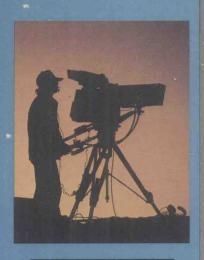
MODERN MASS MEDIA

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HARPER & ROW, PUBLISHERS, New York
Grand Rapids, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco,
London, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo

Sponsoring Editor: Jane Kinney Project Editor: Bonnie Biller Art Direction: Lucy Krikorian

Text Design and Art: A Good Thing, Inc. Cover Design: Brand X Studio/Robin Hoffman

Photo Research: Suzanne Skloot

Production: Jeanie Berke/Paula Roppolo

Modern Mass Media

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Merrill, John Calhoun, 1924

Modern mass media/John C. Merrill, John Lee, Edward Jay Friedlander.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 0-06-044470-3.—ISBN 0-06-044469-X (student ed.)

1. Mass media. I. Lee, John, 1931– II. Friedlander, E. J. III. Title. P90.M454 1990 302.23—dc20 89-38341

CIP

90 91 92 93 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Preface

Modern university students are already experienced media consumers. From the time they get up in the morning until they put their heads down at night, they are assailed by media messages that inform them, entertain them, persuade them, alert them to dangers. Information swirls in through a variety of mass media vehicles, all competing for their attention: the clock radios that wake them, the newspapers that drop at their family doorsteps, the pages of slick magazines, the television sets that dominate their living rooms, movies, books, billboards.

Some of the rush of information is valuable. Much is useless. Student media consumers, like others, obviously can't pay attention to every message that comes their way. They might all go crazy if they tried. So which messages are they to listen to? Which do they believe? How do they choose?

One objective of this book is to help answer these questions. Another is to provide students the opportunity to enhance, analyze and consolidate raw data they already possess. Whether they are preparing for media careers or simply wish to become more sophisticated media consumers, students should be exposed to media problems of the past, present and future. They must understand media principles and concepts. They should learn to question, examine and solve media conundrums. The key to understanding is knowledge.

A contemporary media textbook organized to meet the needs of a changing mass-communication scene must be more than accurate and readable. It must examine the process of communication and show how the process works on a mass scale and how it affects the average consumer. Each of the major mass media must be carefully defined to clarify unique purposes and problems. Such basic issues as the relationship of media to government and the balance of freedom and controls must be thoroughly investigated. *Modern Mass Media* was designed to update the best of this common body of thoughts and insights about media.

But more is necessary to meet the demands of the 1990s. Like society itself, the media are in a constant state of flux, and the mass media textbook for the next decade must reflect these changes. A full range of solid traditional information must be blended with analysis and special features aimed at broadening knowledge in areas too often left undeveloped.

In assessing the rapidly altering interests of communication professors and specialists, the authors of *Modern Mass Media* encountered a growing insistence that certain areas of instruction be strengthened. Reviewers requested a more meaningful study of evolving media economics and a stronger flow of

Modern Mass Media: An Overview media history than is available in most existing textbooks. They want to see current and newsworthy issues from the world's headlines used as teaching devices. In addition, our readers require an up-to-date look at swiftly changing media operating procedures, a stronger focus on women and minorities and knowledgeable predictions on the trends that will shape the 21st century.

But most of all, our professional colleagues insist that two major media subjects in particular, international communication and media ethics, be expanded and addressed more thoroughly to meet the needs of the times.

International Communication

The primary focus of any American media text must naturally be the American mass media. But the globe continues to shrink, and national problems increasingly become international problems, making knowledge of and interest in other cultures of critical importance. Too many professional media personnel and American media consumers know little or nothing about the media systems of other countries. And that's unfortunate.

Modern Mass Media not only offers a strong chapter on global issues, but international topics also appear throughout the text in the form of special boxes called "Global Glances," which provide a basis of comparison with American media practices.

Ethics

Another subject of great complexity and growing concern is that of media ethics. Ethical procedure embraces a respect for personal responsibility and the public welfare. Numerous codes of ethical conduct exist, but a number of media critics suggest that some modern media practitioners lack a keen adherence to ethical behavior.

Are the critics correct? When one considers the potential power of mass communication, one must also consider questions of media conduct. Should there not be basic principles, values and obligations by which media personnel operate? Who is to set these norms? Who is to enforce them? Can they be enforced? Should they be enforced?

Quandaries and questions abound. At least half of the journalism and communication programs in American universities now offer some kind of course in media ethics. Those that do not offer a formal ethics course have increasingly introduced ethical discussion into the content of other courses. The conclusion is inevitable: American mass media cannot be properly explored in the 1990s without an examination of ethical concepts.

Structure of the Book

Modern Mass Media, responding to the requirements and preferences of university specialists, offers the latest, most current data on media theory and practice, with anecdotal materials straight out of the world's headlines. Content is offered in three major sections. The first, "Theory and Impact," explains how communication works, explores communicators and audiences, considers media functions, and probes the impact and effects of mass media

Preface

messages. Part 2, "Practice and Support," examines the operating procedures and problems of the major media, as well as media support systems such as advertising and public relations. The final section, "Issues and Concepts," studies important concepts such as the relationship of government to media, press freedom and controls, media ethics and vital concerns of international communication.

The book contains 15 carefully organized chapters, one for each week of the average college semester. Written in an easy, clearly structured style, the chapters offer the expected traditional information, as well as fresh material unique to this book. Each chapter is also peppered with the special "insights" boxes. At the end of each chapter, the authors have included a brief retrospective, identifying and summarizing the most important points of interest. Readers will also find a list of summary discussion questions, designed to solidify the student's understanding of major concepts and encourage thoughtful analysis. As a starting place for written reports and for students who want to explore individual topics more deeply, lists of both classic and innovative media books at the end of each chapter offer rich fields for further study. At the close of the book, a glossary provides useful terms for quick review.

Throughout the book the reader will find four kinds of special-interest "insights" boxes, which are designed to enhance the learning process. "Global Glances" are provided to increase knowledge of comparative international media practices. "Past Pointers" offer unusual or important historical asides to supplement the historical timelines threaded through most of the chapters. There are also "Special Spots," a freewheeling collection of pertinent highlights and explanatory notes. And finally, "Future Focus" boxes attempt to peer through the mists and see what tomorrow will bring.

For the instructor, an Instructor's Manual/Test Bank is available. The Instructor's Manual contains a summary of the goals of each chapter, followed by a list of discussion questions and suggestions for class projects. The Test Bank includes a collection of sample test questions, including 20 to 25 true/false, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank and essay questions for each chapter; a total of more than 300 questions from which choices can be made to reflect the instructor's own emphasis in lectures. The Test Bank is also available to adopters on Harper Test, a test-generation software program for the IBM pc and most compatibles. The Harper Test computer version allows instructors to produce up to 5 scrambled versions of a test, and add, edit and delete questions to reinforce important points made during lectures, analyses, and commentaries.

The authors wish to express their appreciation to the hundreds of university professors who shared their thoughts and their comments in the Harper survey questionnaire on what they wanted to see in the media text of the 1990s. We especially wish to thank a handful of dedicated university experts who spent so many hours combing the early drafts of the manuscript and offered detailed, much-appreciated refinements for our consideration. Those

Acknowledgments

hardy souls included Walter H. Broyald, University of Minnesota; David Clark, Colorado State University; John Doolittle, American University; Christina Drale, Southwest Missouri State University; William Elliott, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; Stuart Ewen, Hunter College; Gilbert L. Fowler, Jr., Arkansas State University; Hal Fulmer, Georgia Southern College; Earl S. Grow, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Kenneth Harwood, University of Houston; May W. Jones, University of New Orleans; Timothy L. Larson, University of Utah; Val E. Linburg, Washington State University; David N. Lowry, Pepperdine University; Maclyn Mc-Clary, Humboldt State University; Srinivas R. Melkote, Bowling Green State University; K. A. Neuendorf, Cleveland State University; Sondra Rubenstein, Hofstra University; Leonard Sellers, San Francisco State University; John P. Smead, Central Missouri State University; Roger Saathoff, Texas Tech University; Douglas Starr, Texas A&M University; Jacqueline Steck, Temple University; Joseph Turow, University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School of Communication; and Tim Wulfemeyer, San Diego State University.

And finally, we want to recognize the following friends and compatriots who offered special support, assistance and guidance: Fran Matera of Arizona State University, Deni Elliott of Dartmouth College, Bruce Garrison of the University of Miami, Sandra Akridge of Southwest Texas State University, David Rubin of New York University, Bill Brody and Ron Spielberger of Memphis State University, and Jeanne Norton Rollberg, Luther "Sonny" Sanders, Marilyn Wright, and Stephen Zeigler of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

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About the Authors

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Edward Jay Friedlander is a professor of journalism at the University of Arkansas. He holds a bachelor of science degree in journalism, a master of arts degree in mass communication and a doctorate in education. Friedlander has worked as a newspaper reporter, a reporter for the United States Information Agency and a film publicist. His work has appeared in 40 newspapers and a dozen regional and national magazines. He has edited three booklength annual reports for the Federal Communications Commission and is author of two college-level texts.

John Lee is a professor of journalism at Memphis State University. He has also taught at American University in Washington, D.C., at the University of Arizona, New York University and California State University at Long Beach. Lee has a multi-media professional background, including newspapers (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Denver Post), magazines (articles for more than 30 consumer magazines), public relations (an international industrial company), television (he hosted a weekly public-affairs program on PBS) and books (six fiction and six nonfiction, including two best-selling novels). Two of his novels have been optioned for movies.

ART 1 Theory and Impact

Chapter 1 How Communication Works

Chapter 2 Communicators and Audiences

> Chapter 3 Media Functions

Chapter 4 Messages and Effects What is communication? How does it work? The process seems simple enough. We speak or we write or we smile. Someone listens or reads or watches, and there is understanding. Even children do it, right? But effective communication isn't always that easy. There are many potential barriers to proper understanding and any unexpected interference can actually make the process of communication quite complex.

Missed communication and misunderstandings are common. When the communication situation is a small, personal one—a woman speaking to a man, or a parent to a child—a simple missed message may lead to momentary confusion, crossed signals, disappointment, even anger. But when the communication process is extended to a mass medium and a life-or-death message is directed toward a mass audience, the possibility of misunderstanding is greatly compounded. And the results can be disastrous.

To understand the way modern mass media work, we must first understand the process of communication itself. We need to know how a message is transferred from one party to another. We should learn to recognize the many possible barriers to communication and seek ways to circumvent them. We should become acquainted with the types of communicators and their equally varied types of audiences. We should study the functions of mass media, and try to avoid the roadblocks that sometimes cause these functions to go awry. And finally, we should delve into the intricacies of mass media messages and begin to weigh their effects on mass audiences.

Only when we begin to understand the communication process may we fruitfully advance to an examination of the structure and operating procedures of the individual mass media.



HAPTER

How Communication Works

What Is Communication?
Types of Communication

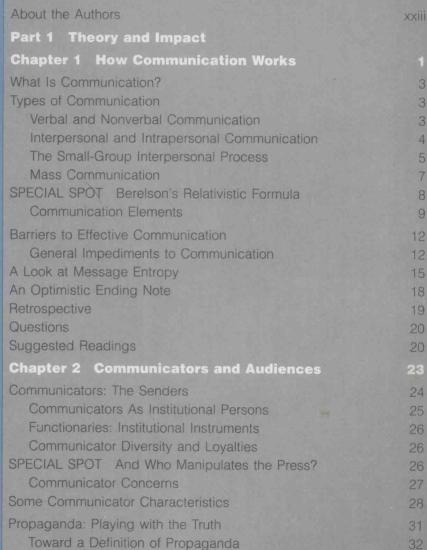
Types of Communication
Verbal and Nonverbal Communication
Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Communication
The Small-Group Interpersonal Process
Mass Communication
Communication Elements

Barriers to Effective Communication
General Impediments to Communication

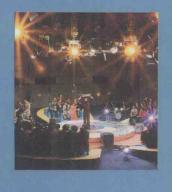
A Look at Message Entropy An Optimistic Ending Note Retrospective Questions Suggested Readings

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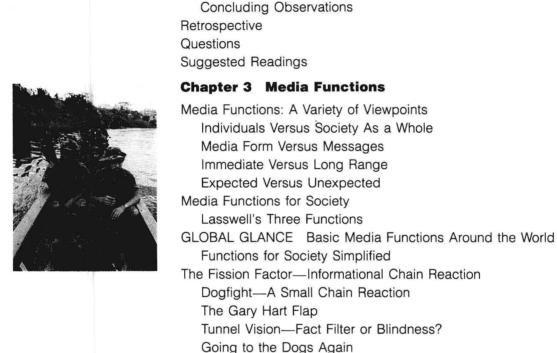




SPECIAL SPOT Jacques Ellul: Propaganda Can Be Truthful



The Seven Basic Devices Journalistic Propaganda



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Withdrawal—Raising Barriers

Chapter 4 Messages and Effects

SPECIAL SPOT "Playing" a Prime Media Function

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Diversion—Playing

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Commonsense Media Effects

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