



Focus: Objectivity

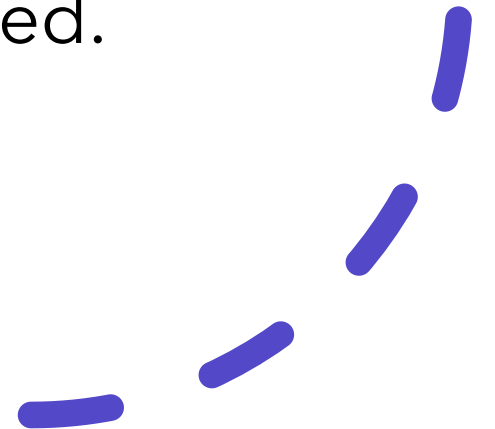
Community Advisory Board

Arizona Public Media

July 16, 2020

Objectivity and Truth

- Cotton Op-Ed article and Margaret Sullivan critique
- Larger context: financial, emotional and health
- Standards and codes of ethics from big news organizations like AZPM, The Times and BBC
- How students are being trained.



Source: Snopes.com/Fact-check

At 4:30 in the morning on 17 December 2016, President-elect Donald Trump took to Twitter to call China's seizure of a United States drone an "unprecedented" act. Trump, however (or someone posting on his behalf), made an unfortunate typo and instead called the incident "unpresidented":



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

 Follow

China steals United States Navy research drone in international waters - rips it out of water and takes it to China in unpresidented act.

RETWEETS

1,859

LIKES


3,799



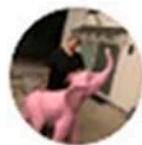
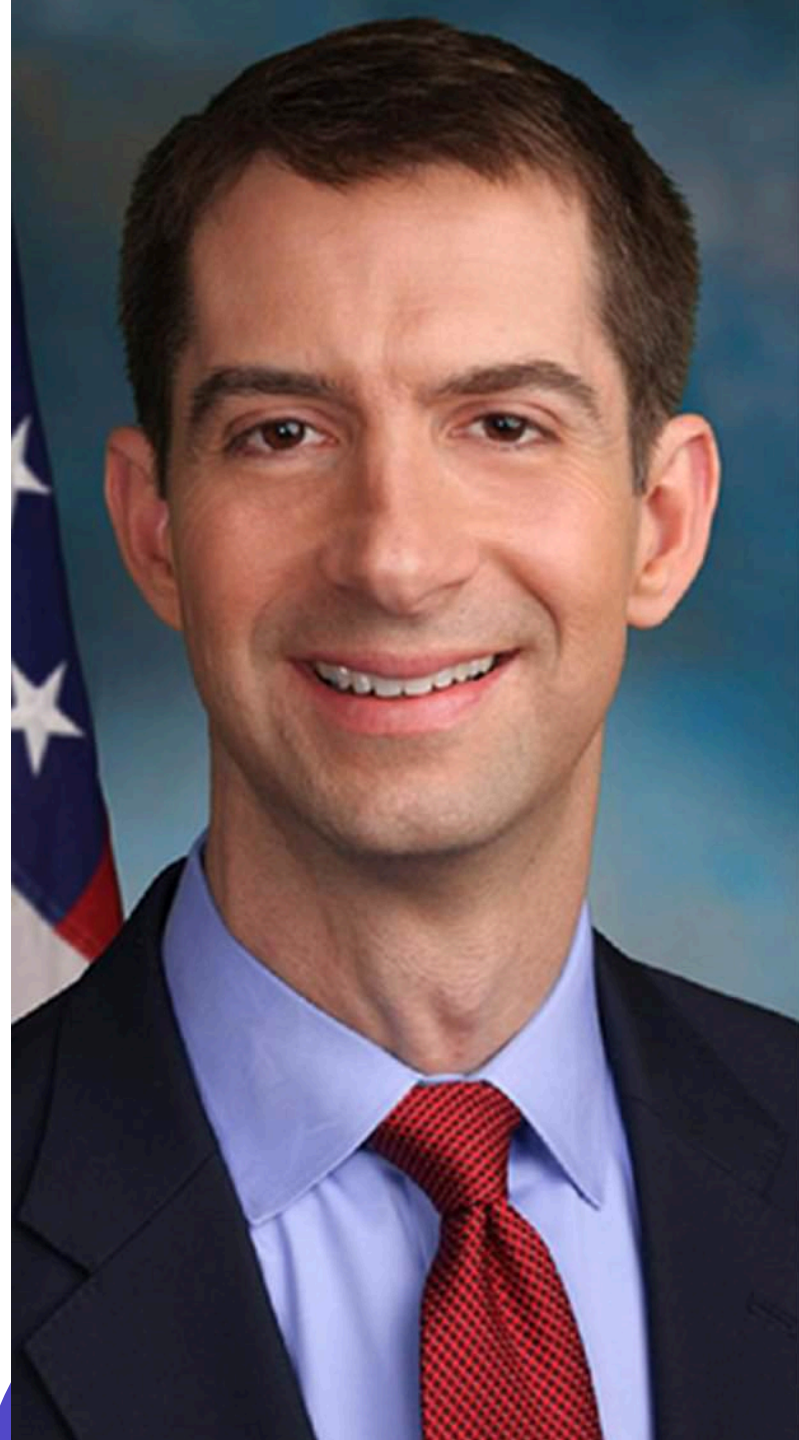
4:30 AM - 17 Dec 2016

 2.4K

 1.9K

 3.8K





roxane gay ✓
@rgay

Running this puts black @nytimes writers, editors and other staff in danger.

Opinion

Tom Cotton: Send In the Troops

The nation must restore order. The military stands ready.



Amy Qin ✓
@amyyqin

Surreal and horrifying to wake up on the morning of June 4 - the 31st anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown - to this headline.



James Bennet: Other controversies

Hires: Bret Stephens and Bari Weiss
Sarah Palin lawsuit: Inserted language
into editorial about gun violence



Q's about recusal
during Presidential
campaign of his
brother, Senator
Michael Bennet,
D-Colorado

ANGER IN THE STREETS

Buildings Matter, Too

Yes, they can be rebuilt, while lives are forever lost. But that doesn't mean they will be.

Does the destruction of buildings matter when black Americans are being brazenly murdered in cold blood by police and vigilantes?

That's the question that has been raging on the streets of Philadelphia, and across my architecture-centric social media feeds, over the last two days as a dark cloud of smoke spiraled up from Center City. What started as a poignant and peaceful protest in Dilworth Park on Saturday morning ended up in a frenzy of destruction by evening. Hardly any building on Walnut and Chestnut



INGA SAFFRON
@ingasaffron

Streets was left unscathed, and two mid-19th century structures just east of Rittenhouse Square were gutted by fire.

Their chances of survival are slim, which means there could soon be a gaping hole in the heart of Philadelphia, in one of its most iconic and historic neighborhoods. And protesters moved on to West Philadelphia's fragile 52nd Street shopping corridor, an important center of black life, where yet more property has been battered.

The anger is fully justified. Black people have been the victims of systemic oppression in America for 400 years, but video footage and social media have now made it impossible to deny how bad things really are. The grotesque killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor — and many others before them — are attacks on the fundamental promise of our democracy. To the protesters who smashed the elegant shop windows of Walnut Street's fanciest stores, the destruction was a just and justified response.

People's lives are more impor-



Smoke fills an area under the Market-Frankford El as the Fire Department battles a blaze at Kensington and Indiana Avenues.

DAVID MAIALETTI / Staff Photographer



of the looting by saying that insurance will cover the costs of repairing the damage. That view assumes that the owners are fully insured, and that they have both the desire and the ability to restart their businesses. Neither are givens. Philadelphia's downtown retail district was already fighting to hold its own against online shopping before the pandemic hit. If those two Walnut Street buildings come down, you can bet the site will end up in the hands of an out-of-town investor, making the rampage a victory for global capitalism.

Few of the protesters are likely to recall the burned-out buildings that sat empty for a decade across from City Hall during the '90s. They, too, were waiting for an insurance payout. The city may feel like one big, money-driven construction site, but its

Philadelphia Inquirer
Los Angeles Times
The Washington Post
The Wall Street Journal
Bon Appetit
Variety

Young journalists, disciplined



Wesley Lowery

In lobby of Ferguson police station, after he spent a night in a holding cell in August 2014.

Photo credit: Ryan Reilly



Alexis Johnson

Photo Credit: Shantale

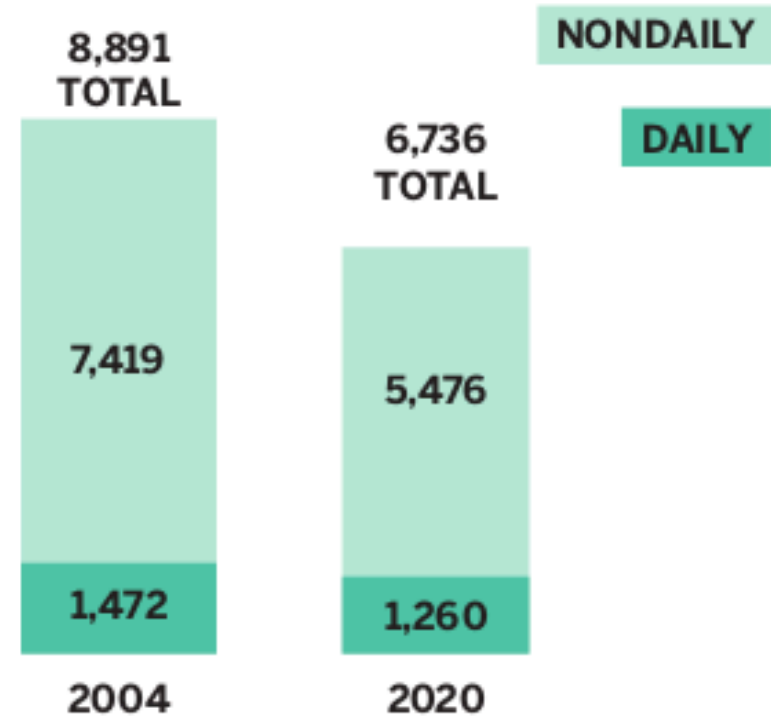
Davis/@ShanShoots2 via AP)



Her tweet

Vanishing Dailies

TOTAL NUMBER OF U.S. NEWSPAPERS: 2004 & 2020



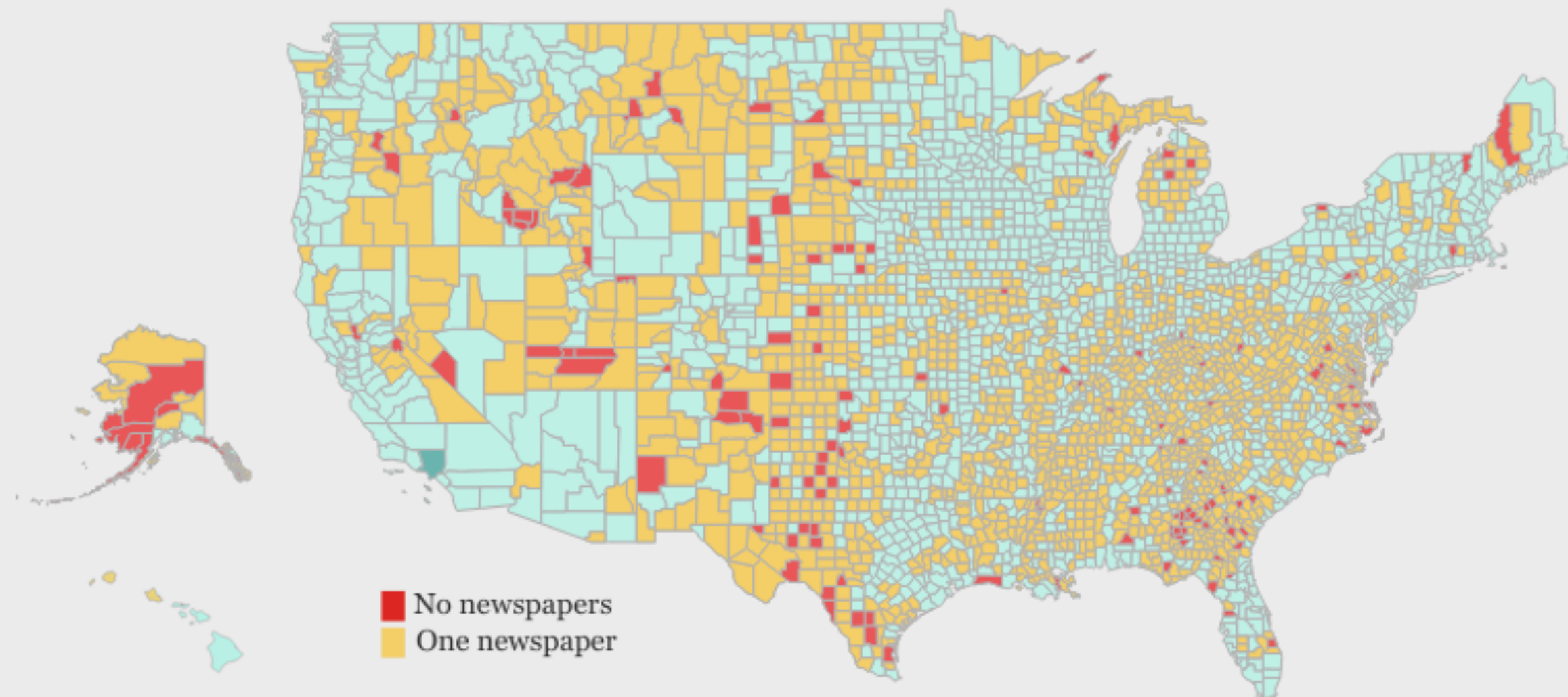
There has been a net loss of 2,155 papers since 2004.

This net loss takes into account more than 100 dailies that shifted to weekly publication, as well as several dozen new weeklies that were established during that period. In total, 71 dailies and 2,196 weeklies closed or merged with other papers.

SOURCE: UNC Database

DO YOU LIVE IN A NEWS DESERT?

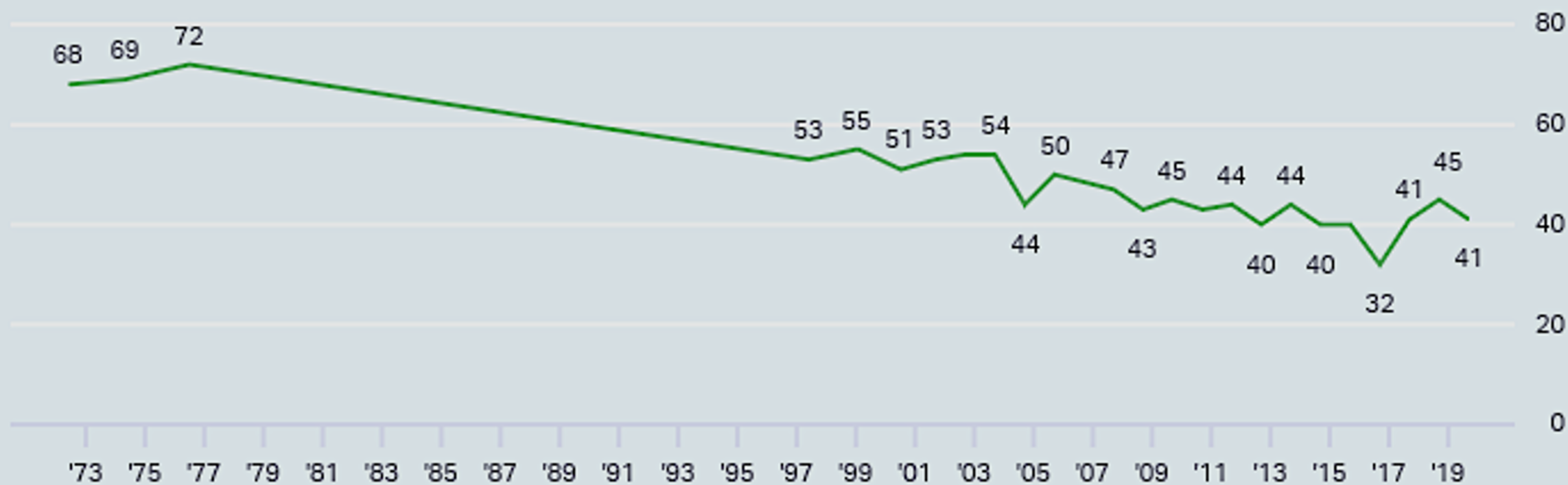
In the U.S. 200 counties do not have a local newspaper. Half of all counties - 1,540 - have only one newspaper, usually a weekly.



Trust in News Media

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media -- such as newspapers, TV and radio -- when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately and fairly -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much or none at all?

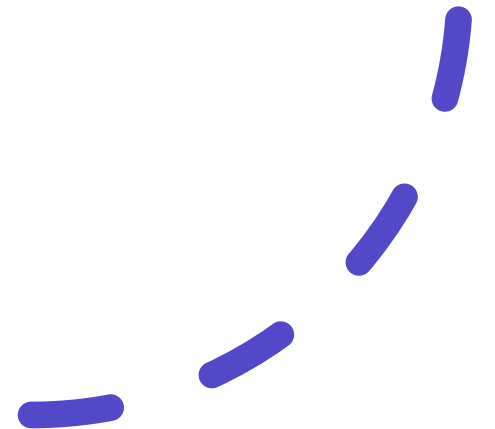
■ % Great deal/Fair amount

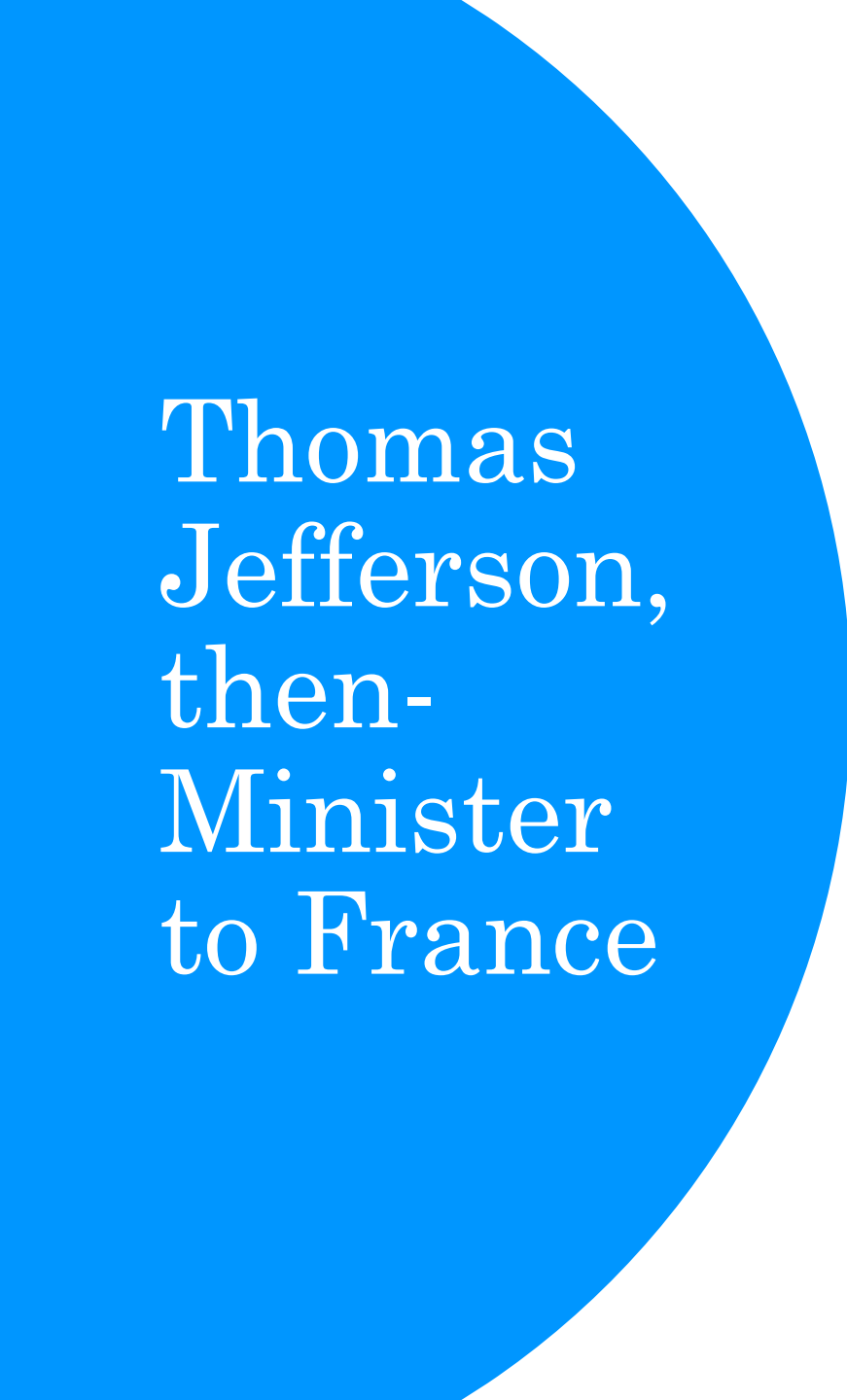


GALLUP

What the public wants:

- Be *neutral* -- but *investigate*
 - (Afflict the comfortable.)
- Be *disengaged*, aloof – but have an *impact*
 - (Comfort the afflicted.)
- Give us *just the facts* – but give context and *interpretation*
 - (Tell me what it all means.)





Thomas Jefferson, then- Minister to France

“...were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

-- Letter from Paris to Edward Carrington, Virginia delegate to Continental Congress, 1787



Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics

- Seek Truth and Report It
- Minimize Harm
- Act Independently
- Be Accountable





A.G. Sulzberger, publisher, The New York Times

"We're not retreating from the principles of independence and objectivity. We don't pretend to be objective about things like human rights and racism."

Photo credit: Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

Editorial Guidelines

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Guidance: Impartiality and Racism

Impartiality and Racism - Guidance note

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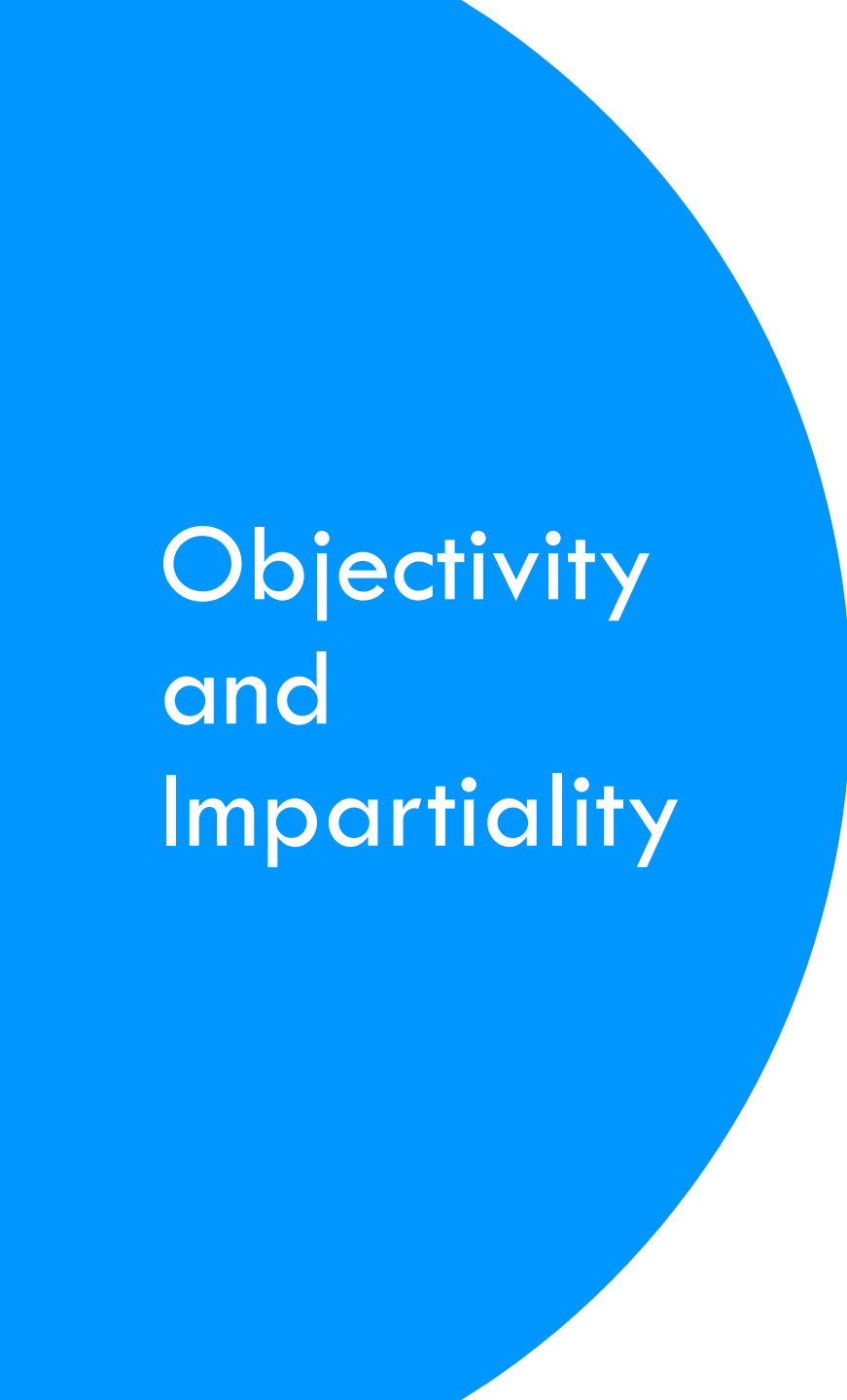
[Download](#)

A number of colleagues have raised questions about BBC impartiality in the context of events following the killing of George Floyd and the scope for personal action in response to the anti-racism protests and demonstrations taking place across the UK and the world. Questions have also been raised about use of social media.

This [guidance note](#) sets out the BBC's position with reference to the BBC Charter and [Editorial Guidelines](#).

The BBC is not impartial on racism.

The position that the BBC is not impartial on racism reflects the BBC's underlying commitment to fundamental democratic principles. This informs the BBC's approach to all its output.



Objectivity
and
Impartiality

**In the end, the discipline
of verification is what
separates journalism
from entertainment,
propaganda, fiction or
art.**

-- Bill Kovach



From "The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect"

1. Journalism's first obligation is to the truth.
2. Its first loyalty is to citizens
3. Its essence is a discipline of verification.
4. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover.
5. It must serve as an independent monitor of power.
6. It must provide a forum for public criticism and compromise.
7. It must strive to make the significant interesting and relevant.
8. It must keep the news comprehensive and proportional.
9. Its practitioners must be allowed to exercise their personal conscience.

<http://www.journalism.org/node/71>

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Further Reading:

Ben Smith, “The Media Equation: Inside the Revolts Erupting in America’s Big Newsrooms,” The New York Times, June 7, 2020. <https://nyti.ms/3cKkGp0>

Mike Luo, “The Future of Democracy: How Can the Press Best Serve a Democratic Society?” The New Yorker, July 11, 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/ybsurs6e>

Brent Cunningham, “Rethinking Objectivity,” Columbia Journalism Review, July/August 2003. https://archives.cjr.org/feature/rethinking_objectivity.php

American Press Institute, “The Lost Meaning of Objectivity”
<https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/bias-objectivity/lost-meaning-objectivity/>

Wesley Lowery, “A Reckoning Over Objectivity, Led by Black Journalists,” The New York Times, June 23, 2020. <https://nyti.ms/319OucM>



Questions?