  
**PATERNO: The Dark Days After Win # 409.** Sky began to fall within days of win # 409.  
**JoePa 409 Victories: Sav No More!** Winningest Division I-A football coach ever  
**American College Football: The Beginning** From before day one football was played.  
**Great Coaches in Alabama Football** Challenging the coaches of every other program!  
**Great Coaches in Penn State Football** the Best Coaches in PSU's football program  
**Great Players in Penn State Football** The best players in PSU's football program  
**Great Players in Notre Dame Football** The best players in ND's football program  
**Great Coaches in Notre Dame Football** The best coaches in any football program  
**Great Players in Alabama Football** from Quarterbacks to offensive Linemen Greats!  
**Great Moments in Alabama Football** AU Football from the start. This is the book.  
**Great Moments in Penn State Football** PSU Football, start--games, coaches, players,  
**Great Moments in Notre Dame Football** ND Football, start, games, coaches, players  
**Cross Country With the Parents** A great trip from East Coast to West with the kids  
**Seniors, Social Security & the Minimum Wage.** Things seniors need to know.  
**How to Write Your First Book and Publish It with CreateSpace**  
**The US Immigration Fix--**It's all in here. Finally, an answer.  
**I had a Dream IBM Could be #1 Again** . The title is self-explanatory  
**WineDiets.Com Presents The Wine Diet** Learn how to lose weight while having fun.  
**Wilkes-Barre, PA; Return to Glory** Wilkes-Barre City's return to glory  
**Geoffrey Parsons' Epoch... The Land of Fair Play** Better than the original.  
**The Bill of Rights 4 Dummies!** This is the best book to learn about your rights.  
**Sol Bloom's Epoch ...Story of the Constitution** The best book to learn the Constitution  
**America 4 Dummies!** All Americans should read to learn about this great country.  
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Brian has written 146 books in total. Other books can be found at [amazon.com/author/brianwkelly](https://www.amazon.com/author/brianwkelly)

