

## Book List

Laurel Leff, *Buried by The Times - The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper* ("This is the best book yet about American media coverage of the Holocaust, as well as an extremely important contribution to our understanding of America's response to the mass murder of the Jews." David S. Wyman)

Samantha Power, *A Problem From Hell - American and the Age of Genocide* (Power won the Pulitzer Prize for this book) ("American officials have been highly inventive in finding arguments not to breach sovereignty and engage in common action to stop genocide. Timidity and tradition have resulted in endless horror and terror. Samantha Power writes with an admirable mix of erudition and passion, she focuses fiercely on the human costs of indifference and passivity, and she instills shame and dismay in the reader." Stanley Hoffman)

Allan Thompson, *The Media and the Rwanda Genocide* ("Bringing together local reporters and commentators from Rwanda, high-profile Western journalists and leading media theorists, this is the only book to identify and probe the extent of the media's accountability. It also examines deliberations by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on the role of the media in the genocide. This book is a startling record of the dangerous negative influence that the media can have, when used as a political tool or when news organisations and journalists fail to live up to their responsibilities." Publisher's notes.)

David S. Wyman, *A Race Against Death - Peter Bergson, America, and the Holocaust* ("This dramatic, important book caps David Wyman's splendid career as the foremost historian of U.S. inaction and obstruction of rescue in the face of Nazi slaughter. All students, scholars, and activists committed to averting another century of war and terror will benefit from Wyman's remarkable and steadfast research." Blanche Wiesen Cook)

James Waller, *Becoming Evil - How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing* ("By unflinchingly posing painful questions and applying the insights of social psychology to the answers, James Waller has produced a lucid, penetrating, deeply disturbing, and unusually instructive book. It both enjoins and enables us to look realistically into the nature of human evil so that we may stand a chance of checking it." Peter Hays and Theodore Z. Weiss)

Steven K. Baum, *The Psychology of Genocide - Perpetrators, Bystanders, and Rescuers* ("Baum presents a model that demonstrates how people's actions during genocide actually mirror their behaviour in everyday life: there are those who destruct (perpetrators), those who help (rescuers) and those who remain uninvolved, positioning themselves between the two extremes (bystanders). Combining eyewitness accounts with Baum's own analysis, this book reveals the common mental and emotional traits among perpetrators, bystanders and rescuers and how a war between personal and social identity accounts for these divisions." Publisher's notes.)

Maxwell McCombs, *Setting the Agenda - The Mass Media and Public Opinion* ("This book illustrates the wide applicability of agenda-setting theory, nicely putting together research findings regarding the media's role in public opinion processes from different democracies across the world." Toshio Tukesjita)

Paul Starr, *The Creation of the Media - Political Origins of Modern Communications* ("a book no journalist -- and probably no citizen -- should be without" David Propson, *New York Sun*)

W. Lance Bennett, *News - The Politics of Illusion* (Ninth Edition) ("Bennett argues that the American political information system -- with news at its center -- is broken, with serious consequences for democracy." Paul Freedman, The University of Virginia)

Michael Schudson, *Discovering the News - A Social History of American Newspapers* ("Traces the development of the American newspaper . . . thoughtfully and intelligently, and provocatively enough to raise legitimate doubts about the usefulness of most published histories of the American press." The Nation)

Berrin Beasley and Mitchell Haney (ed.), *Social Media and the Value of Truth* (2013) ("In the blizzard of work on the new social media, this learned book is indispensable. Luminary contributors from philosophy and communications know how to make an argument and clarify ideas. They judge virtual reality by the truth principle, and their smart thinking on it makes this provocative book distinctive. While lucid on social network technologies, the authors teach us that authentic living is central." Clifford G. Christians)

Lance deHaven-Smith, *Conspiracy Theory in America* ("Sure to spark intense debate about the truthfulness and trustworthiness of our government, *Conspiracy Theory in America* offers a powerful reminder that a suspicious, even radically suspicious, attitude toward government is crucial to maintaining our democracy." From the book jacket.)

Sheldon Rampton & John Stauber, *Weapons of Mass Deception - The Uses of Propaganda in Bush's War on Iraq* ("Media critics John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton would like American consumers to become better spin detectors. Behind much of what we read in newspapers or hear on TV, they say, are not cold, hard facts, but public relations specialists, who are masters at 'spin control,' directing what information is presented, by whom and in what context." Anita Manning, *USA Today*)

Barry M. Lando, *Web of Deceit - The History of Western Complicity in Iraq, From Churchill to Kennedy to George W. Bush* (with segments about the Bush administration disinformation and prowar campaign in the media and the media's treatment of several relevant topics, including the denigration of Al Jazeera, atrocities against the Kurds, atrocities against Shiites, the effects of trade sanctions, and the U.S. attack on retreating Iraqis during the first Gulf War) ("Fascinating. A stunning case of victor's justice: Barry Lando's *Web of Deceit* is a compelling must-read that goes far beyond the current crop of books on Iraq. If you want to understand Iraq, this is the book." Mike Wallace.)

Tony Schwartz, *The Responsive Chord - How Radio and TV Manipulate You . . . Who You Vote For . . . What You Buy . . . And How You Think*. (1973, but still a classic.) ("*The Responsive Chord* certainly gets a big response from me . . . I enjoyed it enormously. This is totally untouched field and Tony Schwartz has a monopoly in this area." Marshall McLuhan)

George Lakoff, *Don't Think of An Elephant! - Know Your Values and Frame the Debate* ("Ever wonder how the radical right has been able to convince average Americans to repeatedly vote against their own interests? It's the farming, stupid! *Don't Think of An Elephant!* is a pithy and powerful primer on the language of American politics." Arianna Huffington)

Drew Westen, *The Political Brain - The Role of Emotion in Deciding The Fate of The Nation* (with discussions about the media during campaigns, media portrayals of candidates, and framing by the media) ("This is the most interesting, informative book on politics I've read in many years. . . . [Westen's] suggestions for what candidates should say-- and should have said--should be read and studied by anyone who wants to understand modern American politics." President Bill Clinton)

Frank Luntz, *Words That Work - It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear* (a powerful description of the power of words in the media, in politics, in business, and in interpersonal relationships) ("Why are some people so much better than others at talking their way into a job or out of trouble? What's behind winning campaign slogans and career-ending political blunders? Why do some product ads connect emotionally and others fail miserably? Why do some speeches resonate and endure while others are forgotten moments after they are given? In *Words That Work*, Dr. Frank Luntz, language architect and public opinion guru, not only raises the curtain on the craft of effective language, but also offers priceless insight on how to find and use the right words to get what you want out of life." From the book cover.)

Mark Hertsgaard, *On Bended Knee - The Press and the Reagan Presidency* ("Hertsgaard presents a history and an indictment of the relations between the major news media and the Reagan Administration. He shows how the press, both through government manipulation and through voluntary self-censorship, abdicated its responsibility to report what was really going on in the Reagan Administration." Description at [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com).)

W. Lance Bennett, Regina G. Lawrence, Steven Livingston, *When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina* ("The hand-in-glove relationship of the U.S. media with the White House is mercilessly exposed in this determined and disheartening study that repeatedly reveals how the press has toed the official line at those moments when its independence was most needed."—George Pendle, *Financial Times*)

Sean Hannity, *Deliver Us From Evil - Defeating Terrorism, Despotism, and Liberalism* (describes Hannity's notion of a "liberal media" and what he views as the consequences)

("Deliver Us From Evil is a valuable read not only for conservatives, but also for the new breed of swing Democrats-turned-'9/11 Republicans' and soccer moms (turned 'security moms') whose lives were changed inalterably by the terrorist attacks." National Review)

Ross Gelbspan, *Boiling Point - How Politicians, Big Oil and Coal, Journalists, and Activists Have Fueled the Climate Crisis--and What We Can Do to Avert Disaster* ("Ross Gelbspan enrages and engages us in this no-holds-barred account of duplicity and apathy, while simultaneously offering the most tangible solutions yet to our otherwise apocalyptic dilemma." Dick Russell)

Eugene Jarecki, *The American Way of War - Guided Missiles, Misguided Men, and a Republic in Peril* (with descriptions of the impact and actions of mass media in connection with political campaigns, detainee abuse, the invasion of Iraq, and the "outing" of CIA agent Valerie Plame Wilson) ("As America enters a new era, Jarecki asks us, as an electorate, to demand accountability from our government for abuses of power. He reveals facts too often ignored -- that throughout our history, Democratic and Republican administrations have taken our country into costly wars for spurious reasons." Walter Cronkite)

Norman Solomon, *War Made Easy - How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death* ("Norman Solomon is one of the bravest and best American journalists, especially when he is dissecting the topics of war and the media. *War Made Easy* exposes and explains the lies and deceptions that have misled our nation into vile and bloody disasters from Vietnam to El Salvador to Iraq; it reveals the frequent cowardice and culpability of the U.S. media that often behaves as a propaganda arm of the Pentagon. A sobering and essential book that Americans should read, share, and discuss." John Stauber. "America's mainstream media didn't launch the war on Iraq, but the Bush administration sure couldn't have waged it without them. The great lesson of *War Made Easy* is that, alas, such journalistic malfeasance is nothing new; our media has a history of enabling Washington's foreign misadventures." Mark Hertsgaard)

Greg Mitchell, *So Wrong For So Long - How the Press, the Pundits -- and the President - Failed on Iraq* ("The profound failure of the American press with regard to the Iraq War may very well be the most significant political story of this generation. Greg Mitchell has established himself as one of our country's most perceptive media critics, and here he provides invaluable insight into how massive journalistic failures enabled the greatest strategic disaster in the nation's history." Glenn Greenwald)

Naomi Oreskes & Erik M. Conway, *Merchants of Doubt* ("Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, historians of science, roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how ideology and corporate interests, aided by a too-compliant media, have skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era.")

Croteau, Hoynes & Milan, *Media/Society - Industries, Images, and Audiences* (Fourth Edition 2012) ("Croteau and Hoynes have written the clearest, most comprehensive, and

useful textbook I've seen on media, American society, and their interconnections." Todd Gitlin (writing about a previous edition)

Dan Baum, *Smoke and Mirrors - The War on Drugs and The Politics of Failure* (discusses the role of the media in promoting the "war on drugs") ("Dan Baum's *Smoke and Mirrors* makes an invaluable contribution to our understanding of how we slipped into and then mindlessly escalated one of the nation's most destructive social experiments. It also helps us grasp why our leaders continue to repeat the mistakes of the past (e.g., Prohibition)." Steven Duke)

Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer, *Bitter Fruit - The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala* (discusses the media's treatment of the overthrow by the U.S. of the democratically-elected president in Guatemala and how the federal government pressured the media to report more favorably on behalf of the government's positions) ("Schlesinger and Kinzer have done the greatest service to truth and justice by presenting the untold truth of the CIA coup . . ." Carlos Fuentes)