



JOURNALISM IN A SMALL PLACE: Making Caribbean News Relevant, Comprehensive, and Independent by Juliette Storr

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Notes

PREFACE

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1 | JOURNALISM AND MEDIA IN THE CARIBBEAN

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- 41 Storr, “Changes and Challenges,” 324–325. Television broadcasting began in the 1960s, with Jamaica beginning the first television service in 1962.

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- 45 Two dominant media systems emerged in the world—the British and the American. Almost all others evolved from these two models. The British evolved with a public service ethos as the core of its system until the 1970s; the American evolved with commercialism at its core and added a public service element in the 1960s. The BBC came into existence by Royal Charter in 1927. According to Charles Curran, the charter provided “genuine freedom for the BBC—particularly for its governors, who could do what they thought was in the best interest of broadcasting and the nation.” John Reith, the first Director General of the BBC, also contributed to the development of the public service ethos. The BBC developed the social responsibility theory of media and continued to view the medium as a valuable public service even after it included commercialism. The 1947 US Hutchins Commission on the freedom of the press recommended five requirements for a free and responsible press: The media should provide a truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of the day’s events in a context, which gives them meaning; the media should serve as a forum for the exchange of comment and criticism; the media should project a representative picture of the constituent groups in the society; the media should present and clarify the goals and values of the society; the media should provide full access to the intelligence of the day. See Charles Curran, *A Seamless Robe* (London: Collins, 1979), 37.
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2 | PRACTICING JOURNALISM IN SMALL PLACES

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3 | CARIBBEAN JOURNALISM'S MEDIA ECONOMY

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4 | CARIBBEAN JOURNALISM: COMPREHENSIVE AND PROPORTIONATE

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- 2 Perhaps one of the best expressions of this mode of storytelling, of weaving the significant into the everyday, is exemplified by Caribbean calypso music. Calypso began in Trinidad and Tobago as a form of protest against British rule. It has since spread throughout the region and has become a popular genre that utilizes a variety of styles to deliver potent messages—double entendre, puns, satire, wit, humor, blatant lyrics, and caustic language. Some scholars have argued (Hinds, 2010; Lashley, 2001; Regis, 1998) that calypso is a more potent vehicle for social and political commentary than other channels of communication. In the region, calypsonians are highly respected and regarded as agents of change. According to David Hinds, the calypsonian plays the role of a messenger who "simultaneously teaches, defines, affirms, reports, interprets, attacks, scolds, and condemns." (See citation below.) The calypsonian as storyteller and agent of change is part of the oral tradition of the region. Calypsonians as change agents provide a contradictory narrative to Kincaid's argument of making the small things big and the big things small. Calypso music and Caribbean people contest the everyday, the "small things," and the significant. Hinds identifies the calypsonian as a potent messenger who ridicules and criticizes the power structures of society, especially the political. See David Hinds, "A Mailman to make Government Understand: The Calypsonian (Chalkdust) as Political Opposition in the Caribbean," <http://www>.

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Journalism in a Small Place examines the state of Caribbean journalism at a time when the industry is undergoing rapid changes. Juliette Storr traces the history of news media, from its inception under British colonial rule to its development in the post-independence period, uncovering the political, economic, social, and technological factors driving current trends in Caribbean journalism. Interviews with journalists, editors, and media owners in English-speaking Caribbean countries provide unprecedented insight into the profession and practice of journalism in the region, highlighting the social and cultural contexts in which the media industry operates. Providing both a practical and theoretical response to regional concerns surrounding professional ethics, responsible performance, and the training and education of journalists, *Journalism in a Small Place* gives an account of the purpose and practice of journalism in the Caribbean in the twenty-first century, and the impact of journalism on democracy in the region.

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