

## Who Owns The Media? The 6 Monolithic Corporations That Control Almost Everything We Watch, Hear And Read

THEECONOMICCOLLAPSBLOG.COM

Back in 1983, approximately 50 corporations controlled the vast majority of all news media in the United States. Today, ownership of the news media has been concentrated in the hands of just six incredibly powerful media corporations. These corporate behemoths control most of what we watch, hear and read every single day. They own television networks, cable channels, movie studios, newspapers, magazines, publishing houses, music labels and even many of our favorite websites. Sadly, most Americans don't even stop to think about who is feeding them the endless hours of news and entertainment that they constantly ingest. Most Americans don't really seem to care about who owns the media. But they should. The truth is that each of us is deeply influenced by the messages that are constantly being pounded into our heads by the mainstream media. The average American watches 153 hours of television a month. In fact, most Americans begin to feel physically uncomfortable if they go too long without watching or listening to something. Sadly, most Americans have become absolutely addicted to news and entertainment and the ownership of all that news and entertainment that we crave is being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands each year.

The six corporations that collectively control U.S. media today are Time Warner, Walt Disney, Viacom, Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., CBS Corporation and NBC Universal. Together, the "big six" absolutely dominate news and entertainment in the United States. But even those areas of the media that the "big six" do not completely control are becoming increasingly concentrated. For example, Clear Channel now owns over 1000 radio stations across the United States. Companies like Google, Yahoo and Microsoft are increasingly dominating the Internet.

But it is the "big six" that are the biggest concerns. When you control what Americans watch, hear and read you gain a great deal of control over what they think. They don't call it "programming" for nothing.

Back in 1983 it was bad enough that about 50 corporations dominated U.S. media. But since that time, power over the media has rapidly become concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer people....

In 1983, fifty corporations dominated most of every mass medium and the biggest media merger in history was a \$340 million deal. ... [I]n 1987, the fifty companies had shrunk to twenty-nine. ... [I]n 1990, the twenty-nine had shrunk to twenty three. ... [I]n 1997, the biggest firms numbered ten and involved the \$19 billion Disney-ABC deal, at the time the biggest media merger ever. ... [In 2000] AOL Time Warner's \$350 billion merged corporation [was] more than 1,000 times larger [than the biggest deal of 1983].

--Ben H. Bagdikian, The Media Monopoly, Sixth Edition, (Beacon Press, 2000), pp. xx--xxi

Today, six colossal media giants tower over all the rest. Much of the information in the chart below comes from mediaowners.com. The chart below reveals only a small fraction of the media outlets that these six behemoths actually own...

### Time Warner

Home Box Office (HBO)  
Time Inc.  
Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.  
Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.  
CW Network (partial ownership)  
TMZ  
New Line Cinema  
Time Warner Cable  
Cinemax  
Cartoon Network  
TBS  
TNT  
America Online  
MapQuest  
Moviefone  
Castle Rock  
Sports Illustrated  
Fortune  
Marie Claire  
People Magazine






### Walt Disney

ABC Television Network  
Disney Publishing  
ESPN Inc.

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  - ▶ 08/22 - 08/29 (10)
  - ▶ 08/15 - 08/22 (7)
  - ▶ 08/08 - 08/15 (9)
  - ▶ 08/01 - 08/08 (11)
  - ▶ 07/25 - 08/01 (8)
  - ▶ 07/18 - 07/25 (9)
  - ▶ 07/11 - 07/18 (6)
  - ▶ 07/04 - 07/11 (12)
  - ▶ 06/27 - 07/04 (11)
  - ▶ 06/20 - 06/27 (10)
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Disney Channel  
SOAPnet  
A&E  
Lifetime  
Buena Vista Home Entertainment  
Buena Vista Theatrical Productions  
Buena Vista Records  
Disney Records  
Hollywood Records  
Miramax Films  
Touchstone Pictures  
Walt Disney Pictures  
Pixar Animation Studios  
Buena Vista Games  
Hyperion Books

Viacom

Paramount Pictures  
Paramount Home Entertainment  
Black Entertainment Television (BET)  
Comedy Central  
Country Music Television (CMT)  
Logo  
MTV  
MTV Canada  
MTV2  
Nick Magazine  
Nick at Nite  
Nick Jr.  
Nickelodeon  
Noggin  
Spike TV  
The Movie Channel  
TV Land  
VH1

News Corporation

Dow Jones & Company, Inc.  
Fox Television Stations  
The New York Post  
Fox Searchlight Pictures  
Beliefnet  
Fox Business Network  
Fox Kids Europe  
Fox News Channel  
Fox Sports Net  
Fox Television Network  
FX  
My Network TV  
MySpace  
News Limited News  
Phoenix InfoNews Channel  
Phoenix Movies Channel  
Sky PerfectTV  
Speed Channel  
STAR TV India  
STAR TV Taiwan  
STAR World  
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Times Literary Supplement Magazine  
Times of London  
20th Century Fox Home Entertainment  
20th Century Fox International  
20th Century Fox Studios  
20th Century Fox Television  
BSkyB  
DIRECTV  
The Wall Street Journal  
Fox Broadcasting Company  
Fox Interactive Media  
FOXTEL  
HarperCollins Publishers  
The National Geographic Channel  
National Rugby League  
News Interactive  
News Outdoor  
Radio Veronica  
ReganBooks  
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Ron Paul

CBS Corporation

CBS News  
CBS Sports  
CBS Television Network  
CNET  
Showtime  
TV.com  
CBS Radio Inc. (130 stations)  
CBS Consumer Products  
CBS Outdoor  
CW Network (50% ownership)  
Infinity Broadcasting  
Simon & Schuster (Pocket Books, Scribner)  
Westwood One Radio Network

NBC Universal

Bravo  
CNBC  
NBC News  
MSNBC  
NBC Sports  
NBC Television Network  
Oxygen  
SciFi Magazine  
Syfy (Sci Fi Channel)  
Telemundo  
USA Network  
Weather Channel  
Focus Features  
NBC Universal Television Distribution  
NBC Universal Television Studio  
Paxson Communications (partial ownership)  
Trio  
Universal Parks & Resorts  
Universal Pictures  
Universal Studio Home Video

These gigantic media corporations do not exist to objectively tell the truth to the American people. Rather, the primary purpose of their existence is to make money.

These gigantic media corporations are not going to do anything to threaten their relationships with their biggest advertisers (such as the largest pharmaceutical companies that literally spend billions on advertising), and one way or another these gigantic media corporations are always going to express the ideological viewpoints of their owners.

Fortunately, an increasing number of Americans are starting to wake up and are realizing that the mainstream media should not be trusted. According to a new poll just released by Gallup, the number of Americans that have little to no trust in the mainstream media (57%) is at an all-time high.

That is one reason why we have seen the alternative media experience such rapid growth over the past few years. The mainstream media has been losing credibility at a staggering rate, and Americans are starting to look elsewhere for the truth about what is really going on.

Do you think that anyone in the mainstream news would actually tell you that the Federal Reserve is bad for America or that we are facing a horrific derivatives bubble that could destroy the entire world financial system? Do you think that anyone in the mainstream media would actually tell you the truth about the deindustrialization of America or the voracious greed of Goldman Sachs?

Sure there are a few courageous reporters in the mainstream media that manage to slip a few stories past their corporate bosses from time to time, but in general there is a very clear understanding that there are simply certain things that you just do not say in the mainstream news.

But Americans are becoming increasingly hungry for the truth, and they are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the dumbed down pablum that is passing as "hard hitting news" these days.

So what do you think about the state of the mainstream media? Please feel free to leave a comment with your opinion below...

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