

## Media Representation of Us Foreign Policy

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**ABSTRACT.** *The media can be a powerful weapon, sometimes it can even influence the outcome of war. This paper discusses american media's representation of american policy intentions and attempts to explain what kind of hooliganism the u.s. Government has done over the years, including the past and media representatives.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Media, The United State, Foreign Policy*

### 1. Introduction

“Every government is run by liars, and nothing they say should be believed,” legendary investigative journalist I.F. Stone once noted.

As Williams Blum said, the United State is a rogue nation, it is not only because of it is the biggest terrorism in today's world. If we look at US foreign, and relate it to US media representation, we can consider Williams Blum's point is right.

The reason that America behaves as a rogue nation even as terrorism concerns, dues to America has his strong, dominant foreign policy and protective, exaggerating and misrepresenting media representations to gain supports of international audience.

From evidences of the American indulging in wilful intervening even invading other countries, it is obvious that his foreign policy is dominant and self-serving, though America justifies himself all the time. For example, The US has ignored the verdicts of world organizations on several occasions. America used the Contras guerrillas to attack Nicaragua in the 1980s. Chomsky describes this attack as: “every conceivable form of barbarism.” It killed about 200,000 people. America was condemned for “unlawful use of force and violation of treaties” by Nicaragua on the world court, and the US government was ordered to stop the killing and to pay reparations.

## 2. Foreign policy showing on the screen

Concerning US foreign policy, we can use some examples on Iraq's war to discuss. The war of Iraq is widely known. A lot of people of the world already know the essential of US foreign policy to through this thing, and some critics already have some opinions for the policy of US to Iraq. The USA dispatch troops to Iraq which haven't get agree of U.N. It only is the action of the USA, it haven't delegate the meaning of the people of the world. The USA becomes the focus of discussion of the world. More opinions thought Iraq's war take a negative infection toward American because a majority of people feel discontented for the authoritarianism of American. The foreign policy of US is a camouflage on propaganda in the media.

As the 56th Secretary of State of the United States, Henry Kissinger firstly claims, in American foreign policy, a strong defense is essential for his role in the world. Following, he declares mastering great and responsible power is crucial for American foreign policy, diplomacy without strength is empty. Next, American policy refuses other nations being led to doubt their strength or resolution. Moreover, Kissinger argues American power is adequate to challenges, and is ready to meet changing conditions at any time. Finally, he says "It is confidence of strength that permits us to act with conciliation and responsibility to help shape a more peaceful world." [4]

When a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter when it went down on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003 in Al Fallujah, Iraq. All citizen in US are begin to furibund, at that time, ABC broadcasting and Washington Post publicize a mass observation about US's Iraq war, 60% US citizen are disgruntled about the war, and 68% people say they can not accept US army's casualty. But if we run back to the beginning of the Iraq war, all of the mainstream media are support US army go to Iraq, and all most US citizen are support their US government, even some of them are utmost against the Iraq war. So what is happened on US media representation, and did they really gets freedom on news report and really supervise government's false war policy?

The US government always propagandize democracy and freedom, their army land other country domain and intervene other country regime, the US don't listen to any agreement and international organization, they only listen to their government, this action is representation of disrespect international community. A majority of countries are very antipathy. They don't like US using the democracy and freedom to camouflage him in everywhere. Almost country understand the US doing what in stealthy. But they can't use any action to stop the US because the US employs the economy instrument to restrict their countries economy, so many countries must keep a relation to US.

The US uses any instrument to insure his status fixedness in the world. Since 911 event, the US have very high emotion to terrorism because he think his nation security has intimidated which will lead to his status in the world, so he begin to launch many war of antiterrorism. Mostly no body identifies with him, but he still does it.

The US government thinks some terrorism countries must pay out the cost for US losing. So the US uses this reason launch war. The Iraq's war is a typical example for American's antiterrorism war. Many countries have putted a terrorism country name by American himself. These countries have cracked down on any aspect more or less by American. The US will clean off any obstacle which will stop he become the first super country in the world.

That's advice that latter-day reporters might ponder as they twist themselves into knots trying to avoid saying that George W. Bush lied in his State of the Union address when he said that "the British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa"--a claim that the U.S. government had debunked in February 2002, almost a year before Bush's speech.

Though warned by the CIA that the charge was bogus--the main evidence turned out to be a clumsy forgery --the White House put it in the speech anyway, arguing that it was true that Britain was making the claim. But the key word in Bush's sentence is "learned"; as Michael Kinsley pointed out, "it certainly is not possible to say that someone has 'learned' a piece of information without clearly intending to imply that you, the speaker, wish the listener to accept it as true."

Continue with the Iraq War, in fact at early 2002, US was thinking about this war, but at that time, the US national media and US citizen are deprecation it. Almost voice are oppugn US policy about Iraq, just less than 17% people say the international community needs the dire way like warfare to help this poor country and its lamentable citizen. So US government needs a excuse to make US citizen believe the validity of war. The reason of that is US government has dominant foreign policy and hegemony, but at the same time, they must heed their interior democratic national policy. So for US government, the difficulty of forging Policy is not from internationals oppose, it is from US interior. Especially after September 11, Gorge Bush may do not need care about against voice from outside of US, but he must give a good reason for war to US citizen.

So it is the reason the US government use media representation to make citizen believe that war is justicial and US government is helping Iraq to contribution their whole new world.

The public do not have ability to get the truth inside the media representations, and the media also cannot get real freedom on their new report especially on government's policy, because of Government intervention. So the media are not real put truth first, they are like army, policy, they are kind of states machine. And it as an important way for give nation- wide citizens basic information, it was very useful. "Government intervention has sometimes been justified as an exceptional measure that will make subsequent interference unnecessary and restore a stable and competitive market"[5]

The idea that you can make a falsehood true by attributing it to someone else was endorsed by some journalists. "The statement in the president's speech was technically correct since it accurately quoted the British paper," said David Martin

on the CBS Evening News. Such reporters are in for a shock if they try to use that defense in a libel trial.

Based on the above discussion, the US media is not a completely free press. It is influenced by many factors such as variety in policy goals, government restrictions. As for American, to some extent, media representation is controlled and manipulated by the government, like misrepresenting its foreign policy to the other countries. As Greg said, “the media introduce people to facts, phrases or images which are sometimes very effective conveyers of false information.” [3]

“The fundamental purpose of America’s foreign policy has not changed in more than two centuries. But the making of American foreign policy has changed... for example; countering terrorism is both a domestic and international law enforcement imperative, requiring vigorous diplomacy... and the possibility of military action.” . In terms of US policy, “despite talk about being a feisty Fourth Estate”, the media system concentrates more on propaganda organ for militarism and war [1]

### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, US government use its hegemony forging policy to broke national law and at the same time it use a excuse which is terrorism to make its forging policy legality, through this processing, the media presentation does a lot work for US government, so we can say, in most case, the nation media and government are serving each other, or the nation media is work for government-keep position together and trying to get more nation-wide supports.

Nowadays, media, especially TV media becomes a powerful weapon which can affect war’s result in a certain extent. Because it can help pubic relies the war’s evolve, makes them support wars or anti it. But in the position of US government and media group, they did not report truth for audiences and they connivance and cover up for US government since the beginning of the war. US media is smearing enemy and sugar up US government, then using this way to helping government gets support from public opinion.

As Williams Plum says, it is a rogue state, the US government is like rogue, always trying to control and use media representation to cover up its hegemony and terrorism behaviours.

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