
Preface

“Only a nihilist would consider it sufficient to rely on profit-seeking commercial interests or philanthropy to educate our youth or defend the nation from attack. . . . Just as there came a moment when policymakers recognized the necessity of investing tax dollars to create a public education system to teach our children, so a moment has arrived at which we must recognize the need to invest tax dollars to create and maintain news gathering, reporting and writing with the purpose of informing all our citizens” (Robert W. McChesney and John Nicols 2012).

“Media are normatively expected to provide diverse and pluralistic content that includes a wide range of information, opinions, and perspectives on developments that affect the lives of citizens. Media are expected to mobilize the public to participate in and carry out their responsibilities in society: Media are expected to help citizens identify with and participate in the lives of their community, their state and the nation. Media are expected to serve the needs and represent the interests of widely differing social groups and to ensure that information and ideas are not narrowed by governmental, economic, or social constraints. Simultaneously, they are expected to serve the economic self-interests to produce profits, to grow, and to contribute to national economies” (Professor Robert G. Picard 2005).

“When a government gives funds to the press, it asks in return to exert some kind of control over it” (James Murdoch 2011).¹

¹ James Murdoch in May 2011 at a meeting of young publishers in the Italian town of Bagnai.

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