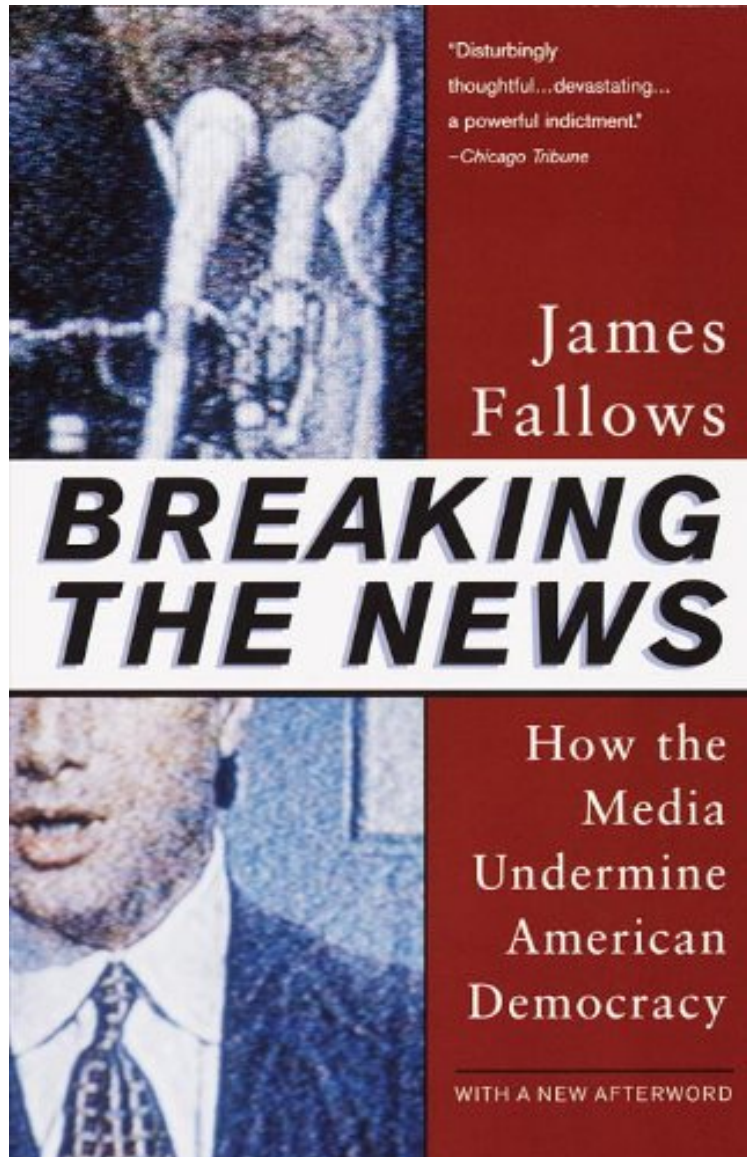


(Ebook pdf) Breaking The News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy

# Breaking The News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy

James Fallows

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**James Fallows : Breaking The News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breaking The News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding book by an outstanding author. By Simone Signoret Outstanding journalist James Fallows wrote this biting critique of the Press in 1996 - yet it is more than ever relevant. An example of a prophet crying in the wilderness. Fallows lays out clearly why the American people have lost their respect for this important profession and its practitioners, and how the Press fails its calling. It does so in two major ways: One is focusing on the sensational instead of on the important, and lacking sorely in fact checking. A well-informed public is indispensable to the proper functioning of a republic; and the fact that our republic is not well functioning at all is in large part due to a Press that does not fulfill its duty to the people. 34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Superb book on our most important national issue! By Tracy Marks Appalled at the biases, distortions and omissions in the media, which have been worsening since 9-11, I recently launched on a campaign of study in regard to learning about the deterioration of the media and the influence of corporate control - and what we can do to counter it. This is one of the best, most informative and most readable of the six books on the subject I've read. I can't emphasize enough how important it is, how much our corporate-run media influence political thinking, decisionmaking and voting and influence not only the outcome of elections but the agenda and actions of politicians - and how motivated we need to become in order to counter it, to become informed about political realities rather than propaganda and myth, and as a country, to become more of a democracy and less of a plutocracy. The biggest difficult we face is that the media itself is not likely to publicize its own corruption, and is actively blocking attempts of people concerned with these issues inform the public. I also highly recommend the books on media disinformation and reform by Robert McChesney, including his mini-books Corporate Media and the Threat to Democracy and Our Media, Not Theirs. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The content is as brilliant as its title By Pantagruel The content is as brilliant as its title. A few years old now, but this book is even more relevant today. It provides a frame to help process and understand the flood of media information.

Why do Americans mistrust the news media? It may be because show like "The McLaughlin Group" reduce participating journalists to so many shouting heads. Or because, increasingly, the profession treats issues as complex as health-care reform and foreign policy as exercises in political gamesmanship. These are just a few of the arguments that have made Breaking the News so controversial and so widely acclaimed. Drawing on his own experience as a National Book Award-winning journalist--and on the gaffes of colleagues from George Will to Cokie Roberts--Fallows shows why the media have not only lost our respect but alienated us from our public life. "Important and lucid...It moves smartly beyond the usual attacks on sensationalism and bias to the more profound problems in modern American journalism...dead-on."--Newsweek

.com A lot of big-shot journalists didn't like this book, a systematic jeremiad about the current sad state of American political journalism. For instance, both the New York Times op-ed page and the New Yorker took pains to excoriate the book and its author--pretty good hints that Fallows is onto something. His point is that greed and intellectual sloth have fostered a political media elite that increasingly focuses on spin and ignores substance at the very time when solving the country's real problems requires all possible nuance. From Publishers Weekly Featuring a new afterword, "Fallows's rousing jeremiad is an important beacon for everyone concerned about the news media's poor performance in helping the public make sane choices about the way we live, work and govern," said PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal How the media give us the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? as they want us to see it. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.