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Media Bias in the 21st Century

**Media bias** refers to the bias of [journalists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalist) and [news producers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/News_producer) within the [mass media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_media) in the selection of which events and stories are reported and how they are covered. The term "media bias" implies a pervasive or widespread bias contravening [the standards of journalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalism_ethics_and_standards), rather than the perspective of an individual journalist or article. The direction and degree of media bias in various countries is widely disputed.

Practical limitations to media neutrality include the inability of journalists to report all available stories and facts, and the requirement that selected facts be linked into a coherent narrative.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_bias#cite_note-0) Since it is impossible to report everything, selectivity is inevitable. [Government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government) influence, including overt and covert [censorship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship), biases the media in some countries. Market forces that result in a biased presentation include the [ownership](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ownership) of the news source, [concentration of media ownership](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concentration_of_media_ownership), the selection of [staff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Employment), the [preferences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preference) of an intended [audience](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audience), and pressure from [advertisers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advertiser).

