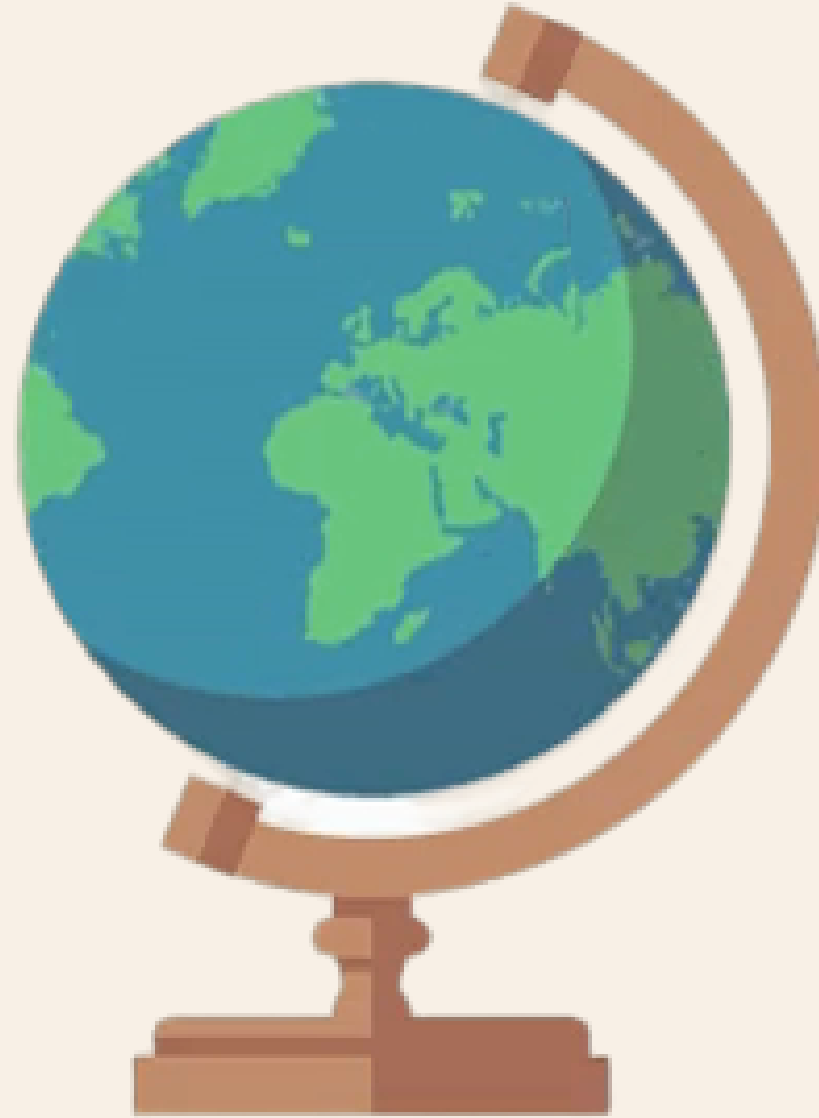


# EXPLORING COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SYSTEMS



FOR UNT OLLI SPRING SEMESTER  
2026

# About Me

- 25 years in the industry rising from reporter to publisher
- 15+ years in higher education as a professor and higher education administrator
- Education: BA–Journalism, MBA–Marketing, PhD–Communication
- Multiple awards including three-time Gannett president's ring winner for outstanding performance, 2025 Dow Jones News Fund Journalism Championship and 2018 Best Dean at UNT
- Adventurous explorer for decades with travel to 30+ countries on six continents

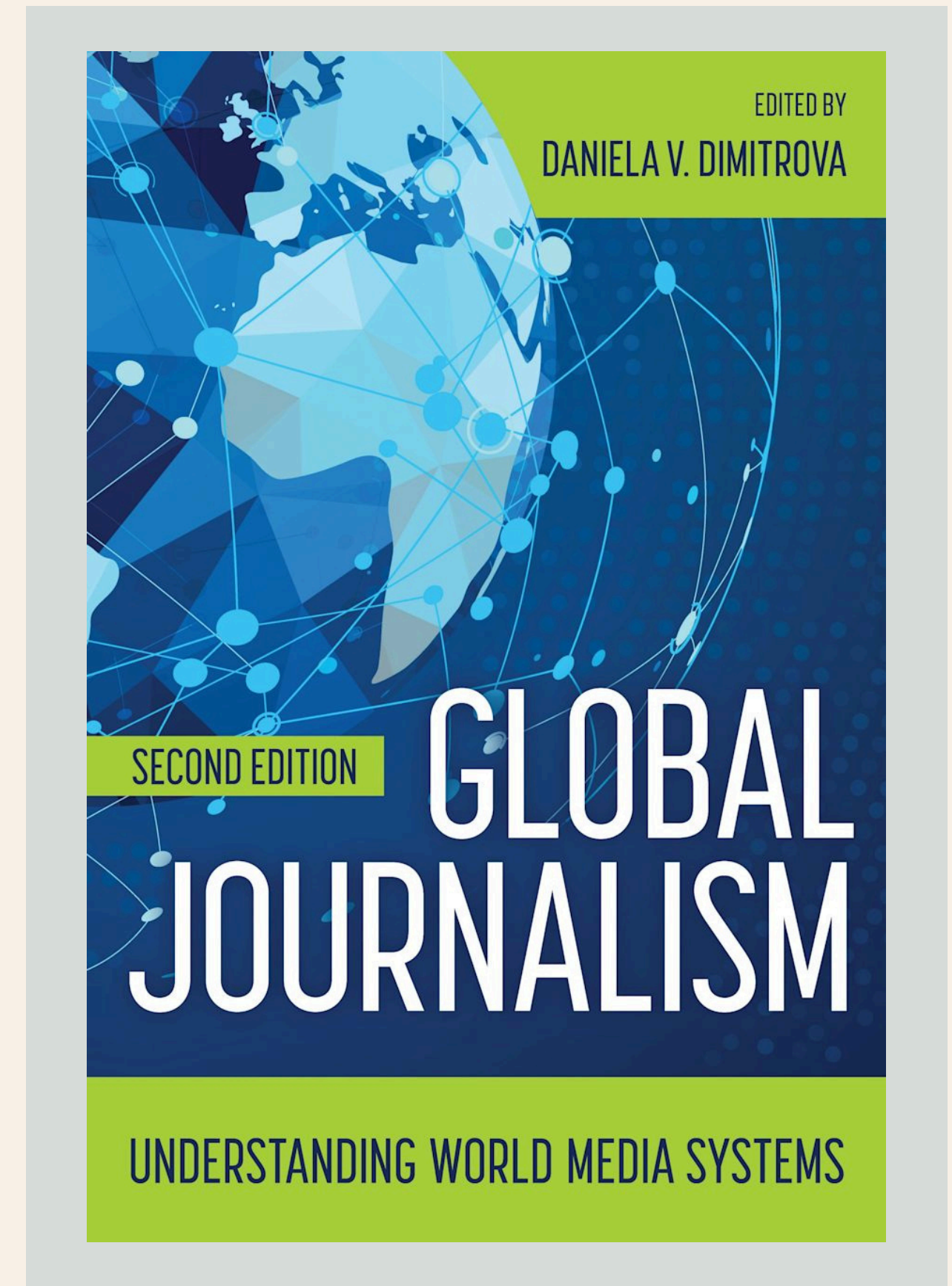


# Course Objectives

1. Recognize the journalism field's most influential concepts and theories
2. Identify major patterns of global and communication flows on multiple platforms
3. Distinguish the salient components of the political economy of global communication
4. Outline major media and press systems around the globe
5. Describe the media landscapes of selected countries
6. Compare journalism practices in selected countries
7. Develop an awareness of the complexities of current issues in global communication

# Key Teaching Tools

- Various readings, reports, podcasts, documentaries and international news
- Examples include
  - Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index
  - Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's Digital News Report
  - Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's Media Technology Trends

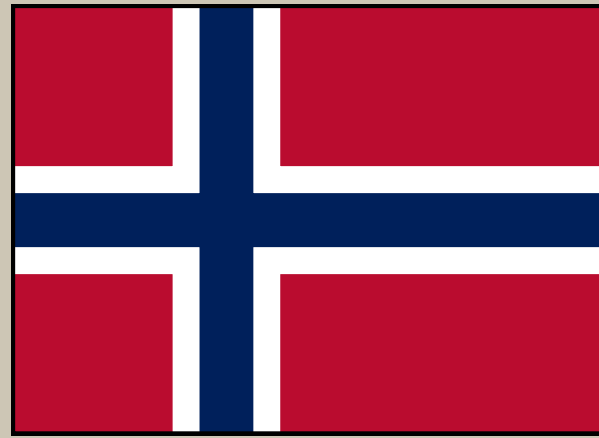


# **RSF World Press Freedom Index 2025: economic fragility a leading threat to press freedom**

**Although physical attacks against journalists are the most visible violations of press freedom, economic pressure is also a major, more insidious problem. The economic indicator on the RSF World Press Freedom Index now stands at an unprecedented, critical low as its decline continued in 2025. As a result, the global state of press freedom is now classified as a “difficult situation” for the first time in the history of the Index.**

[Link](#)

**What countries do you think are in the top five spots in the 2025 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index?**



1. Norway



2. Estonia



3. Netherlands



4. Sweden

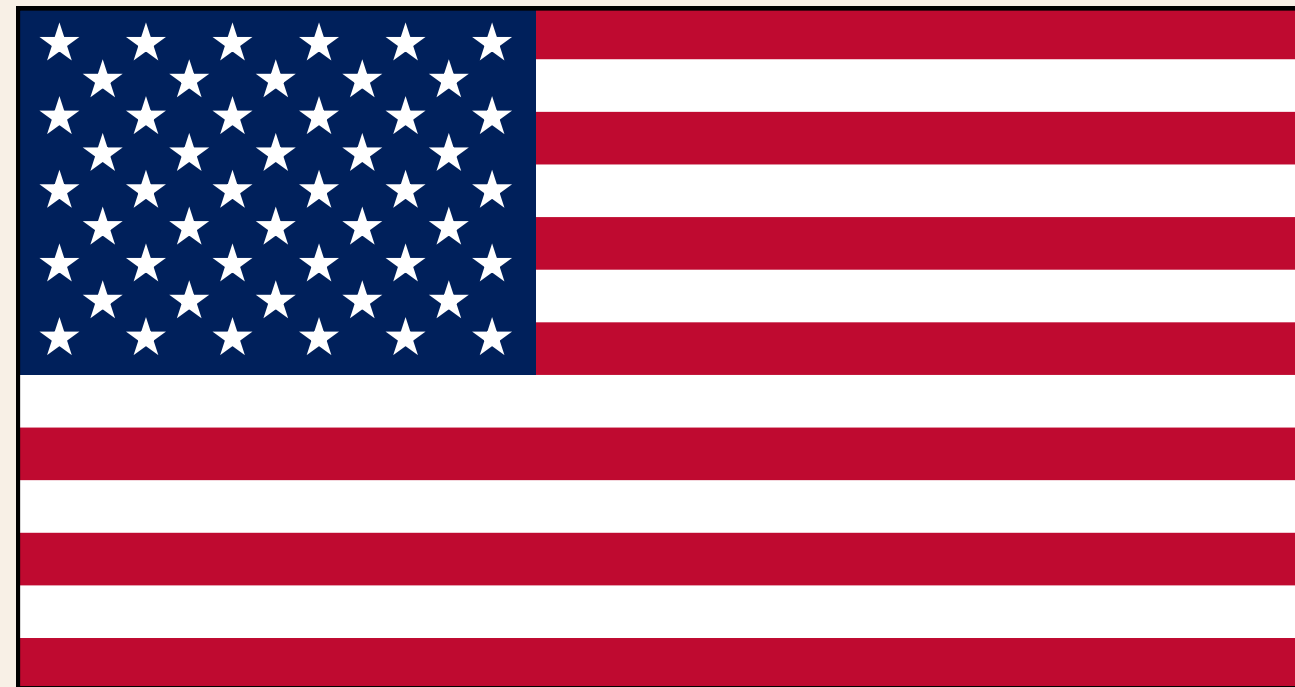


5. Finland

# How do you think the U.S. is ranked in the 2025 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index?

55

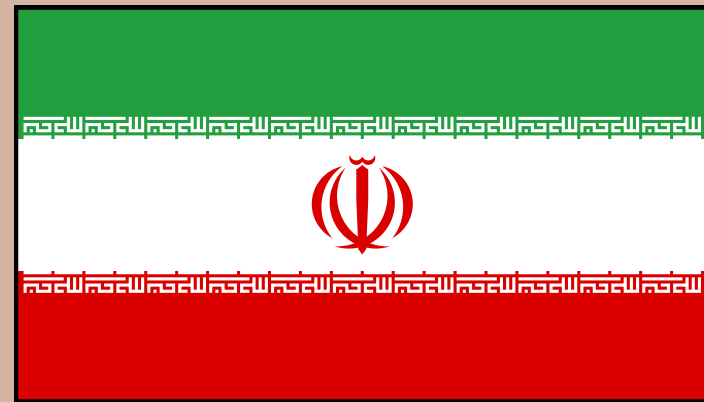
2024 Ranking



57

2025 Ranking

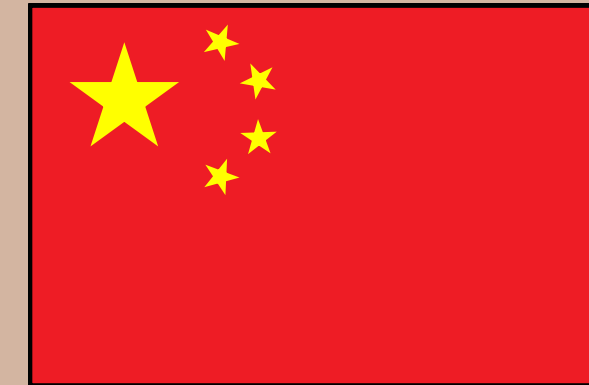
# What countries do you think are in the bottom five spots in the 2025 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index?



176. Iran



177. Syria



178. China



179. North Korea



180. Eritrea

**Given current turmoil in the world, how do you think Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Venezuela were ranked in comparison to the U.S. in 2025?**



62. Ukraine



112. Israel



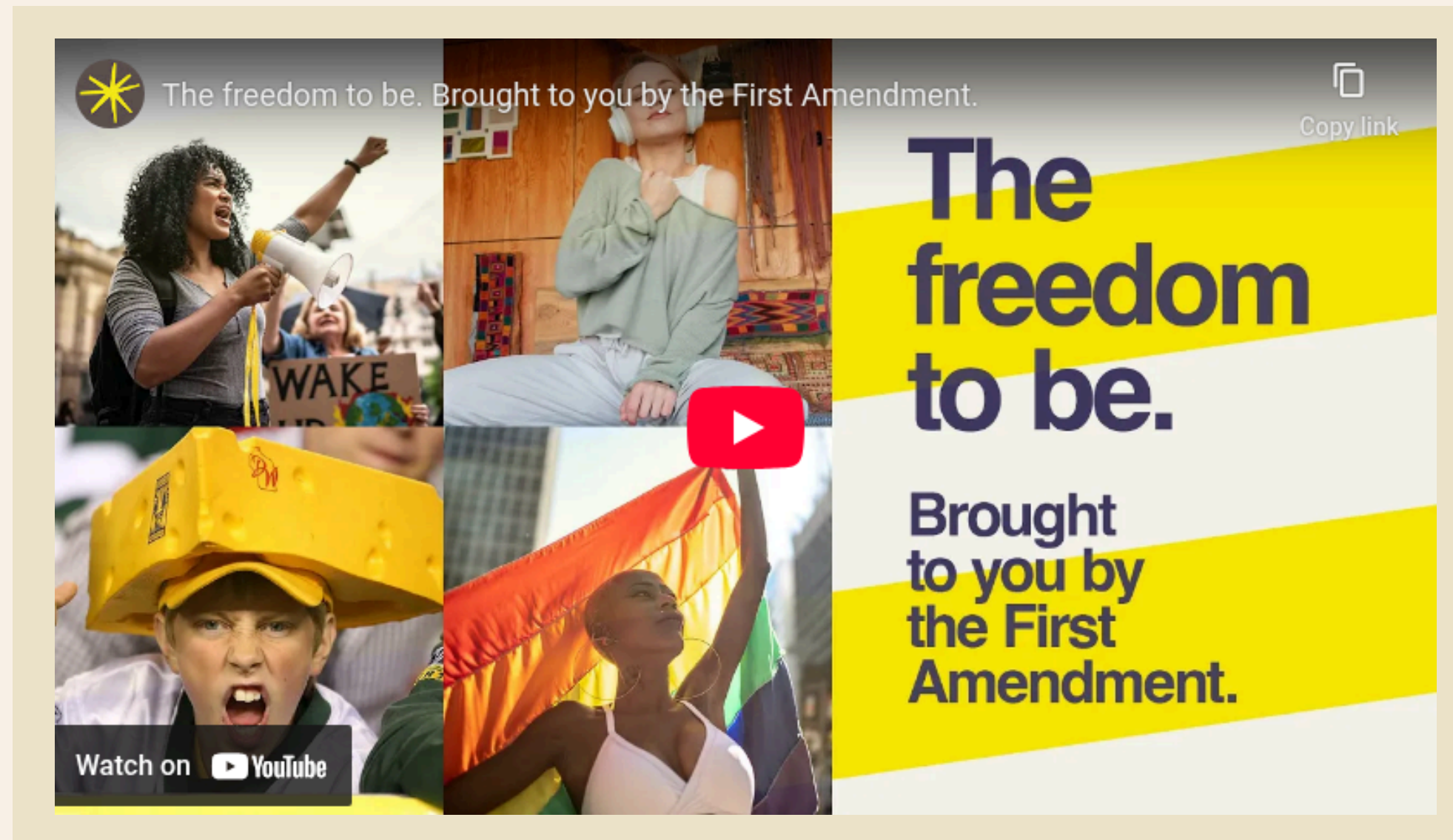
160. Venezuela



163. Palestine

# The U.S. First Amendment

Who can share the five freedoms guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?



The U.S. First Amendment is not universally appreciated around the globe.

[Link](#)

# Key Concepts for Studying Systems

Two general approaches to studying media systems:

- Normative–critical approach: focuses on how media systems should function within society
- Analytical approach: seeks to explain changes to media structures and their impact on media performance/behavior

Five key factors that influence media development:

- Economic
- Technological
- Cultural
- Journalistic
- Political and governmental

# Key Theories

There are hundreds of communication theories. However, four theories of the press popularized by Siebert, Paterson and Schramm (1956) include:

- Authoritarian: the state has control of the media
- Libertarian: freedom of the press is a key characteristic
- Social responsibility: similar to Libertarian theory, but emphasis is on the media's responsibility to be balanced, fair and self-regulated
- Soviet Communist: Communist government owns the press and the focus is largely on Marxist-Leninist ideology

Common principles in normative theory include freedom, diversity, truth and social/cultural order

# More Theory & Global News Flows

- World System Theory: suggests that bilateral trade and information flow from a hierarchy with the richest and largest nations at the top and then to those on the periphery
- Three factors that influence global news flows:
  - People
  - Products
  - Information
- Do you know what countries are part of BRICS? (Brazil Russia, India, China and South Africa)

# Major Media Models Around the Globe

Hallin & Mancini (2004) ranked media models in Western Europe & North America based on four dimensions (See p. 5 of textbook):

- Media commercialization & market circulation
- Government/state intervention
- Professionalization of journalism
- Political parallelism

Hallin & Mancini (2004) identified three media models:

- Polarized Pluralist Model: media has limited circulation and often targets elite audiences. This is common in nations such as France, Greece, Italy and Spain.
- Democratic Corporatist Model: media has strong professionalization of journalists and emphasizes neutrality. This is common in Scaninavian nations.
- Liberal Model: media has high freedom. This is associated with nations such as the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

# OLLI has major travel opportunities coming up including:

- Washington, DC–USA's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Spain
- Canada
- Ireland
- Peru



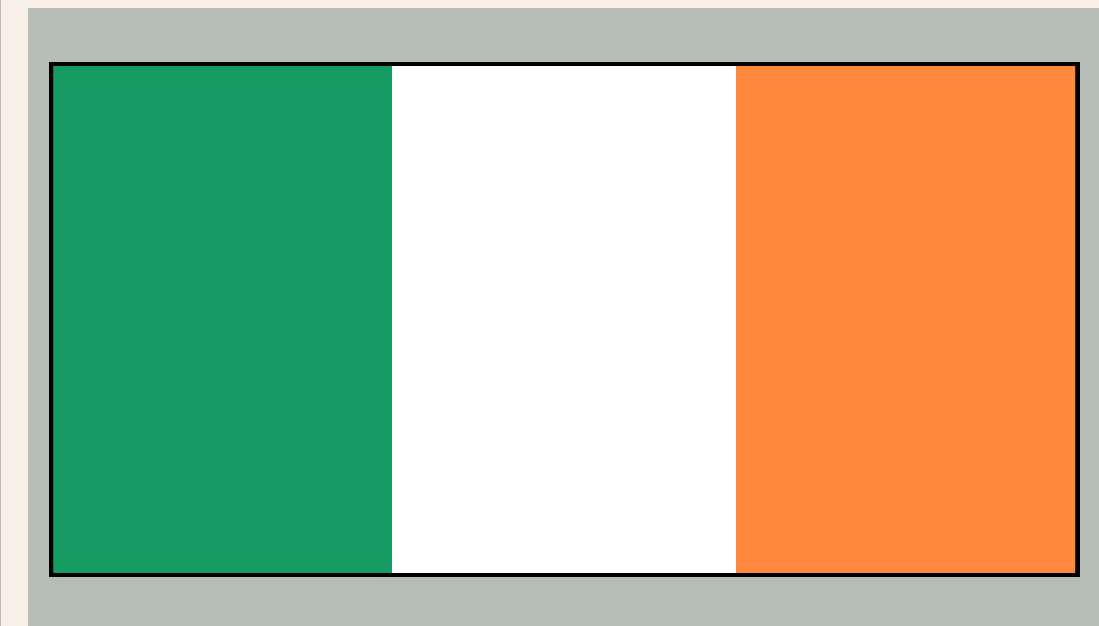
# Spain's World Press Freedom Index Ranking in 2025 = 23



# Canada's World Press Freedom Index Ranking in 2025 = 21



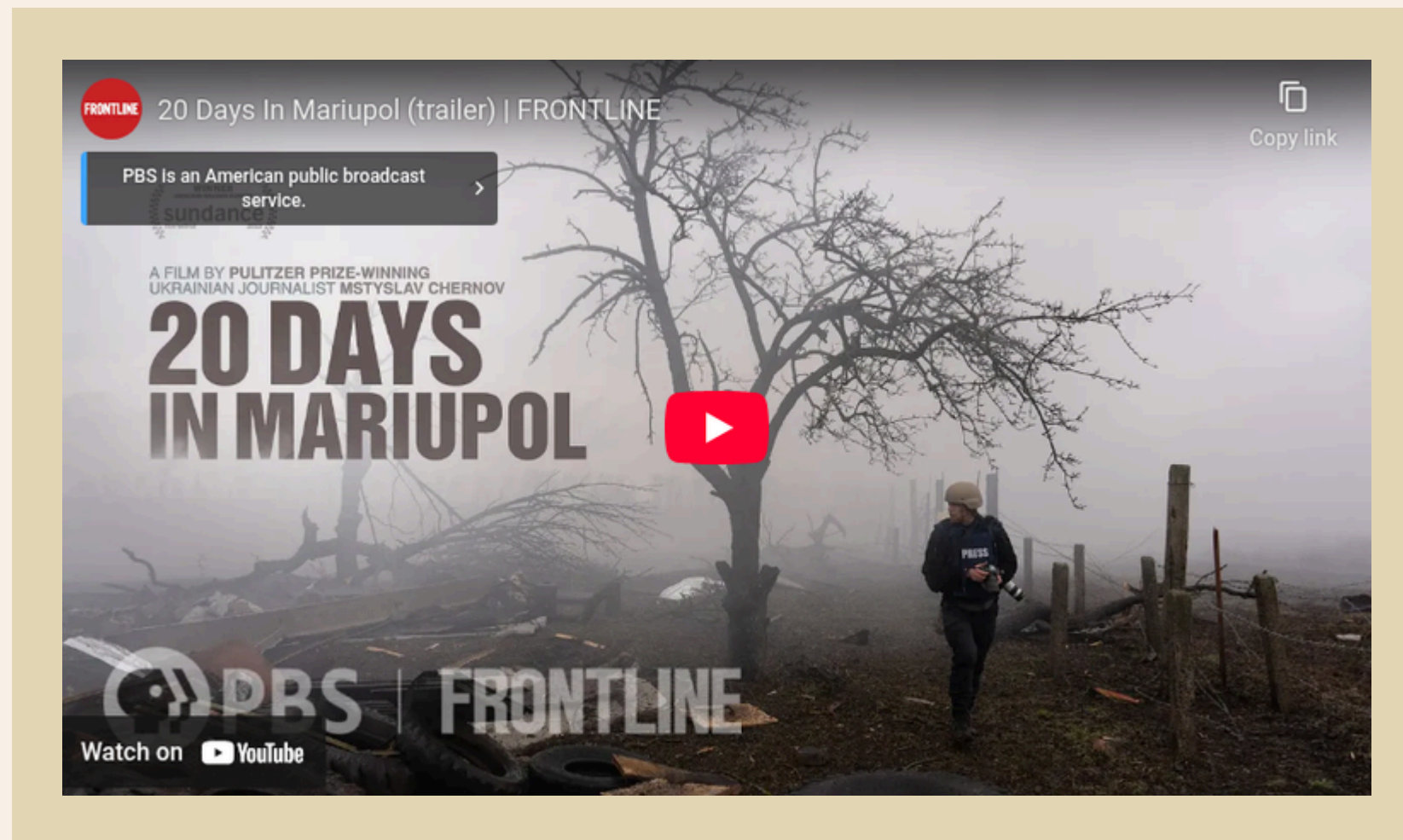
# Ireland's World Press Freedom Index Ranking in 2025 = 7



# Peru's World Press Freedom Index Ranking in 2025 = 130



# Documentaries



20 Days in Mariupol

[Link](#)



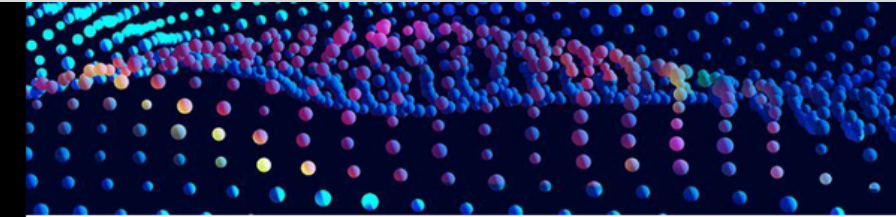
COVID's Hidden Toll

[Link](#)

# Major 2025 Digital News Report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism Digital News

## Digital News Report 2025

The most comprehensive study of news consumption worldwide



### Overview

This year's report comes at a time of deep political and economic uncertainty, changing geo-political alliances, not to mention climate breakdown and continuing destructive conflicts around the world.

Against that background, evidence-based and analytical journalism should be thriving, with newspapers flying off shelves, broadcast media and web traffic booming. But we find traditional news media struggling to connect with much of the public, with declining engagement, low trust, and stagnating digital subscriptions. | [Start reading](#)

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[Executive summary](#)

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[Lee en español](#)

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[Country and market data](#)

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[Methodology](#)

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[Link to report](#)

# RISJ Journalism Media and Technology Trends from 2025

## Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2025



A person holds their phone showing social media applications. Reuters / Asanka Brendon

**In this piece**

- [Executive summary](#)
- [1. Journalism embattled but unbowed](#)
- [2. Disruption of search poses existential challenge](#)
- [3. Wider platform uncertainties create new dilemmas](#)
- [4. Driving business growth through product innovation](#)
- [5. Personalities](#)

Lee en español

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Overview of the project

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Our leadership programmes

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Read 'Trends 2024'

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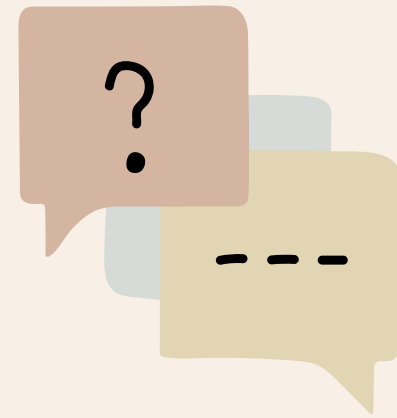
**PDF · 5.0 MB**

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# Thank you! Questions?

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Contact: [dorothy.bland@unt.edu](mailto:dorothy.bland@unt.edu)