

## Manipulation of the Media: Indiscretions, Misrepresentations and Fleet Sightings

By David W. London

*On April 15, 1797, at the height of the French Revolution and amid a flurry of invasion scares, the Channel Fleet of the Royal Navy mutinied. The news captured the public's imagination and dominated newspaper coverage for months. Politicians in and out of office recklessly used the news of the mutiny to further their ambitions, to influence public opinion or to force a resolution to the crisis. This article examines the success and failure of those efforts, shows how an aggrieved minority used the medium for its own purposes and considers how newspapers still managed both to keep an eye on government and to keep the public informed. It seeks to prove (or disprove) a specific accusation of manipulation by tracing a story from its source to its appearance and interpretation in various newspapers. Finally, it considers the media's role in the messages they are meant only to deliver.*

**1797** was not a good year for Great Britain. The war with Revolutionary France was not going well.<sup>1</sup> It began with the news of an attempted invasion of Ireland by France.<sup>2</sup> In February, the Royal Navy fought and won a major sea battle off the coast of Spain,<sup>3</sup> but the news didn't reach England for six weeks and did little to soothe public concerns. In March the *Légion Noire*, consisting of freed French convicts and galley slaves, staffed by Irish officers and led by an American radical and septuagenarian named William Tate, raided the tiny Welsh vil

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## **“BABY–BEER–BULLETS!!!” British Perceptions of American Journalism in the Nineteenth Century**

By E.M. Palmegiano

*For much of the nineteenth century, American journalism fascinated writers in British periodicals. This interest is particularly important because the era marked the emergence of the press as the chief medium of public communication in Britain. Articles ranged from effusive tributes to stinging condemnations, from narrow profiles of journalists to sweeping evaluations of journalism. Among the authors who penned these columns were British reporters and editors, former ones who were pursuing other careers, and even the occasional expatriate American. This study, based on a survey of thirty-nine reviews and magazines that cut across political, religious, and class lines, explores the ideas of these analysts. Although their perceptions differed, three themes appear in their commentary. Two are comparative, stressing the similarities between American and British journalism and the cross-cultural exchanges that common experiences fostered. The third motif deals with the differences in journalistic development in the two societies. Irrespective of these unifying threads, it is clear from the evidence that no dominant British vision of the American press surfaced in the century.*

**“BABY–BEER–BULLETS!!!”** was the caption of an article in *Chambers’s Journal* in 1888.<sup>1</sup> The anonymous author claimed that the headline, from Denver’s *Daily News*, exemplified the wild journalistic world of the American frontier. Was this vision of the press typical in British periodicals? Did they see the nation’s eastern press similarly? Did they separate urban and rural newspapers, newspapers and magazines? Were views consistent throughout the nineteenth century? Answers to these pivotal questions form the core of this

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## **Radio and Revolution in El Salvador: Building a Community of Listeners in the Midst of Civil War 1981-1992**

By Juanita Darling

*Throughout the twelve-year civil war in El Salvador, two guerrilla factions used radio stations to build a revolutionary community. As revolutionary media, the clandestine stations became an integral part of the guerrilla strategy for overthrowing the government. Radio linked the guerrilla-controlled zones to each other and transmitted the daily life of those zones to listeners in the capital, San Salvador, and around the world by shortwave, informing an audience in a nation where the airwaves had transmitted only the government version of events. In contrast to the "imagined communities" of creoles that Benedict Anderson found that newspapers accidentally created in colonial Latin America, the insurgents deliberately constructed a community of rebel radio listeners. Thus, they created a community of support for the insurgency, attracting people to the rebellion while constructing a vision of the future that this imagined community of listeners would build together. The stations' narrow escapes, packing up transmitters and microphones just ahead of the army, grew into part of the revolutionary mythology, making the stations more than clandestine instruments in the war to overthrow the government. They became symbols of the rebellion they defended.*

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**E**xplosions shook the Valley of Hammocks, where El Salvador's capital crouches at the foot of an active volcano. Seasoned to the swaying of earthquakes and the rumbling of eruptions, residents were unpracticed at coping with the new form of disaster that jolt-

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## The Chile Solidarity Movement and Its Media: An Alternative Take on the Allende and Pinochet Years

By Victoria Goff

*Long before September 11, 2001, September 11 was a significant date for many Chileans, Latin Americans, and North Americans. On that day in 1973, the government of Salvador Allende, the democratically elected socialist president of Chile, was overthrown in a U.S.-backed military coup. Even before that day, North Americans had formed Chile solidarity groups to create and disseminate alternative media products to cover the dramatic changes taking place in Chile and to counter some of the coverage of Chile in the mainstream U.S. press. The solidarity movement's media, particularly the newsletters, provided mass audiences with a non-establishment version of U.S. involvement in Chilean affairs before and during Allende's administration. And after September 11, 1973, they provided an alternative assessment of events during the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and kept his human rights violations in the public eye. The solidarity media also helped create a national network of like-minded North Americans, kept solidarity activists informed and motivated, recruited new activists, and agitated for political and governmental change, especially in the area of foreign policy, among other things. This study, which grew out of an award-winning conference paper, is the first attempt to piece together the history of the Chile solidarity media and catalog its media products.*

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**O**n September 11, 1973, Dr. Salvador Allende's Unidad Popular (UP) coalition government was toppled and replaced by a U.S.-backed military government led by General Augusto Pinochet. The general, who died December 10, 2006, con

## **Selling the Shortwaves: Commercial Broadcasting to Latin America and the Limits of the “American System”**

By Robert A. Rabe

*This article offers a history of American shortwave radio broadcasting to Latin America in the pre-World War II period, with a particular focus on efforts by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) to establish commercially viable international shortwave networks in the 1930s. It will examine how and why radio broadcasting became a central part of United States interests in Latin America. It also presents a study of the relationship, marked by both cooperation and contention, between the U.S. government and the private companies, NBC in particular; empowered to serve these interests. NBC and CBS led the effort to commercialize international shortwave in the 1930s, often at significant cost. For a variety of reasons, American shortwave had little reach into Latin American markets and the endeavor failed to generate profits. At the same time, the networks promoted these shortwave broadcasts as a public service that spread the American message overseas and advanced the cause of hemispheric unity in the face of increased European influence in the region. Despite these efforts, the federal government was dissatisfied with the commercial broadcasts and, when World War II erupted, took gradual control over the shortwave system to ensure that wartime information and propaganda requirements were met.*

**O**n December 1, 1939, advertising representatives from the United Fruit Company gathered at the NBC studio in New York City to listen to “El Mundo al Dia,” the first regularly scheduled, commercially sponsored program on the NBC shortwave network. The daily fifteen-minute evening broadcast presented American news in the Spanish language to listeners in Latin

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## Radical Labor, Racism, and the Preservation of Hegemony in Ogden, Territorial Utah, 1885-1886

By Andrew Taylor Kirk

*Chinese workers in territorial Utah experienced persecution from organized labor groups typical of the time period. When persecution reached a peak in 1885 and 1886, the newspapers in Ogden, home of Utah's primary Union Pacific Railroad station, discouraged vigilante violence against the Chinese. This article employs traditional historical methods to study the local newspaper coverage of a boycott against Ogden's Chinese vegetable growers organized by the Knights of Labor in the autumn of 1885. Antonio Gramsci's Hegemony Theory is applied to interpret the ways the Mormon-controlled newspapers supported the union but condemned vigilantism. The research reveals the conflicts and distrust between Mormon and non-Mormon journalists as well as these journalists' racism and conditional acceptance of the Chinese.*

It was dangerous to be Chinese in the American West during the latter half of 1885. Forced expulsion, riots, violence and murder of these itinerant workers were a common, almost everyday occurrence. In late August of that year, the Rock Springs Massacre in Wyoming inspired a wash of efforts to expel the Chinese for good. Complaints against Chinese laborers in the West ended up with the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, but Asian workers continued arriving because of a loophole in one of the provisions. Instead of attacking government bureaucrats and industry leaders who turned a blind eye to these events, white laborers blamed the Chinese for low wages and resorted to violence in 1885. More than 25 communities in California alone rounded up, robbed and drove hundreds of the Chinese out of town while their homes burned. Expulsions also oc-

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