



History of Newspapers

Earliest newspapers

- 1455 = Guttenberg invents printing press
- 1609-German
- 1621-London
- 1631-Paris
- 1690s American

Newspaper history as seen by eras

- Colonial Press (1690s)
- Press and the New Republic (1760s)
- Penny Press (1830s)
- Civil War Press (1860s)
- “New” Journalism
 - Yellow Journalism
 - People’s Champions

+ **More newspaper eras**

- Socially Responsible Press (1890s)
- Jazz Age of Journalism/Tabloids (1920s)
- Modern Journalism
 - 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s
- War Press
 - Civil War -- WWI -- WWII -- Korea
 - Vietnam -- Grenada -- Gulf War -- War on Terrorism -- Iraqi War

+ **Colonial Press (1690s)**

- Publick Occurrences
- New England Courant
- Characteristics of Papers
 - Papers often run by postmasters
 - Foreign news, philosophical essays, letters,
 - bad poetry, advertising, dull layout
 - Generally looked to England for approval

+ **Press and New Republic**

- Stamp Act of 1765
 - Pay Tax -- Stop Publication -- Or
- Papers started to take sides
 - Tory (loyal) -- Whig (something not right) --
 - Patriots (break with England)
- Highly partisan in nature
- Role of Women

+ **Press and New Republic**

- 35 established papers before Revolution
 - 20 survived (mostly Tories gone)
 - But 35 new papers for total of 55
- Two new groups fought for control
 - Federalists (business)
 - Anti-Federalists (wage earners)
- Role in establishing new government



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+ **Press and New Republic**

- Changing times: By 1800 ...
 - Most big ports had newspapers = 512
 - War of 1812 opened west to Frontier Press
 - Magazines start to take a foothold
 - Jefferson starts public education
- Education + Technological+ Economic = ...



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+ **Penny Press (1830s)**

- Papers used to cost about 10¢
- Benjamin Day (NY Sun) 1833
 - Reduce cost of paper to penny
 - Change the content/sensationalize
 - Help solve crimes
 - Hire paper boys and professional reporters
 - Assign reporters to cover federal govt
 - Senate (23) -- House (51) -- Few President (few)



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+ Penny Press

- 1844 Telegraph = Race for News
 - NY publishers share telegraph news
- Lords of the Press

+ Civil War

- Civil War Press (discussed under War Press)
- Abolitionist Press (Elijah Lovejoy)
- History starts fresh after Civil War
 - Industrial Revolution 1865-1900
 - Rise of big cities
 - Population doubled, city population tripled
 - Daily newspapers quadrupled, circulation x 6
 - English dailies up to 1,967

+ Growth of newspapers recap

- First papers 1690
- Pre-Revolution 35 (c. 1770)..... +35
- Post-Revolution 55* (c. 1775)..... +20
*After a loss of 15, so real gain of 35
- Pre-Penny Press 512 (c. 1820)..... +457
- Post Civil War 1,967** (c. 1900)..... +1455
**English dailies only. Lots of weeklies and non-English dailies, too
- Today there are only about 1,700 dailies and about 6,800 weeklies

+ "New" Journalism

- Papers grew because of greater wealth, greater population, improved literacy
- Characteristics of papers
 - Low priced, aggressive, easy to read
 - Believed news was primary function (own cause)
 - Exhibited independence of opinion
 - Crusaded actively
 - Appealed to masses, better design/content

+ "New" Journalism

- Yellow Journalism
 - William Randolph Hearst / Joseph Pulitzer
 - Sensationalism, hoaxes, high circulation, crusades against big powers
 - Spanish-American War
- People's Champions
 - Pulitzer, Hearst, E.W. Scripps

+ "New" Journalism

- Scripps' formula
 - Smaller cities (Ohio): Small size, big heart
 - Bright writing, easy to read
 - Human interest features, fearless crusades, spirit of protest, hard-fighting editorials
- Muckraking magazines
 - McClures, Cosmopolitan, Ladies Home Journal, Saturday Evening Post

+ Socially Responsible/Jazz Age

- Socially Responsible Press (1890s)
 - Segregation of news and opinion
 - Modern design, more photos, fewer “deck” headlines
 - Decline of readership
- Fewer “Lords of the Press”
- Jazz Age (1920s) = precursor to Tabloids

+ Modern Journalism 1950s

- 1940s affected by WWII
- Sublime country = conservative news
- Socially responsible
- Real start of television and its affect
- Growth of newspaper chains

+ Modern Journalism 1960s

- Mainstream conservative
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Alternative Press
 - Anti-War, anti-establishment
 - Berkeley Barb, LA Free Press
- General Interest magazines on decline

+ **Modern Journalism 1970s**

- Investigative Journalism
 - Watergate, Nixon war with the Press
- Participatory Journalism
- Competition with television news
- Dying afternoon papers



+ **Modern Journalism 1980s**

- Impact of USA Today
- More consolidation of newspaper chains
- Niche magazines find advertising gold mine



+ **Modern Journalism 1990s**

- Internet newspapers
- Public Interest journalism



+ **Modern Journalism**
2000s

- Cutbacks in newspaper staffs
- Growth of blogs and citizen journalism
- Shift to online journalism
- Terrorism: To Print or Not to Print



+ **War Press**

- Civil War (mid-1860s)
- World War I (mid-19teens)
- World War II (1940s)
- Korean War (1950s)
- Vietnam War (1960s)
- Grenada Conflict (early 1980s)
- Gulf War (early 1990s)
- War on Terrorism (2002)/Iraq 2004



+ **War Press**

- **Civil War (1864)**
 - Reporters and Telegraph
 - Photography with Matthew Brady
 - Lincoln often ignored First Amendment
 - Paper supplies in the South
- **World War I (1918)**
 - Committee on Public Information
 - Voluntary Censorship Code



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+ War Press

- Espionage Act 1917 (punished German-American papers)
- Sedition Act of 1918 (Trading with the Enemy Act)
 - Censored things leaving the country
 - Can't publish abusive info about government
- World War II (1940s)
 - Espionage Act /Sedition Acts still on books
 - Office of War Information
 - Mandatory Code of Wartime Practices

+ War Press

- Korean War (1950s)
 - Strict control of correspondents
- Vietnam War (1960s)
 - Usually freer (Stars and Stripes most censored)
 - Television War
 - Body counts at dinner time
 - Walter Cronkite affect after Tet Offensive

+ War Press

- Grenada Conflict (1980s)
 - Attempt to control coverage with press pools
- Gulf War (1990s)
 - Most restricted coverage of all U.S. wars
 - Effect of CNN in Baghdad
- War on Terrorism/Iraq
 - Embedded reporters
 - Are there stories that should not be reported?
