

What's Wrong with State Media?

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Journalists and news outlets are commonly referred to as acting as an additional check against the three branches of government, but what's the value of this Fourth Estate? What makes a free press so important to democracy? What's the threat that bias in the news poses in this regard?

Why is it important that a media outlet like Fox News not be allowed to host a Democratic primary debate? Why does the cross-hiring between the White House and Fox News pose a problem?

Is state-sponsored media only problematic in cases like Russia, where there are not other independent sources of news? Is media bias only a problem if people don't have alternative media outlets to get their news?

The author argues that "precisely because [Fox News] is perceived as a free agent, the network also has a duty to fulfill this expectation [of providing objective assessment] and act impartially." Why? What supports this? Are news companies capable of providing objective assessments? How can one tell the difference between a report and an editorial? Should journalists and pundits be required to clearly distinguish between reporting facts and editorializing?