

Quarterly Journal of Ideology

A Critique of Conventional Wisdom

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Raphael, Chad. **Investigated Reporting: Muckrakers, Regulators, and The Struggle over Television Documentary.** Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-252-03010-9. \$45.00 (cloth: alk.paper)

The three hundred and four page outstandingly valuable monograph consists of Contents, Acknowledgments, a helpful List of Abbreviations, Introduction, Part I. Politics 1. Investigating Business and Consumerism, Part II. Representation, 4. Dividing and Distracting the Media, 5. The Ethics of Representation, Part III. 6. The Politics of Regulation, 7. The Privatization of Regulation, 8. Media, State, and Investigative Reporting, the greatly extensive forty-seven page Notes, and an accurate Index. The priceless thoroughly examined excellent publication is written by Professor Chad Raphael, a worldwide authority on exploratory news stories. Professor Raphael is in the communication department at Santa Clara University. The National Communication Association and the American Journalism Historians Association honored Raphael for his doctoral dissertation regarding probing news disclosures.

Raphael reveals that Newton Minow head of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) started documentaries to engage people in what is occurring with Communism. The reporters use interest groups and foreign nations for data. The government leaders and interest group work more than news reports cause individual citizens to act. The media caused the United States to dislike the Vietnam War resulting in the loss of the war.

The best documentaries are the ones talking about the disadvantaged such as *Harvest of Shame* and *Hunger in America*. The Farm Bureau said CBS told of only the most destitute part of farming conditions of the underprivileged in *Harvest of Shame*. The government stated *Hunger in America* only showed children as being hungry when there may be others. The documentary which won an Emmy was *The Tunnel* uncovering the passage between Communist East Berlin and non-Communist West Berlin.

The Selling of the Pentagon spoke against methods of the Cold War. Raphael points out the armed forces curtail what news reporters may look at and screens reporters. *Selling of the Pentagon* implies the military is portrayed like movie pictures shows with movie stars. Television stations thought *Selling of the Pentagon* might be more informative to the public since the armed forces in the documentary speak highly in favor of the Pentagon. The inquiring study *Banks and*

the Poor makes public just one percent from banks were helping the ghetto population. The banks would rarely sell houses to the disadvantaged in the ghetto. Accuracy in Media (AIM) 1971 was composed of companies and government looking at news coverage and what it should say. The documentary *Pensions* received a Peabody award. A need for a law allowing employees who are at a business for a number of years to take retirement plans with them and concerns on pensions not invested wisely or pensions ending is exposed.

Regular news maintains an investigated report by continuing to speak on the topic and also may end the story by not talking about a subject any further. Small city news stations sometimes do not show national stories so as to not provoke their citizens. How to give the news was a debate. Printed newscasters said television newscasters are more like movie stars. Words are taken out of context to create a news show sometimes. The Fairness Doctrine allows shows based on public concerns to reveal all opinions.

In the 1980's to the present, the news refrains from divulging stories that have formerly caused lawsuits. The news in the sixties and the seventies talked of finance, government, and society. At present, news converses in a greater quantity on movie stars, health, and happiness. The news influences persons for and against causes.

Clearly, any person and library desiring a book on news broadcasting utilizing inquiries and research will find this publication one of the best.

Melinda F. Matthews

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