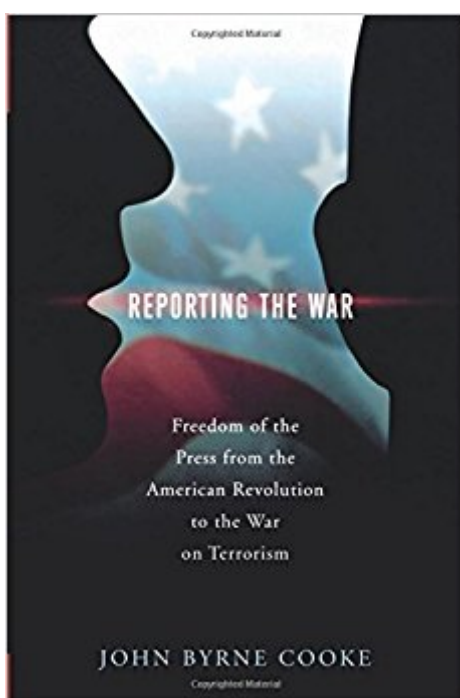


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# Reporting The War: Freedom Of The Press From The American Revolution To The War On Terrorism



## Synopsis

John Byrne Cooke's fascinating look at wartime reporting from the American Revolution to Iraq is now available in paperback. The press has consistently influenced public perception of wars, and has often affected their course. Cooke--son of news icon Alistair Cooke--reveals how the government has tried to suppress opposing opinion, and how the press has struggled to preserve the principles of the Founding Fathers. At a time when reporters are routinely being censored, arrested, kidnapped and even killed, this is a must-read exploration of freedom of the press in wartime.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Historical novelist Cooke (*The Snowblind Moon*) gives an excellent, incisive commentary on how freedom of the press in the U.S., from the time of the 13 colonies on, has played out in times of war. Cooke points out that many newspaper publishers during the Revolutionary War had warrants for their arrest, and likely would have been executed for treason against the crown had the colonies lost; he also notes that several publishers were arrested for printing critical editorials by none other than the Lincoln administration, during the Civil War. Taking readers through U.S. history war by war, Cooke shows how the press served both to propel national fervor toward war and to criticize loudly its execution; among the worthy examples covered here are the campaign of shame and outrage launched by William Randolph Hearst to push the president and congress into the Spanish-American war, Walter Lippman's challenge to President Johnson and the other architects

of the Vietnam conflict, and countless contemporaries. A timely study, Cooke's history presents the fifth estate in all its conflicted glory: a power that ensures accountability and the visibility of a loyal opposition just as easily as it vilifies individuals and manipulates the conscience of America.

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"Cooke...gives an excellent, incisive commentary on how freedom of the press in the U.S., from the time of the 13 colonies on, has played out in times of war...A timely study, Cooke's history presents the fifth estate in all its conflicted glory: a power that ensures accountability and the visibility of a loyal opposition just as easily as it vilifies individuals and manipulates the conscience of America." - Publishers Weekly "A worthy and readable piece, especially for journalism students and those who want to be better, more critical consumers of the news." - Kirkus "Cooke offers a broad historical perspective on the enduring tension between press and government in times of war." - Booklist "...a frightening portrait of today's government well-painted through level-headed documentation." - Jackson Hole News & Guide "Reporting the War is a great reference and concise history for journalists and anyone else concerned with freedom of expression." - Fred Brown, Colorado Freedom of Information Council "A thoroughly researched and incisive history of the relationship between journalism and the state in times of war. It is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding how a free, independent and critical press has served as the public's best means of oversight on the government's use and abuse of its war powers."--Richard Slotkin, award-winning author of *Regeneration Through Violence* and *Lost Battalions* "Reporting the War" is written with unaffected intelligence, absolute clarity and an astute eye for the sorts of details that make for fascinating reading. Every well-dressed library needs a copy of this book, as does every journalist, every historian and everyone for whom freedom of speech is sacred."--Alexandra Fuller, author of *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* and *Scribbling the Cats* "Reporting the War is a must-read book for all correspondents heading off to cover a war. And it's a fascinating dose of reality for all consumers of their war coverage. It is a definitive and compelling account of the evolving struggle between a free press and censorious officialdom down through every war our country has ever fought."-- Joseph Albright, co-author of *Bombshell: The Secret Story of America's Unknown Atomic Spy Conspiracy* "Whichever side one takes on the wisdom of American and British military involvement in Iraq, John Byrne Cooke's tight, timely, and engaging study of America's ongoing struggles from colonial times till today over civil liberties and the quest of a free press for unfettered access to information during times of war provides vitally

necessary--and, all too often, missing--context. A serious subject, seriously treated."--Tracy Lee Simmons, author of *À Climbing Parnassus* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Reporting the War is a must read for anyone who wants a better understanding of the natural tension that exists between the press and the government. Cook focuses primarily on wartime and eloquently contrasts the difference between "live coverage" and journalism. I finished the book with a renewed sense of gratitude to those journalists who report the truth in the face of significant governmental interference and great personal risk. Cooke refreshed my awareness that freedom of the press may indeed be the most important safeguard of the First Amendment and our American way of life!Kathie Ross

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