

walter cronkite political views

Walter Cronkite Political Views: A Deep Dive into the Trusted Newsman's Perspectives

walter cronkite political views have long intrigued historians, journalists, and political enthusiasts alike. Known as “the most trusted man in America,” Cronkite’s influence extended far beyond his iconic broadcasts. As the anchor of CBS Evening News from 1962 to 1981, he became a defining voice in American journalism during some of the nation's most turbulent decades. But what exactly were Walter Cronkite’s political beliefs, and how did they shape his reporting and public persona? Let’s explore the nuances of his political outlook and the legacy it left behind.

The Context Behind Walter Cronkite’s Political Views

Walter Cronkite came of age during a time when journalism was seen as a vital pillar of democracy. His political views were largely shaped by the eras he reported on—World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Vietnam War, among others. Unlike many journalists today who wear their political leanings openly, Cronkite was known for his commitment to objectivity and balanced reporting. However, this doesn’t mean he was devoid of personal convictions.

A Commitment to Objectivity and Balanced Journalism

Cronkite famously practiced what many now call the "Cronkite Standard"—a rigorous dedication to truth and fairness in reporting. He believed journalists should inform the public without becoming partisans or propagandists. This approach earned him widespread respect and helped elevate the role of television news in American society. While he maintained a professional neutrality on air, off-camera his personal values sometimes influenced his perspectives.

Walter Cronkite’s Political Leanings and Public Positions

Although Cronkite did not align himself with any political party publicly, various interviews and writings reveal certain tendencies in his worldview.

Support for Civil Rights and Social Justice

One area where Cronkite's political views were clear was his support for civil rights. Throughout the 1960s, he reported extensively and sympathetically on the Civil Rights Movement, helping to bring national attention to racial injustices. He believed in equality and often spoke about the importance of social progress in America. His coverage helped break down regional barriers in understanding the struggles faced by African Americans.

Skepticism Toward the Vietnam War

Perhaps the most famous example of Walter Cronkite's political influence was his public skepticism of the Vietnam War. In 1968, after a visit to Vietnam, Cronkite delivered a rare editorial commentary in which he questioned the U.S. government's optimistic portrayal of the conflict. His statement that the war was "mired in stalemate" reportedly had a profound impact on public opinion and even President Lyndon B. Johnson's policies. This moment symbolized a shift in Cronkite's role from a neutral reporter to a voice of reason and conscience.

Views on the Cold War and U.S. Foreign Policy

Cronkite's views on the Cold War were complex. While he believed in the necessity of containing communism and supporting American interests abroad, he also criticized excessive militarism and the potential dangers of nuclear escalation. His reporting often highlighted the human cost of geopolitical conflicts and urged caution and diplomacy whenever possible.

The Evolution of Walter Cronkite's Political Philosophy

Walter Cronkite's political views were not static; they evolved in response to the rapidly changing political landscape of the mid-20th century.

From Traditional Conservatism to a More Progressive Outlook

Early in his career, Cronkite was perceived as somewhat conservative, reflecting the mainstream values of his Midwestern upbringing. However, as he witnessed social upheaval and political crises, his views shifted toward more progressive stances, especially on social issues and government accountability.

Championing Transparency and Accountability

One consistent thread in Cronkite's political philosophy was his insistence on government transparency. He believed the press had a crucial role in holding leaders accountable and informing citizens truthfully. His coverage of political scandals and controversies underscored this commitment, helping to foster a culture where investigative journalism became a watchdog for democracy.

The Impact of Walter Cronkite's Political Views on Journalism

Walter Cronkite's political perspectives, combined with his journalistic integrity, helped define modern

broadcast news.

Shaping Public Opinion Through Trusted Reporting

Cronkite's nuanced approach allowed him to influence public opinion without overt partisanship. His carefully crafted editorials and news reports helped Americans understand complex issues like civil rights, war, and political corruption. This trust made his political views particularly impactful, as viewers often saw him as a reliable guide through uncertain times.

Setting Standards for Future Journalists

By blending factual reporting with thoughtful analysis, Cronkite set a standard that many journalists continue to aspire to. His example illustrates how a news anchor can maintain credibility while also expressing principled views on important political matters. This balance remains a critical lesson in today's media environment, where lines between news and opinion often blur.

Exploring Walter Cronkite's Legacy in Political Commentary

Even after retiring from the anchor desk, Cronkite remained engaged in political discourse. His later years saw him comment on issues such as the Gulf War, media ethics, and political polarization. His reflections often emphasized the need for honest dialogue and responsible journalism in sustaining democratic society.

Lessons from Cronkite's Political Perspective for Today's Media

In an age of instant news and social media, Walter Cronkite's approach offers valuable insights:

- **Maintain integrity:** Prioritize truth over sensationalism.
- **Balance objectivity with conscience:** Report facts, but don't shy away from moral clarity when necessary.
- **Engage the public:** Help audiences understand complex political issues without partisan bias.
- **Hold power accountable:** Use journalism as a tool to check government excesses.

These principles, deeply embedded in Cronkite's political views, continue to resonate with journalists

and consumers seeking trustworthy news.

Walter Cronkite's political views were shaped by a deep commitment to honesty, fairness, and social progress. His legacy as a journalist who navigated the delicate balance between reporting and commentary remains influential, reminding us of the enduring power of principled journalism in shaping political understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were Walter Cronkite's political views?

Walter Cronkite was known for his centrist and pragmatic political views. He aimed to report the news objectively and was often seen as a trusted, unbiased journalist.

Did Walter Cronkite express any political opinions during his career?

While Cronkite generally maintained journalistic neutrality, he occasionally expressed personal opinions, most famously after the Vietnam War Tet Offensive, where he called the war a 'stalemate,' which influenced public perception.

Was Walter Cronkite affiliated with any political party?

Walter Cronkite did not publicly affiliate himself with any political party, striving to maintain impartiality in his reporting.

How did Walter Cronkite's political views impact his journalism?

His commitment to truth and fairness shaped his journalism, making him a trusted figure who prioritized accurate and balanced reporting over partisan bias.

Did Walter Cronkite support any specific political causes?

Cronkite supported causes related to press freedom and integrity in journalism but avoided endorsing specific political campaigns or ideologies publicly.

How did Walter Cronkite's political stance influence public opinion?

As 'the most trusted man in America,' Cronkite's measured reporting and occasional candid assessments, such as on Vietnam, significantly influenced public opinion and political discourse during his tenure.

Additional Resources

Walter Cronkite Political Views: An In-Depth Exploration of the Legendary Journalist's Perspective

walter cronkite political views have long been a subject of interest and analysis, especially given his towering influence on American journalism throughout the mid-20th century. Often hailed as “the most trusted man in America,” Cronkite’s reputation was built on his impartial reporting style and his ability to convey complex political matters with clarity and integrity. Yet, beneath the surface of his objective news delivery, Cronkite’s personal political perspectives emerged in subtle but significant ways, shaping public discourse during pivotal moments in U.S. history.

Understanding Walter Cronkite’s political views requires delving into the context of his career and the evolving journalistic landscape he helped define. This article investigates the nuances of Cronkite’s ideology, his approach to political neutrality, and the moments when his personal convictions intersected with his professional responsibilities.

Walter Cronkite’s Commitment to Objectivity and Its Political Implications

Walter Cronkite’s journalistic philosophy was fundamentally rooted in impartiality. As the anchor of the CBS Evening News from 1962 to 1981, he set a standard for objective reporting that became the benchmark for news organizations nationwide. His approach was to present facts without overt editorializing, fostering a sense of trust and reliability among viewers.

However, this commitment to neutrality did not imply political disengagement. On the contrary, Cronkite was deeply aware of the political currents shaping America. His political views often aligned with a centrist, pragmatic outlook, emphasizing democratic values, social justice, and an informed electorate. His reporting style reflected a belief that journalists should inform rather than influence, though this boundary was occasionally tested in moments of national crisis.

The Vietnam War and the Shift in Cronkite’s Political Stance

One of the most analyzed episodes concerning Walter Cronkite’s political views is his 1968 editorial on the Vietnam War. After the Tet Offensive, Cronkite delivered a rare personal commentary expressing doubt about the U.S. government’s optimistic portrayal of the war effort. He famously stated that the conflict was “mired in stalemate” and advocated for negotiations to end the fighting.

This moment marked a significant departure from strict journalistic detachment, signaling a subtle but powerful political stance. Cronkite’s shift mirrored growing public skepticism and arguably influenced President Lyndon B. Johnson’s decision not to seek re-election. It underscored the capacity of trusted journalists to impact political narratives without abandoning professional integrity.

Views on Civil Rights and Social Change

Throughout the turbulent 1960s, Walter Cronkite's political views demonstrated support for civil rights and social progress. While maintaining neutrality in his reporting, he covered the Civil Rights Movement with a tone that acknowledged the moral urgency of racial equality. His news coverage helped bring national attention to landmark events like the March on Washington and the Selma to Montgomery marches.

Cronkite's underlying political sensibility appeared to favor policies advancing social justice, even if he refrained from overt activism. His ability to balance empathy with journalistic restraint contributed to a broader public understanding of civil rights issues.

Walter Cronkite's Political Leanings: Liberal, Conservative, or Centrist?

Attempting to categorize Walter Cronkite's political views into simple labels can be misleading. His career spanned eras of intense political polarization, yet he consistently sought to transcend partisanship. Scholars and commentators often describe him as a moderate or centrist, with leanings toward liberal ideals on social issues and a cautious approach to foreign intervention.

Support for Democratic Candidates and Policies

Cronkite's voting record and public statements reveal a pattern of support for Democratic candidates, particularly those who advocated for civil rights, social welfare, and diplomatic engagement. He endorsed John F. Kennedy in 1960 and later expressed admiration for figures like Jimmy Carter. His alignment with the Democratic Party, however, was pragmatic rather than ideological, rooted in a desire for effective governance rather than party loyalty.

Critical Stance on Government Transparency and Accountability

A consistent theme in Walter Cronkite's political views was his advocacy for government transparency. He believed that a well-informed public was essential for democracy to function properly. Cronkite was critical of government secrecy, particularly during the Vietnam War and Watergate scandal, reflecting a broader journalistic commitment to holding power accountable.

This stance sometimes put him at odds with political authorities but reinforced his image as a principled journalist dedicated to truth over partisanship.

Legacy of Walter Cronkite's Political Influence

Walter Cronkite's political views, though often understated, played a critical role in shaping public opinion during some of America's most defining moments. His editorial independence and integrity elevated the role of broadcast journalism in political discourse, while his occasional forays into

commentary demonstrated the potential influence of trusted news figures.

The balance he struck between neutrality and moral clarity remains a model for contemporary journalists navigating the complex intersection of media and politics.

Comparative Analysis: Cronkite and Contemporary Journalists

Comparing Walter Cronkite's political views and journalistic style to today's media landscape reveals stark contrasts. Modern news anchors and commentators often blend reporting with overt political analysis, catering to segmented audiences. Cronkite's approach, emphasizing factual reporting and restrained commentary, contrasts with the partisan-driven media environment.

This difference highlights both the evolution of journalism and the enduring value of Cronkite's model of political engagement—one grounded in trust, responsibility, and a commitment to democratic principles.

Pros and Cons of Cronkite's Political Approach in Journalism

- **Pros:** Enhanced public trust through objective reporting; ability to influence political discourse responsibly; promotion of informed citizenship.
- **Cons:** Occasional ambiguity in political positions may confuse audiences; limited direct advocacy for social change; potential constraints on addressing urgent political issues boldly.

Walter Cronkite's political views reflect the complexities of maintaining journalistic integrity while engaging meaningfully with the political realities of his time. His legacy endures as an exemplar of principled journalism that navigates the fine line between neutrality and conscience.

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a gift for weaving together engaging narratives. The Unwinding moves deftly back and forth through the lives of its people, including Dean Price, the son of tobacco farmers who becomes an evangelist for a new economy in the rural South; Tammy Thomas, a factory worker in the industrial Midwest attempting to survive the collapse of her city; Jeff Connaughton, a political careerist in Washington; and Peter Thiel, a Silicon Valley billionaire. Their stories are interspersed with biographical sketches of the era's leading public figures, from Oprah Winfrey to Steve Jobs, to create a rich, wise and very human portrait of the USA in these hard times. The Unwinding portrays a superpower coming apart at the seams, its elites and institutions no longer working, leaving ordinary people to improvise their own schemes for salvation. George Packer is also the author of *The Assassin's Gate*, which was named one of the ten best books of 2005 by the New York Times and won the Helen Bernstein Book Award. 'A tour de force . . . A fascinating journey through an America that has largely remained hidden from view. There are echoes of Don DeLillo's *Underworld* in the scope of Packer's vision and his deft eye for language and detail.' Sunday Business Post

walter cronkite political views: The Art of Propaganda: Historical Techniques That Influence Modern Media Ahmed Musa, 2025-01-06 Explore the powerful intersection of art, communication, and influence in *The Art of Propaganda*. This book uncovers how historical propaganda shaped public opinion, from wartime posters to political campaigns, and traces its evolution into the digital age of social media and viral content. Rich with examples and analysis, *The Art of Propaganda* reveals how visual storytelling and persuasive messaging continue to sway minds and shape societies. Perfect for history enthusiasts, media professionals, and critical thinkers, this book invites readers to recognize and decode the influence around them.

walter cronkite political views: American Empire Joshua Freeman, 2012-08-02 A compelling look at the movements and developments that propelled America to world dominance In this landmark work, acclaimed historian Joshua Freeman has created an epic portrait of a nation both galvanized by change and driven by conflict. Beginning in 1945, the economic juggernaut awakened by World War II transformed a country once defined by its regional character into a uniform and cohesive power and set the stage for the United States' rise to global dominance. Meanwhile, Freeman locates the profound tragedy that has shaped the path of American civic life, unfolding how the civil rights and labor movements worked for decades to enlarge the rights of millions of Americans, only to watch power ultimately slip from individual citizens to private corporations. Moving through McCarthyism and Vietnam, from the Great Society to Morning in America, Joshua Freeman's sweeping story of a nation's rise reveals forces at play that will continue to affect the future role of American influence and might in the greater world.

walter cronkite political views: American Breakdown Gerard Baker, 2023-09-12 From the former editor-in-chief of the Wall Street Journal, a must-read account of how America suffers from a "trust deficit" that has weakened its cornerstone institutions and divided our society. *AMERICAN BREAKDOWN* dissects how, in the space of a generation, the pillars that sustained the once-dominant superpower have been dangerously eroded. From government to business, from media to medicine—the strength and security of the American experiment have been weakened by a widening gap between the elites who control these institutions and the public. At the root of this breakdown is a precipitous fall in Americans' trust in their political, business and cultural leaders. As Baker writes, "This pathology of distrust across American society is eating the country away from the inside." Millions of Americans say they have little faith in their country's future, and no longer seem to have trust in their leaders, in their important social and civil institutions, even in their common values and ideals, or ultimately in each other. America in fact hasn't failed. Americans have been failed—misled by inept and deceitful political leaders, deserted by predatory and cynical corporate chiefs, and, above all, betrayed by a cultural elite that has exploited the very freedom this country provided in order to destroy it. *AMERICAN BREAKDOWN* is a deep analysis and thought-provoking account that explores the ways in which Americans have been let down and offers solutions for how we rebuild trust and reclaim purpose for a better future.

walter cronkite political views: Yahweh to Hell Rich Woods, 2015-03-18 *Yahweh to Hell*

comes at a time in our nations political discourse when the eight-hundred pound gorilla in the room is Christian Dominionism. Renowned author and satirist Rich Woods returns, and this time hes got the twenty-first century version of the Republican Party in his sights. With an uncommon perspective and singular wit, Woods systematically dissects the runaway bigotry, social regression, misogyny, economic illiteracy and overall lack of rationale in the fundamentalist Christian dominated Tea Party/GOP. At times brutally funny, and/or gut wrenchingly astute, Woods is unique amongst his peers in his ability to combine acumen with unapologetic mockery. Yet while Y2H oscillates back and forth between sobriety and satire, it manages to shine a light in the darkest parts of American politics. Indeed, Rich Woods demonstrates once again that he is equally adept with both a scalpel, and a chainsaw. This book will anger many and drive others to uncontrolled laughter. As long as it makes them rethink what theyve been told, the author doesnt care. Bob Ingle, award-winning journalist, Radio and TV commentator and co-author of The New York Times Best Seller, *The Soprano State: New Jerseys Culture of Corruption* and *Chris Christie: The Inside Story Of His Rise To Power* Rich Woods is down to earth, outspoken, acerbic, and has absolutely no patience for ignorance or stupidity. He has mastered the art of the book-length rant, and gives voice to the frustration so many of us feel with religion in the United States. William Hamby, Columnist, Examiner.com This book should be required reading of all Republican voters in America. Rich pulls the curtain back from a party that many of us used to respect, to show that there is nothing decent left. Brian Sapien, Secular activist, and Founder of the Rational Responders

walter cronkite political views: Covering American Politics in the 21st Century Lee Banville, 2016-12-12 This encyclopedia provides a real-world guide to American political journalism and news coverage in the 21st century, from the most influential media organizations and pundits to the controversies and practices shaping modern-day political journalism. Over the last 20 years, political campaigns and the media that cover them have been fundamentally altered by a mix of technology and money. This timely work surveys the legal, financial, and technological changes that have swept through the political process, putting those changes in context to help readers appreciate how they affect what the public learns—and doesn't learn—about the candidates and lawmakers at the local, state, and federal levels. The encyclopedia offers a critical examination of a broad range of topics organized in a narrative, A-to-Z format. Written by journalists and political experts, the two volumes cover the major issues, organizations, and trends affecting both politics and the coverage of political campaigns. Some 200 entries treat everything from news organizations, think tanks, and significant individuals to questions concerning money, advertising, and campaign tactics. Objective, unbiased, and comprehensive, the encyclopedia is an unequalled resource for anyone seeking to understand American political journalism and news coverage in the 21st century.

walter cronkite political views: The Mediated World David T. Z. Mindich, 2023-12-11 A full-color interdisciplinary exploration of how media and mass communication shape society and how students can take control of their media futures. Today's students have a world of knowledge at their fingertips and no longer need books to list names and dates. What they need is the story of how everything fits together and the critical tools to take charge of their place within that story. David T. Z. Mindich's *The Mediated World* charts the story of media as it has shaped human life and as it infuses every aspect of our modern existence. Mindich's engaging narrative style focuses on concepts and real-world contexts to promote the media literacy students need to understand their personal relationships with media. Empowered as media consumers, creators, and curators, students realize their responsibility to work within the vast world of media to create more positive and productive futures. The second edition of this text brings historical media and overarching themes to life for students. Each chapter opens with a contemporary vignette that meets students in the current moment before encouraging them to consider the past. "Application" sidebars suggest practical activities that allow students to delve deeper into topics while "Reflection" boxes encourage students to think critically about their own media use. With a strong emphasis on media literacy that treats students as media stakeholders who have a vested interest in understanding its workings and effects, Mindich's text is the perfect book for a generation of students looking to take

charge of their futures in this mediated world. New to the Second Edition: New chapter-opening vignettes connect with students in the current moment before welcoming them to consider the past. New Chapter 8, "Representation and the Lives that Matter in the Media," encourages students to think critically about which people get to be heard and which are overlooked. New Chapter 13, "Hot and Cold Video Games," critically explores a powerful media force in students' recreational lives. Expanded discussions on current cultural, political, and technological references, engaging with controversies. Features Full color layout with photos and graphics to enrich students' reading experience. Integrated focus on representation in media reminds students of the pervasive impact of bias across society. Margin keyword definitions help students develop critical vocabularies. Three different feature boxes (Reflection, Application, and Now and Then) reinforce concepts and engage students' critical thinking skills. Chapter learning objectives, chapter summaries, and discussion questions reinforce historical frameworks and key concepts. Access ancillary materials at <https://textbooks.rowman.com/mindich2e>. For instructors: a test bank, lecture notes and slides, and a sample syllabus. For the students: chapter flashcards, a digital glossary, and videos and links.

walter cronkite political views: Growing Faith During Difficult Times George E. Pfautsch, 2021-10-17 There are many situations and actions in our world today that can easily lead us to believe we are living at a time when evil is more prevalent than it has ever been. Hatred and divisiveness all too frequently are being substituted for love of God and neighbor. In reality, all human beings have lived through diabolical times. From the time Satan (serpent) tempted and persuaded Eve in the Garden of Eden to eat of the forbidden fruit, evil has existed in the world. Dealing with evil is a struggle for human beings. It can become an even greater struggle when society accepts and endorses evil practices. In our Church and in our Nation, there have been questionable practices, some of which are accepted by our society, that make it more difficult to maintain or increase our faith in God. We will examine a few such evils in this book.

walter cronkite political views: *Fixing Congress* Michael S. Johnson, Jerome F. Climer, 2024-03-19 A preponderance of evidence indicates the public is very unhappy with the US Congress. *Fixing Congress* is a behind-the-scenes look at how Congress really functions and why it doesn't. This powerful resource educates and empowers engaged citizens who want to participate more fully in the process of self-government and regain more control over it. Beginning with a closer look at members of Congress and their staff, as well as the structure, procedures, and culture, this groundwork gives citizens a greater understanding of Congress and the tools they need to make it better. It recounts the history of the institution, the intent of the Founding Fathers and the historical currents that have driven the country to its state of gridlocked government and suffocating polarization. With the context set, *Fixing Congress* delves into special interest clout, questionable campaign financing, campaign abuses, partisan congressional district maps, ideological and partisan extremism, the role of parties, the overwhelming influence of the media, and the multitude of forces that make the average voter feel like a tiny cog in the gigantic wheel of governance. This prolific resource provides numerous solutions that citizens can advocate in their communities and with their members of Congress. The final chapters propose reforms, strategies, and tactics to restore Congress to its intended purpose as a representative body. These proposals include redefining the distinctions between the Senate and House, reducing the size of congressional districts, limiting outside campaign financing, and urging the media to report objectively and with balance. Is it possible to make Congress more productive, more accessible, and more answerable to the people? Yes. *Fixing Congress* is an essential part of the solution.

walter cronkite political views: *How American Politics Works* Richard J. Gelm, 2009-03-26 American politics is criticized and belittled by media critics and the public, yet the system is held out as a model for the world. The paradox of this simultaneous cynicism and adulation is rooted in the conflict between the human motives that drive politics. Crisply and clearly written with numerous historical examples, *How American Politics Works* explains the complex and sometimes confusing American political system in a vibrant and accessible light. Documented with recent and historical scholarship presented clearly in laymen's terms, *How American Politics Works* explores the multiple

dimensions of politics and the source of Americans' disillusionment with their government through the "four Ps": Philosophy, Pragmatism, Personality and Profit. Philosophical and moral principles underpin the key political institutions in America, but values are challenged in the quest to achieve workable political solutions. Policy is rarely made to conform to lofty principles alone. It often results from short-term incremental compromise, driven by people in pursuit of the public good and their own personal self-interest and profit. How American Politics Works explains the inner workings of the American political system, including the power of ideas, political compromise, powerful personalities and the preeminent position of money. While Americans' high ideals are often illusive in the rough and tumble of political battles, and the public's trust is bruised with every political scandal, balancing idealism and individual virtue with ambition and self-interest is the dynamic and safeguard of American politics. How American Politics Works offers a comprehensive presentation of the realities, challenges and possibilities of the American political system to bring an understanding, fascination and dedication to the wider public.

walter cronkite political views: The Dynamics of Political Communication Richard M. Perloff, 2025-07-17 This fully updated fourth edition continues to provide comprehensive coverage of communication and politics, again focusing on the way politics and media impact democracy. The book explores the intersection between politics and communication, drawing from leading scholarship in communication, political science, and political psychology. It describes the nature of today's political media; political socialization; key media effects, such as agenda-setting and framing; myths, biases and facts in political news; political advertising and presidential debates. This edition includes new and expanded discussions of free speech and misinformation on social media, presidential rhetoric, the 2022 and 2024 election campaigns and the January 6th investigation narrative. It also examines international examples such as the Ukraine War, populism in Hungary and Turkey, Russian propaganda, and TikTok. The book is ideally suited for upper-level undergraduate and graduate political communication courses in communication, journalism, and political science programs. This edition again features online resources with links to relevant news articles, videos, or other online materials. For instructors, an instructor's manual, including sample syllabi, chapter outlines, sample discussion questions, sample test questions, and lecture slides are also provided. Access the support materials at www.routledge.com/9781032613130.

walter cronkite political views: The Uncensored War Daniel C. Hallin, 1989-04-14 Vietnam was America's most divisive and unsuccessful foreign war. It was also the first to be televised and the first of the modern era fought without military censorship. From the earliest days of the Kennedy-Johnson escalation right up to the American withdrawal, and even today, the media's role in Vietnam has continued to be intensely controversial. The Uncensored War gives a richly detailed account of what Americans read and watched about Vietnam. Hallin draws on the complete body of the New York Times coverage from 1961 to 1965, a sample of hundreds of television reports from 1965-73, including television coverage filmed by the Defense Department in the early years of the war, and interviews with many of the journalists who reported it, to give a powerful critique of the conventional wisdom, both conservative and liberal, about the media and Vietnam. Far from being a consistent adversary of government policy in Vietnam, Hallin shows, the media were closely tied to official perspectives throughout the war, though divisions in the government itself and contradictions in its public relations policies caused every administration, at certain times, to lose its ability to manage the news effectively. As for television, it neither showed the literal horror of war, nor did it play a leading role in the collapse of support: it presented a highly idealized picture of the war in the early years, and shifted toward a more critical view only after public unhappiness and elite divisions over the war were well advanced.

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Powers takes on celebrities and evangelicals, pundits and politicians, making sense of the mess for the rest of us. He shows how we have come to equate consumerism with patriotism and Fox News with objective journalism, and how our culture has become more polarized than ever even as we all shop at the same exact big-box stores. Insightful, hilarious, and critical of both liberals and conservatives, this is one of the smartest and most enjoyable books on American culture in years.

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Steven P. Miller, 2011-08-23 While spreading the gospel around the world through his signature crusades, internationally renowned evangelist Billy Graham maintained a visible and controversial presence in his native South, a region that underwent substantial political and economic change in the latter half of the twentieth century. In this period Graham was alternately a desegregating crusader in Alabama, Sunbelt booster in Atlanta, regional apologist in the national press, and southern strategist in the Nixon administration. *Billy Graham and the Rise of the Republican South* considers the critical but underappreciated role of the noted evangelist in the creation of the modern American South. The region experienced two significant related shifts away from its status as what observers and critics called the Solid South: the end of legalized Jim Crow and the end of Democratic Party dominance. Author Steven P. Miller treats Graham as a serious actor and a powerful symbol in this transition—an evangelist first and foremost, but also a profoundly political figure. In his roles as the nation's most visible evangelist, adviser to political leaders, and a regional spokesperson, Graham influenced many of the developments that drove celebrants and detractors alike to place the South at the vanguard of political, religious, and cultural trends. He forged a path on which white southern moderates could retreat from Jim Crow, while his evangelical critique of white supremacy portended the emergence of color blind rhetoric within mainstream conservatism. Through his involvement in the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations, as well as his deep social ties in the South, the evangelist influenced the decades-long process of political realignment. Graham's public life sheds new light on recent southern history in all of its ambiguities, and his social and political ethics complicate conventional understandings of evangelical Christianity in postwar America. Miller's book seeks to reintroduce a familiar figure to the narrative of southern history and, in the process, examine the political and social transitions constitutive of the modern South.

walter cronkite political views: Political Communication

Richard M. Perloff, 2013-10-18 In this political communication text, Richard M. Perloff examines the various ways in which messages are constructed and communicated from public officials and politicians through the mass media to the ultimate receivers—the people. With a focus on the history of political communication, he provides an overview of the most significant issues in the study of politics and the media. In addition to synthesizing facts and theories, and highlighting the scholarly contributions made to the understanding of political communication effects, *Political Communication* addresses such factors as the rhetorical accomplishments of American presidents, the ongoing tangles between the press and the presidency, and the historical roots of politics as it is practiced and studied today. It also addresses major issues about the press and politics that continually resurface, such as question of press bias and the use and manipulation of media by politicians to accomplish national goals. As a comprehensive and engaging introduction to contemporary political communication, this volume provides all readers with a historical perspective on American politics and press and offers a unique appreciation of the strengths and virtues of political communication in America.

walter cronkite political views: Freedom Under Fire

Michael Linfield, 1990 The great wars we have fought for the sake of liberty have been accompanied, without exception, by the most draconian assaults on individual rights. This is the theme of Michael Linfield's *Freedom Under Fire*, and he documents it with examples from every war since the American Revolution.—The Progressive Linfield demonstrates conclusively, starting with the American Revolution and coming right up to the invasion of Panama, that the Bill of Rights is set aside by the government again and again, for reasons of 'national security.' He performs an important service, reminding us that liberty cannot be entrusted to the Bill of Rights or to the three branches of government, but only can be safeguarded by our own vigilance.—Howard Zinn

walter cronkite political views: Hollywood Nation James Hirsen, 2005-08-30 Now entering Hollywood Nation—where fact blurs with fiction, virtue with vice Millions of Americans are outraged by the radical politics of self-appointed celebrity pundits like Michael Moore, Barbra Streisand, Sean Penn, and Susan Sarandon. And actually, these stars' public pronouncements could be the least of our worries, as New York Times bestselling author and media critic James Hirsen reveals in Hollywood Nation. Now more than ever, Hirsen shows, Hollywood elites are blurring the lines between entertainment and news to force their views onto the rest of the country. With their politically charged films, distorted documentaries, and skewed docudramas, they're trying to set the agenda with little regard for the truth. Even worse, many so-called journalists are doing the same thing, dangerously mixing information and entertainment in an attempt to ratchet up ratings—and to inject their own views into the news. Hollywood Nation also reveals how the New Media are now leading the counterattack against the relentless liberal assault that comes from East Coast newsrooms and Left Coast studios. Through his extensive research and exclusive interviews with news and entertainment iconoclasts—including Bill O'Reilly, Mel Gibson, Ann Coulter, Dick Morris, Peggy Noonan, Laurie Dhue, and many others—Hirsen shows how liberals can no longer dominate the political and cultural debates. With a sharp eye and a keen wit, Hirsen takes the reader on a fun and fascinating journey through this Hollywood nation of ours. Along the way you'll discover: •How mainstream media figures' fame fundamentally distorts the delivery of news •How far news organizations are going in their quest to sex things up—and what celebrity journalists are saying about the plastic surgery push •An exclusive behind-the-scenes account of Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ—a fascinating story that captures how the Left is finally losing its stranglehold on information •A cable news journalist spilling the beans about a rival news channel's commercial stunt •How Michael Moore's films are heralding a new trend toward over-the-top liberal propaganda—but how a newly emerging conservative Hollywood is fighting back •How the New Media are shaking things up and evening things out These days we're just one big Hollywood nation. James Hirsen reminds us all that we need to pay attention to the Hollywood influence—not least because we must combat it.

walter cronkite political views: Mobile and Social Media Journalism Anthony Adornato, 2021-07-29 Now in its second edition, Mobile and Social Media Journalism continues to be an essential resource for learning how journalists and news organizations use mobile and social media to gather news, distribute content, and engage with audiences. Merging theory and practice, the book includes checklists and practical activities in every chapter, enabling readers to immediately build the mobile and social media skills that today's journalists need and which news organizations expect. The second edition retains a focus on journalism's core values, such as authentication, verification, and credibility, while guiding readers on how to apply them to digital media activities. The book also offers an in-depth discussion of the audience's active role in producing content, how mobile devices and social media have changed the way the audience consumes news, and what these changes mean for journalists. Updated to address the latest trends in multimedia journalism, the second edition includes two new chapters: Writing mobile-friendly web stories and The spread of fake news. This is a valuable resource for journalism students, as well as media professionals seeking to update their skills. The book also features a companion website at www.mobileandsocialmediajournalism.com, providing online resources for students and lecturers, including video tutorials, industry news, and sample assignments. The book's Twitter account (@MobileJourn) and Facebook page (fb.com/MobileandSocialMediaJournalism) share the latest industry trends and offer tips for teaching the topic.

walter cronkite political views: The Closed Partisan Mind Matthew D. Luttig, 2023-04-15 The Closed Partisan Mind traces the roots of partisan polarization to psychological closed-mindedness in the electorate and the changing perception of politics created by polarized political leaders and the new media environment. American politics today can be defined by the intense and increasingly toxic divide between Democrats and Republicans. Matthew D. Luttig explores why so many Americans have endorsed this level of political conflict. Luttig illustrates how the psychological need

for closure leads people, regardless of whether they identify as Democrat or Republican, to express more polarized political attitudes. This association between closed minds and partisan polarization is a new phenomenon and can be traced to broader changes in American society, such as the creation of ideologically distinct political parties and a fragmented media environment. These developments have simplified politics into a black-or-white, us-versus-them conflict—making politics appeal to those with closed minds. Today, strong partisans do not just cheer for their political party to win elections. Instead, more akin to religious true believers, strong partisans use their affiliation as a means of understanding right and wrong, friend and enemy, true and false. The Closed Partisan Mind reveals that these dynamics have manifested in both a new type of partisanship and a new type of partisan. The emergence of this new closed partisanship illustrates the dangers that polarization has wrought on society, politics, and the minds of Americans.

walter cronkite political views: Social Fragmentation and the Decline of American Democracy
Robert E. Denton, Jr., Benjamin Voth, 2016-12-08 This book explores the social and political implications of what the authors identify as the decline of the social contract in America and the rise of a citizenry that has become self-centered, entitled, and independent. For nearly two decades, America has been in a “cultural war” over moral values and social issues, becoming a divided nation geographically, politically, socially, and morally. We are witnessing the decline of American Democracy, the authors argue, resulting from the erosion of the idea of the social contract. Especially since the “baby boomers,” each successive generation has emphasized personal license to the exclusion of service, social integration, and the common good. With the social contract, the larger general will becomes the means of establishing reciprocal rights and duties, privileges, and responsibilities as a basis of the state. The balkanization of America has changed the role of government from one of oversight to one of dependency, where individual freedom and responsibility are sacrificed for group equality. This book examines the conditions of this social fragmentation, and offers ideas of an American Renaissance predicated on communicative idealism.

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