



## News Media-Solutions for Progressives!!

A media revolution occurred in 2016. Most people don't know about it. False, distorted, and "out of context" information is used by national and local media. Progressives can't count on traditional news media (TV, radio, and newspapers) to fairly or adequately present information about issues or public officials (or candidates). Even public broadcasting-TV/radio-is suspect.

**Key issue:** How can progressives obtain accurate information and learn about important issues as well as how other progressives are responding/resisting? **Answer:** Progressives need to do their own research/reading by using alternative sources which use facts and reject manipulated and/or fake news.

Traditional media outlets include national networks like ABC, NBC (MSNBC), CBS and CNN. The content (stories) usually includes fake information or lies, (e.g. U.S. Senator Ted Cruz: "I don't think we should have grown men in bathrooms with little girls."). Or no coverage of major stories such as not counting 75,000 votes in Detroit's 2016 presidential election.) Information is manufactured or distilled to the point where the viewer can't figure out the importance of the topic or how it impacts them. The media is now an enabler for Republican/Corporate messages. They are much like the person who drives the "getaway" car at a bank robbery. Morality (truth, accuracy, and honesty) is in "short supply" in our media.

This is a moral issue for all citizens because the airways are a public trust chartered to private businesses on a limited time basis (8 years). Using the public airwaves, provided for free, is a privilege — a lucrative one (worth trillions of dollars)— not a right. Our current situation is a manipulation of the public trust. Even MSNBC is declining in its integrity: <https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2016/05/whats-wrong-with-msnbc-the-mainstream-drift-of-cab.html>.

People wonder whether the media is biased towards liberals or conservatives. The major bias is towards Republican topics and their framing/messaging through subtle techniques. Media outlets use a distorted "false equivalency" approach that is not fair to viewers. This approach enables public speakers to lie or distort information-knowing that "fact-checking" will not occur. When conservatives can use lies and distorted information in a sensational manner, it provides a bias to them. It forces progressives to respond to the distortions (away from issues) and pivots the media's attention away from real issues.

The use of facts/truth is not a measure of how stories are given to the public. Another moral bankruptcy.

The concept of bias goes deeper than most people know. Many deeper biases are woven together and not noticed by most viewers. These biases have been there for so long most viewers view them as the new norm. Deep biases include:

1. The profit motive guides the selection of news stories and amount of time given to a topic. News directors pay more attention to ad buys and profits rather than what the public needs to know.
2. The national and local media have a pack mentality. This means if one network reports on something they all report on the same story in the same manner. If the first story includes distorted information, then more news stories will be distorted.
3. There is a bias towards sensational or negative information. Murders and accidents are a priority. Politicians who are sensational get covered. Those who talk about issues (e.g. Bernie Sanders) are short changed by less air time.
4. The bias to be current, sensational, and a focus on fluff stories crowds out investigative journalism. Viewers don't get a complete understanding of vital issues like social security, climate change, and public education.

We can choose how we consume our news. The truth matters. The following partial list of "fact-based" media sources are alternatives so one can find out what's going on. Not all sources are completely progressive in their view points.

TV/Web Streams	Newspapers (Web)	Web Sites	Magazines
-Free Speech TV (Channel) -Thom Hartmann Show -The Rachel Maddow Show -Ed Schultz Show -Democracy Now -Bill Press Show	-New York Times -The Guardian -The Capital Times -Hightower Lowdown (Newsletter)	-Alternet -Common Dreams -United for a Fair Economy -WI Democracy Campaign -Daily Kos -Social Security Works -Truthout -Huffington Post	-The Progressive Magazine -The Nation -Rolling Stone Magazine -Mother Jones -Mother Earth News -New Republic -The Atlantic

For a **complete** list, go to University of Pennsylvania News, Views, and Tools for Progressives: <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~jtreat/progressive.html>.



## News Media-Solutions for Progressives!!

### Suggested Books (Use a Google Search to find more information.)

- *Rebooting the American Dream, The Crash of 2016, Cracking the Code*, Thom Hartmann
- *The Little Blue Book* (Revised), George Lakoff, Elisabeth Wehling
- *Pity the Poor Billionaire*, Listen Liberal, Thomas Frank
- *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, Greg Palast
- *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis
- *The Best Way to Rob a Bank Is to Own One!*, William Black
- *Rules for Radicals, A Practical Primer for Realistic Radicals*, Saul D. Alinsky
- *How People Get Power & Creative Community Organizing*, Si Kahn
- *The Conscience of a Liberal, Reclaiming the Compassionate Agenda*, Paul Wellstone
- *Politics the Wellstone Way: How to Elect Progressive Candidates and Win on Issues*, Wellstone Action
- *Rules for Revolutionaries, How Big Organizing Can Change Everything*, Becky Bond, Zack Exley
- *Rigged: How Globalization & the Rules of the Modern Economy Were Structured to Make the Rich Richer*, Dean Baker
- *The Fight for the Four Freedoms: What Made FDR and the Greatest Generation Truly Great*, Harvey Kaye.
- *Hegemony How-To: A Roadmap for Radicals*, Jonathan Matthew Smucker
- *Saving Capitalism: For the Few, Not the Many*, Robert B. Reich
- *It's Even Worse Than It Looks Was*, Thomas E. Mann & Norman J. Ornstein
- *Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration—and How to Achieve Real Reform*, John Pfaff
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, Bryan Stevenson

**Suggestion:** Buy two copies of the book. Keep one and donate the other one to the local library. Let your local group(s) know about the donation.

### Movies (Use a Google Search to find more information.)

- *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: A Tale of Billionaires & Ballot Bandits*, Greg Palast
- *Trumpland*, Michael Moore
- *Where to Invade Next*, Michael Moore
- *Capitalism: A Love Story*, Michael Moore
- *Before the Flood*, Leonardo De Caprio. (Call to arms for the environment.)
- *The Big Short*, Adam McKay. (2015 Academy Award Nominations (3), for Best Picture)
- *I Am Not Your Negro*, Raoul Peck (2016 People's Choice Award in the documentary category)
- *Too Big to Fail*, HBO. (Based on the bestselling book by Andrew Ross Sorkin)
- *The Inside Job*, Charles Ferguson, (2015 Best Documentary)
- *The Flaw*, David Singleton. 2010
- *The Warning Frontline* (PBS),
- *Inequality for All*, Robert B. Reich

### Radio (Use a Google Search to find more information.)

- Thom Hartmann (show) affiliate
- Bill Press (show) affiliate
- Mike Malloy (show) affiliate
- Devil's Advocate Radio Show, WRRD-AM (1510) Milwaukee/Waukesha area (Access by streaming via Internet)
- Ian Masters Background Briefing

For a complete list, go to [http://tradio.wikia.com/wiki/List\\_of\\_progressive\\_talk\\_radio\\_stations](http://tradio.wikia.com/wiki/List_of_progressive_talk_radio_stations).