

5.13 Changing Media

Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.

1. With unprecedented numbers of media options available to us, “we the people” have increasingly taken on the role of

- a. Gatekeeper
- b. Scorekeeper
- c. Watchdog
- d. Manipulator

2. The Supreme Court in *Associated Press v. United States* (1945) said,

The indirect possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public.

Which of the following best exemplifies what the Court meant?

- a. Availability of multiple cable new channels like FOX, CNN and MSNBC with different viewpoints
- b. Listening to the president’s State of the Union address on C-SPAN with no commentary before or after
- c. Congress publishes a daily Record that highlights both actions in committee and on the floor
- d. Finding a reliable news station and committing to watching at least thirty minutes of new each day

3. Which of the following is an example of how our federal government early on tried to assure that citizens received diverse channels of information?

- a. Owned and operated the major newspapers
- b. Using prior restraint, edited and censored the major news stories
- c. Subsidized newspaper distributions
- d. Prohibited subscriptions

4. Which of the following federal executive agencies is given the task of regulating media?

- a. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- b. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- c. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
- d. Federal Reserve Board

5. For much of history elite opinion controlled what “we the people” learned. TV and Internet sources of news have dramatically changed these assumptions. A consequence of the proliferation of news sources, however, has been

- a. The rise of international terrorism
- b. The rise of hard news stories
- c. The rise of third party candidates
- d. The rise of unfair and biased news outlets

6. Which of the following best describes a political consequence of Internet growth?

- a. A decline in the influence of elites
- b. Voter turnout has increased
- c. Less partisanship
- d. The corrupting influence of money has declined

7. Media has changed dramatically. All of the following are examples of recent media changes EXCEPT

- a. Many more options and choices are available
- b. Less likely to be fair and unbiased
- c. More competitive
- d. Transcendence of print sources

8. Which of the following most closely describes our historical understanding of an objective media?

- a. We have never lived in an era with more bias
- b. Bias is increasingly making our democracy more and more vulnerable
- c. Bias has always characterized our media choices
- d. You cannot criticize what you cannot recognize

9. Thomas Friedman has said,

“When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without any fact-checking, it becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues.”

He appears to be warning us about

- a. The dangers of “fake news”
- b. Large rallies held by elected officials
- c. Democracies are unable to speak the truth
- d. Big issues are elusive

10. A recent study showed that 80% of teenagers had “difficulty judging the credibility of news sources.” All of the following tips can help discern “fake” from “real” news EXCEPT

- a. “Read beyond the headline”
- b. “Check the author”
- c. “Consult the experts”
- d. “Check the number of ‘likes’”