



The **News Media** industry has left America down. All dialog is from the book, CATO Institute 2020.

There is always intense pressure for reporters to serve as protagonists rather than journalists. However, those two missions are inherently incompatible. Well, in the history of America, ambitious officials have sought to enlist journalists and other opinion shapers to promote their vision of events and policies.

Although officials profess that a Free Press is essential to the health of a democratic political system, they tend to regard the 4th estate as a necessary evil at best. A growing number of journalists explicitly and implicitly signed onto the responsibility to protect doctrine R2P, which insisted that the American global leadership role required that the United States use its overwhelming military power to defend innocent citizens from evil rulers. That doctrine went awry right here at home with our own CIA FBI and other three and four-letter acronyms. Accurate reporting has gone South on the Balkans War, the Afghanistan war, COVID actions Actions, in Vietnam, Russia's fake facts leading to trump's Russian fake facts, leading to Biden, James Comey, and Carter Page were horrible examples of American leadership in security. The FBI committed serious violations of its own procedures during Trump investigations. The Justice Department issued unscrupulous reports on the Crossfire Hurricane investigation. And besides Russia, China has harmed America in the health field and election campaign field, and education abroad.

For all its world-weary criticism about politics, the US press displayed more often than it cared to limit every remarkable tendency to believe the basic truth of what its government told them. The herd mentality underlying embodies most apparent in foreign policy and national security issues much of the anger displayed against president trump was unfounded but he was an easy man to hate.

Whenever United States leaders assert that a serious threat foreign or domestic exists to the nation's safety they are highly intolerant of journalists who challenged that assertion. The media's performance regarding US foreign policy is never been especially impressive some behavior reflects inherent nationalism, the belief that one's country is good and that whatever causes it pursues it is likely to be worthy. Nationalistic pride exists in most countries but Americans seem to develop an expressly strong version. Friendly journalists minimize or overlook entirely instances of unsavory behavior on the part of venomous factions while highlighting sometimes to the point of carnage actions of designated villains. The creation of an all-volunteer military led to one significant change fewer families would have loved ones directly at risk. That clearly was the case in the Afghan conflict. Most mainstream journalists only bother to ask hard questions when they have a strong ideological or partisan motive to do so. In Sheryl Attkinsons 2014 book Stonewalled, the former CBS reporter expressed frustration at the willingness of the press to tamely accept and even promote the policy status quo. She concluded with a searing complaint about the trajectory of her profession. And said we're losing it without so much of a whimper. We're voluntarily relinquishing it. Her indictment is doubly valid concerning media coverage of defense foreign policy and national security interests. A December 2020 Gallup poll showed that respondents gave journalists very low marks. Only 28% of independent voters approved of 4th state (The Press) ethics. A handful of legacy publications and a few commercial television networks can no longer act as stifling information gatekeepers. The role of a watchdog is to be a skeptic and there are not many skeptics left in the press, especially those tending to be liberal-leaning. The American news media has failed at the mission far more than they've succeeded with respect to national security and foreign policy.