

## International Relations: Current Events/Watching the News

Where do you get your news? Does the medium matter? How much can you trust “the media”?

How has the rise of “new media” (i.e. the internet) affected “print media” news outlets like newspapers and magazines? Does wider availability of entertainment media mean people receive less news? Does news have to become more entertaining (or sensationalist) to compete with entertainment media for audiences?

How does international news get reported, compared to domestic news? What kind of international news is important, and what gets ignored? What’s in the international “public interest 公众利益” to know?

Is objective reporting possible, or will bias always be a problem? Should objective, fact-based reporting be the most important goal? How does exposure to news affect our opinions?

Why is Western media so negative? Why are some major media websites not available in China?

**The News** – (news) anchor 主持 (on the) beat 执勤、当班 broadcast 广播 columnist 专栏作家 commentary 现场报道; 评论 editorial/op-ed 主编; 评论、立场 exclusive (video) footage 独家视频片段 headline 头条 “human interest” story/ “soft news” 味新闻, 人性化故事 investigative journalism 调查性新闻报道 international correspondent 国际通讯员 investigative report 调查性报告 journalism 新闻 journalist 记者 lead (on an investigation) 领导; 诱导 muckraker 丑闻揭发者 news media 新闻媒体 on the spot (reporter/reporting) 现场 (记者、报道) (the) press 新闻界、报界 press conference 新闻发布会 reporter 记者 (the) scoop 独家新闻、抢先报道 (to get) scooped 被独家报道 (news) segment 片段 top story 热点新闻

**Sources** – anonymous source 匿名来源 expert 专家 eyewitness account 目击者的陈述 first-hand account 第一手资料 hearsay 传闻 live-feed 现场报道 nightcrawler 夜间新闻捕捉者 reliable source 可靠来源 secondary source 第二手、次级来源 security camera footage 监控录像片段 witness 目击者

**Types of Events** – celebration 庆典 commemoration 纪念 (仪式) crisis 危机 dilemma 困境 disaster 灾难 dispute 争端 fiasco 惨败 massacre 大屠杀 meeting 会议 natural disaster 自然灾害 quagmire 泥潭、复杂局势 speech 讲话 summit 峰会

**Problems in Journalism** – “agenda-setting model” of media influence 媒体影响力的议程设置模式 bias 偏向 censorship 审查 classified information (美) 秘密情报 feeding frenzy 疯狂竞争 “hypodermic model” of media influence 皮下注射模型”、子弹模型, 指狭隘的经验主义对传播媒体的垄断 “if it bleeds it leads” 如果新闻内容充满流血事件则越吸引人 libel 诽谤 “man bites dog” 人咬狗、为了搏人眼球而违反常理: 狗咬人不是新闻, 人咬狗才是新闻 “minimal-effects model” of media influence 媒体影响力的最小效应 negativity propaganda 宣传 punditry/pundit 权威 sensationalism 耸人听闻、哗众取宠 slander 诋毁、中伤 smear campaign 抹黑竞选 24-hour news cycle 24小时周期 yellow journalism 以犯罪、凶杀、色情等刺激性新闻为内容的哗众取宠 yesterday’s news/ “old news” 过时新闻/旧新闻

## Comparative Politics: Current Events/Watching the News

Where do you get your news? Does the medium matter? How much can you trust "the media"?

How would you expect the media's role, content, and relationship with the government to vary by a state's regime type?

How has the rise of "new media" (i.e. the internet) affected "print media" news outlets like newspapers and magazines? Does wider availability of entertainment media mean people receive less news? Does news have to become more entertaining (or sensationalist) to compete with entertainment media for audiences?

Is objective reporting possible, or will bias always be a problem? Should objective, fact-based reporting be the most important goal?

How does exposure to news affect our opinions? Which of the three "models of media influence" do you find most accurate?

Why is Western media so negative? Why are some major media websites not available in China?

China prides itself on the innovation of the new concept of "internet sovereignty" and the technical equipment and skills to enable itself and other countries like North Korea to establish which media sources are allowed to enter the country and generally control the internet within their borders.

Why do Western countries consider "freedom of the press" so important for liberal democracy? Do you think Western media outlets are really so free? What kinds of things can't be published or broadcast in them, and why? In the USA, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is the agency which regulates the media, including licensing for TV and radio, and some criticize it as a non-democratic institution which favors large corporations, effectively censoring what can be said in U.S. media. Do you think smaller, independent or even "pirate" and "terrorist" media sources should be allowed to broadcast in the USA? Why/why not?

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