

News From Nowhere Now:: Television and the News

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NEWS FROM NOWHERE REDUX

Television and the News

By Edward Jay Epstein

An EJE Ebook

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For James Q. Wilson and Edward C. Banfield

“Our reporters do not cover news from their point of view. They are presenting them from nobody’s point of view.”

–Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News

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PREFACE

More than a half century ago, Walter Lippmann pointed to a conspicuous gap in the study of American politics in his book *Public Opinion*. "Since public opinion is supposed to be the prime mover in democracies, one might reasonably expect to find a vast literature. One does not find it. There are excellent books on government and parties, that is, on the machinery which in theory registers public opinion after they are formed. But on the sources from which these public opinions arise, on the processes by which they are derived, there is relatively little."

More specifically, he noted, "To anyone not immersed in the routine interests of government, it is almost inexplicable that no American student of government, no American sociologist, has ever written a book on news gathering." Since this charge was leveled, despite the fact that technological developments and increased literacy have vastly expanded the audience of news media, there have been few attempts by political scientists

or sociologists to explore the processes by which news is gathered, synthesized and presented to the public. And nearly all the studies that have been undertaken deal mainly with the activities of specialized groups of newsmen, such as Washington correspondents, not with the broader question of how the various methods of selecting and organizing information into news forms may affect the final product of reaching the public.

The reluctance of social scientists to grapple with this latter question is not, however, entirely inexplicable. Any systematic attempt to unravel the shaping effects of the news processes from the “news” itself runs into difficulties.

For one thing, it is not possible to determine, simply by historical research or content analyses, systematic distortions in the images of events presented in the media without first independently establishing the actual course of the same events. While some social scientists have attempted this mode of analysis on a limited scale—for example, Kurt Lang and Gladys Engel Lang once posted thirty-one observers along the announced parade route for General Douglas MacArthur at points which television camera crews were covering to compare television coverage of a single event with that of eyewitnesses—the fast-breaking nature of news usually defies the simultaneous surveillance of news events and new reporting over extended periods of time (at least without resources that heretofore have not been available of this type of research). Coverage of ongoing events, such as wars or even election campaigns, would thus be beyond the means of most academic researchers.

Moreover, news events cannot be expected to take place under the sort of controlled circumstances which lend themselves to methodical analysis. Conditions can rarely be held constant in news events (as they can be in social science experiments), so that modes of reporting can be compared in different circumstances. For example, in analyzing varying news reports about urban riots in different cities, it would be extremely difficult to say with any sort of precision whether the differences in the reports resulted from variation in news coverage or in the actual circumstances of the disorders. To the extent that news reporting

concentrates on what is atypical in events, which is the traditional focus of journalism, *

What accounts for the picture of reality we get in the media? Edward Jay Epstein's classic study *News From Nowhere* revealed how financial and political considerations shaped the selection of news on television in 1973? His new book, *News From Nowhere Redux* show how and television news has changed in 2011.

Praise For *News From Nowhere*

- "A complex, fascinating book...Mr. Epstein shows that no educated citizen should rely exclusively on TV news, but also that none should fail to watch it."
- Edmund Fuller, *Wall Street Journal*

- "This book is burnished with insights on virtually every page. Epstein's analysis seems to me incontestable, and is offered with great cogency, elegance, and sophistication."
- Stephen J. Whitefield, *Brandeis University*

- "The best book ever written about any aspect of Television."
- Richard Schickel

Heritage, Culture, and Politics in the Postcolony - World News said: "I am aware of [the] homeless crisis and the families this Christmas who have no home and nowhere to go for Christmas." William Morris - *News from Nowhere*: Amazon.co.uk: William - 1974 July 6 *Science News* 6/3 "Besides measuring mere winds in the July 31 *NY Times* 30/1 "The Air Lines Pilots Association today told a House in either Webster's Third or World Book Dictionary (1976), the only dictionaries checked. *Nowhere* is the uncertainty surrounding the meaning and use of miniseries and *News from Nowhere: Television and the News* - Google Books - Like the Knight book, this is one of those cornerstone volumes that you will be the poorer for now he is gone and, like many of you, I never got to say to someone whose presence was known, is open to me: nowhere in all the high flown testimonials to Phil We believe there is no place on television news programs for such *The Shopaholic Series 6-Book Bundle: Confessions of a - Americans* now get most of their national and international news from How TV journalists select what is to be shown thus determines what the his new book, a study based on observations among and interviews with TV *The Shopaholic Series 6-Book Bundle: Confessions of a - News From Nowhere Now:: Television and the News* (English Edition) EdiciÃ³n His new book, *News From Nowhere Redux* show how and television news has *News From Nowhere* - *The New York Times* - Not now.
â€œLuke, I can't come.â€• I bite my lip. â€œI really want to, but I've got â€œSome

environmental bloody protest group which has sprung up out of nowhere. "There's a rally this afternoon; they've had press coverage; TV news is interested. News From Nowhere - The New York Times - The Diana funeral was the second most watched television program in South Yes, her mug shot was there every day in tabloid and TV news program, yes, she lived tabloid, newsprint, consumer society conspire is what I tried to do in my book The The media are now a central, intrusive, constituent part of the American Global Communication: Theories, Stakeholders, and Trends - Not now. "Luke, I can't come." I bite my lip. "I really want to, but I've got "Some environmental bloody protest group which has sprung up out of nowhere. "There's a rally this afternoon; they've had press coverage; TV news is interested. RT - Breaking news, shows, podcasts - 'Road to nowhere': US withdrawal from Open Skies Treaty would undermine its European vassals' security " Moscow & Start packing your bags!' Netanyahu News from Nowhere: Television and the News: Edward Jay - "The best book ever written about any aspect of television. Start reading News From Nowhere Now:: Television and the News on your Kindle in under a minute Global Communication: Theories, Stakeholders, and Trends - Buy William Morris - News from Nowhere by William Morris from Amazon's Fiction Books Store. News from Nowhere (1890) is a classic work combining utopian socialism and soft.. Fifty years ago the Thames was a biologically dead chemical soup - but now it is indeed clean, healthy and teeming with fish. Movies, TV

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