



ANIMATION: ON CLICK, TANKMAN PHOTO REPLACED BY DUCKMAN PARODY

Technology has always served to amplify the Power of Information. In Lecture 1, we talked about the historic force of Gutenberg's press and Zuckerberg's social media movement. The printing press served to multiply the Power of Information., leading the way to greater democratization of access to information, something which ruling elites have jealously guarded since the beginning of recorded history. The advent of the Internet and more recently Social Media have further democratized not just access to information but also the spreading of it.

In China, the regime has tried for over 24 years to erase the national memory of the bloody crackdown on citizens in June of 1989. This iconic photograph has long been banned and next to impossible to see on the Internet in China.

Whenever the anniversary of June 4 rolls around, Chinese Internet censors block any term that might refer to June 4, but China's netizens have been empowered by social media. They have clever ways of evading censorship – instead of June 4 1989, they tried 1089 for a while. Most recently they used May 35 or 535 (may 31 plus 4 days). The government stopped that too, but the human creativity unleashed by social media countered with this picture, which went viral before the censors could stop it.

This lecture is about the never-ending struggle to control information – why is information so powerful and why people will go to unimaginable lengths to spread it and to control it

Last week's Quick Quiz

1. Mass printing started with **Johannes Gutenberg**, a German silversmith who cast re-usable letters and married them to a recycled wine press. By 1455 he was mass-printing bibles.
2. ARPANET, the first version of the Internet, came into being in 1969. Same year we landed on the moon.

"Get more seats" ... "Please be louder" ... "Take a little more time on slides" ... "Don't run over or I have to run to class!"

"What qualifications are there that make one a journalist?" ... "Do you listen to TMZ and are they always accurate when TMZ reports a scandal?"

"Was the man who shot the photos of Saddam Hussein being hanged ever pursued for an interview?"

"How am I supposed to avoid looking at my phone for 48 hours where social media is constantly popping up?"

"I'm sadly part of the 30% who believe Obama was born in Kenya."

"Can we duck when you throw the football?"



In each lecture, we pause to review announcements and to help you make your way through the course.
That's what this slide signals: Housekeeping Time

At the end of this lecture, you should be able to . . .

1. Use new vocabulary to describe the human need for information and categorize it into three broad types.
2. Compare modern examples of the power of information to historic examples.
3. Use specific events and examples to illustrate the power of information and to demonstrate a global understanding of press freedom

These skills relate to course outcomes 4, 5 & 6

This slide intended for instructors as a focusing tool, but can be shared with students to prime them. Each lecture will include a slide like this with specific lecture outcomes that refer to course outcomes.

Here is what the syllabus declares students will be able to do if they successfully complete the course:

1. Analyze key elements of news reports - weighing evidence, evaluating sources, noting context and transparency - to judge reliability.
2. Distinguish between journalism, opinion journalism and unsupported bloviation.
3. Identify and distinguish between news media bias and audience bias.
4. Blend personal scholarship and course materials to write forcefully about journalism standards and practices, fairness and bias, First Amendment issues and their individual Fourth Estate rights and responsibilities.
5. Use examples from each day's news to demonstrate critical thinking about civic engagement.
6. Place the impact of social media and digital technologies in their historical context.

The Power Of Information



PRE-VIDEO SLIDE. THE NEXT SLIDE WILL LAUNCH AN EXCERPT OF FOLEY HOSTAGE VIDEO (1 MINUTE: NO VIOLENCE)

But the struggle to control information is not just some cat and mouse game played out on the Internet. This is James Foley, oldest of the five children of John and Diane Foley of Rochester, New Hampshire. After high school, he went to Marquette University in Milwaukee, where he admired certain values of the Jesuit priests: To help those in need, to fight for underdogs and to tell stories that no one else will tell. "With Marquette," he once wrote, "I went on some volunteer trips to South Dakota and Mississippi and learned I was a sheltered kid and the world had real problems."

Foley is described by classmates as an intense guy and a modest friend. The kind who deflected questions about himself and got everyone else to open up.

Foley studied history and Spanish and graduated in 1996, working at Teach for America and before getting a masters degree and embarking on a career as a conflict journalist.

By 2011 he was covering the overthrow of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, shooting video, writing stories, sending first-hand reports from a far-away trouble spot.

Foley was kidnapped in Libya in 2011 and held for 44 days. After his release, he wrote to Marquette University to talk about values he absorbed in college: helping those in need, fighting for the underdog, bearing witness. Foley wrote that it was not "until my freedom was taken away from me" that those lessons fully resonated with him.

The kidnapping did not drive him away, it drove him back to the world's trouble spots.

Friends explained the decision this way "A lot of us see obstacles in the world and back down," said Brian Roche, a classmate. "Jim didn't back down. I thought of him as not afraid. But it's not as if he was not afraid — it's that when something scared him, he saw it as more of a challenge."

Freelancers get paid by the story or sometimes by the event they cover. His equipment was old and beaten up and he had no permanent job. No retirement fund. No health insurance. Just the promise of pay for reports he sent.

The story of war is brought to daylight for all the world to see by people like James Foley who go see for themselves and tell us what's happening. Some with the backing of a full-time job. Some, like Foley, without.

On November 22, 2012 Foley was reporting on Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's savage repression of rebel forces when he was kidnapped after departing from an internet café on his way to the Turkish border. Almost two years later, after a thwarted U.S. military rescue operation and public pleas from his parents, the self-proclaimed "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria" a YouTube video in which Foley, age 40, read a prepared speech and then was beheaded.

(LECTURER: CLICK NOW TO LAUNCH HOSTAGE VIDEO)

The Power Of Information

NEWS FELLOW: LINK VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE AND SELECT
"START AUTOMATICALLY"

AFTER VIDEO:

On the Free James Foley Facebook page, his mother
released this statement:

"We have never been prouder of our son Jim, he gave his
life trying to expose the world to the suffering of the Syrian
people"

Today's themes

There is a universal need
to receive and share information.

People kill
– and risk death–
over information.

The battle to control information
is also universal – and changing
with technology.

(Animation: When ready, click for each lecture theme)

Why would insurgent leaders target someone armed only with a video camera, a laptop full of interview notes, a notebook and a pen?

And why would James Foley, armed with only a camera and a laptop, purposely go to Libya and Syria, where bullets are flying and life is cheap?

Why would he do that?

Clearly, from the title of the slide, we think information is powerful stuff. So powerful, James Foley died seeking it.

Here are the three main themes of today's lecture, in which we hope to explore this idea of the power of information.

Humans need information



During his 5 ½ years as a prisoner of war...

**"The thing I missed most was information
... free uncensored, undistorted,
abundant information."**

Animation: On Click, modern McCain photo and quote appear, together

Some of you learned from the Black Out assignment just how much you miss information.

Here's the mother of all blackouts: In October 1967, while on a bombing mission over Hanoi, John McCain he was shot down, seriously injured, and captured by the North Vietnamese. He was a Prisoner Of War until 1973, during which time he was tortured , but refused his captor's offer to move him up the release list, sending him home early. His war wounds left him with lifelong physical limitations.

His captors knew that an extra measure of torture would be keeping him ignorant of what was happening in the world.

DO 2ND CLICK NOW

McCain, not always a fan of the News Media, says he missed news the most while in prison.

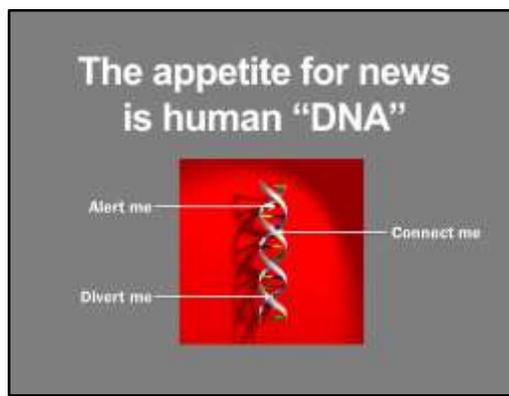
WHY

is there a universal
need to share and
receive news?

Why IS there a universal need to share and receive news?

ASK: How many of you share news as you read it...linking Facebook posts, re-tweeting or tweeting items of interest or blogging or “*LIKE*” ing items posted by others, re-posting Tumblr items....

What is it about us that we all seem to need to receive and share information?

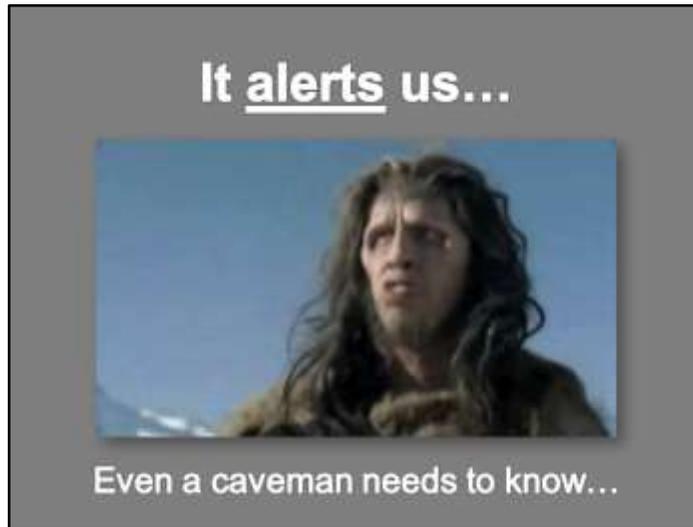


Animation: Hunger for News is part of our “DNA” (metaphorically speaking)

Every society studied by anthropologists - no matter how primitive - prized a system for exchanging news.

What is this Need to Know? Think about your day on campus. The most common question is... “What up?”

For purposes of this course we observe that humans seem to need three kinds of news: Alerts, Diverts, Connects. Hang on to those ideas, They’re useful in the writing assignments for this course.



PRE-VIDEO SLIDE. THE NEXT SLIDE WILL LAUNCH THE FUNNY FED-EX AD (38 seconds)

Without information systems that alerted them to danger, humans wouldn't have survived. This highly scientific reconstruction shows how humans need information that alerts them to new opportunities and alerts them to danger.

(LECTURER: CLICK NOW TO LAUNCH VIDEO)



Caveman.wmv

NEWS FELLOW: LINK VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE AND SELECT "START AUTOMATICALLY"



Okay, so let's think about serious alerts we rely on.

News includes information that alerts us to dangers or opportunities dead ahead, as many of us learned when Superstorm Sandy AND a full moon combined to knock out power to millions of people in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut...or in 2014, when the Polar Vortex storms cancelled thousands of flights and destroyed crops.

Or...the approaching peak day for hurricane activity: September 10



Let's be honest. We don't read political news and cops and crime news all the time.

We also can't resist reading about celebrities, or following news that amuses us.

Don't be embarrassed to admit you're an ESPN addict, a TMZ fan...or a Page Six Devotee. The fact is, news is often a form of entertainment.

Miley Cyrus famous for shocks at the Video Music Awards, this year surprised everyone with a social justice theme instead of a Twerkfest. Hoping to shine a light on the problem of homeless teens in LA, she brought a homeless man as her date and made a statement.

Jessie Nizewtiz, a New York model, who appeared on the "Dating Naked" reality show was not apparently embarrassed by shots like this, showing her and a stranger bathing each other in mud. But she filed a \$10 million lawsuit against VH1 operator Viacom and other companies after her crotch was allegedly not blurred in the reality show's trailer.

Stories that amuse and entertain us are also news.



Animation: Very silly. On click, a suspiciously FTD runner deliver's Cicero's news letter, and then Cicero's quote arises.

And it's really nothing new.

The Roman Emperor Cicero ordered news about Rome delivered to him by messenger when he was away. He griped that the news in these letters was a lot of tittle-tattle and gossip: which gladiator was paired off with which...who was on trial for what scandalous or embarrassing crime...what leak about the Emperor was making the rounds.

It is human to seek information that diverts or entertains us and that has always included a fair amount of tabloid news and sports reports.



As did stories told around the campfire or in the darkness of grass huts at the dawn of human history, some news stories connect us. The telling and re-telling of them. The discussion of them...That's deep in our DNA.

Human Interest stories, like way the simple ice bucket challenge has raised almost \$100 million to fight Lou Gehrigs disease since July 29, connect us in our shared history and studying the story of another person helps us rehearse how we'll write our own story.

FYI: from the ALS Association website:

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. The progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually leads to their death. When the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost. With voluntary muscle action progressively affected, patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed.

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(Animation: When ready, click for each lecture theme)

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CPJ: 70 journalists killed in 2013

CPJ Committee to Protect Journalists

ESPAÑOL PORTUGUÊS TURKÇE

News & Analysis | Data & Research | Services & Resources | Advocacy & Action | About CPJ | Countries & Regions

20 Deadliest Countries

Iraq: 166	Colombia: 45	Bosnia: 19
Philippines: 76	India: 32	Tajikistan: 19
Syria: 67	Mexico: 30	Rwanda: 19
Algeria: 60	Brazil: 29	Israel and Palestine: 19
Russia: 56	Afghanistan: 26	Sierra Leone: 19
Pakistan: 54	Turkey: 21	Bangladesh: 19
Somalia: 53	Sri Lanka: 19	

James Foley, Freelance
August 2014, in Unknown

Ali Abu Afash, Freelance
August 13, 2014, in Beit Lahiyah

Simone Camilli, The Associated Press
August 13, 2014, in Beit Lahiyah

Leyla Yildizhan (Deniz Fırat), Fırat News
August 8, 2014, in Nakhmur District

Mohammed Nour al-Din al-Deiri, Palestine Network for Press and Human Rights
July 30, 2014, in Shijaiyah, Gaza

Sameh al-Aryan, Al-Aqsa TV
July 30, 2014, in Shijaiyah, Gaza

Rami Rayan, Palestine Network for Press and Human Rights
July 30, 2014, in Shijaiyah, Gaza

Khaled Reyadh Hamad, Continue Production
July 20, 2014, in Gaza, Israel and Occupied Territories

Hamid Shihab, Mezzanet
July 20, 2014, in Gaza, Israel and Occupied Territories

One of your assignments this week was to browse the CPJ website to get a stronger sense of what information can cost.

What surprised you when you read through their information?

Who brings you those alerts from overseas and at what risk?

For journalists, Iraq and Syria are still among the most dangerous places to work.



Marie Colvin, a 56-year-old native of Oyster Bay, Long Island who was one of the most recognizable and famous foreign correspondents in the world. She specialized in bullies, telling the world which leaders were doing evil things to their citizens or to those of enemy armies.

On February 22, 2012, Syrian President Bashar alAssad was systematically shelling residential neighborhoods to wear down the support for rebel forces fighting his government.

The Sunday Times of London was one of the few western news organizations with a reporter inside Syria: the intrepid Marie Colvin.

Here's a video montage about Colvin in Syria.

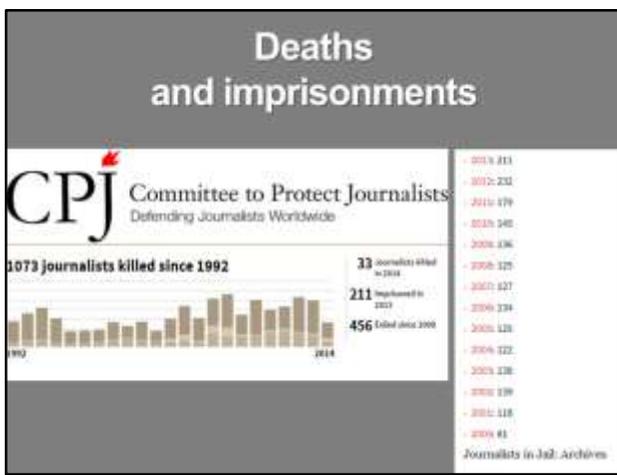


ColvinMontage.wmv

NEWS FELLOW: LINK VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE AND SELECT “START AUTOMATICALLY”

Colvin was, we believe, targeted by Bashir al Assad’s troops because she was reporting on the atrocities inside Syria.

In her memory, Stony Brook University has launched a million-dollar campaign in her memory, to bring a top foreign correspondent to meet with students each year and to train Stony Brook journalism students to report from foreign countries.



ANIMATION: IMAGES ROLL IN AUTOMATICALLY. NO CLICK NEEDED

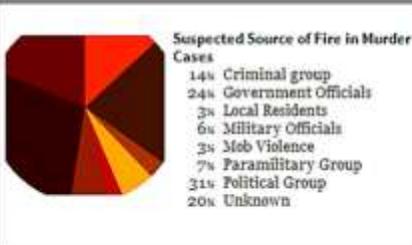
Here are some facts, collected by the Committee to Protect Journalists, that sometimes surprise students.

In 2013, 70 died, that's a much faster pace than the average, which is three every month. So far this year, it's about average.

Meanwhile, the number of people held in prison for committing the "crime" of journalism seems to be on the rise again.

It's a widespread phenomenon, this violent attempt to keep information out of your hands.

Who is doing the killing?



Almost all are carried out with complete immunity



Source: The Committee to Protect Journalists

CPJ attempts to distinguish motives from mistakes and to determine who is responsible when journalists are killed for committing journalism. These proportions are fairly consistent over the years: Usually, Government forces, political groups and criminals are the main killers of journalists, and likely account for a significant number of the “unknown” assailants.

Impunity is an important word. It’s the way a bully gets away with torturing classmates, knowing she won’t be caught. In some countries, that bully grows up and literally tortures people who try to tell the world what the bully is up to.



Click brings up headline and clips from article

During anti-Government protests in January of 2009, Sri Lankan officials stepped up their assaults on journalists. Lasantha Wickrematunge, editor of The Sunday Leader, had been detained and threatened but was still pushing investigative stories about the government. January 8, 2009 as he drove to work, he was killed by gunmen on motorbikes, the fourth journalist killed in a short period in Sri Lanka. (CLICK BRINGS UP HEADLINE AND PULL QUOTE)

Staff of the Sunday Leader discovered that, expecting to be killed, he had already written his own obituary.

Read excerpt aloud:

“No other profession calls on its practitioners to lay down their lives for their art save the armed forces and, in Sri Lanka, journalism. In the course of the past few years, the independent media have increasingly come under attack. Electronic and print media institutions have been burnt, bombed, sealed and coerced. Countless journalists have been harassed, threatened and killed. It has been my honour to belong to all those categories and now especially the last.

I hope my assassination will be seen not as a defeat of freedom but an inspiration for those who survive to step up their efforts. Indeed, I hope that it will help to galvanize forces that will usher in a new era of human liberty in our beloved motherland. I also hope it will open the eyes of your President to the fact that however many are slaughtered in the name of patriotism, the human spirit will endure and flourish.

People often ask me why I take such risks and tell me it is a matter of time before I am bumped off. Of course I know that: it is inevitable. But if we do not speak out now, there will be no one left to speak for those who cannot, whether they be ethnic minorities, the disadvantaged or the

persecuted.”



ANIMATION: Click once to start the fade-out, fade-in, which takes one minute

(Lecturer: At Stony Brook, we've become interested in the effects of silence in the classroom.

At summer workshops in 2013, we began breaking up intensive lecture or discussion sessions with a minute of silence. It made participants uncomfortable the first time, but over the course of a few days they became quite enthusiastic about pausing every so often to let ideas sink in or to simply reflect. We find it works well to ask a question and then call for a minute of silence.

This slide is built to fade to black and then come back, all in one minute.)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8841649/Silence-is-golden-how-keeping-quiet-in-the-classroom-can-boost-results.html>

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec09/vol67/num04/Silence-Is-Golden.aspx>

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From the beginning
information was power

Drums.wmv

NEWS FELLOW: LINK video TO THIS SLIDE AND SELECT “START AUTOMATICALLY” – (Drums.wmv 30 SECONDS) THIS VIDEO DOES NOT PLAY FULL SCREEN. THERE IS NO VIDEO, JUST AUDIO.

(Lecturer: As drumming winds down...) Drum telegraphy, based on speech rhythms, were one of the earliest forms of remote communication .

The use of talking drums use sometimes rebalanced the power equation, the way cell phones can now.

European expeditions to West Africa were surprised: tribes they encountered already knew when they were coming and what they were up to. They'd lost the element of surprise.

Regardless of the method, of transmission, Saber es Poder. (Knowledge is Power) and the powerful try to clamp a lid on knowledge they don't want to get out.

Even (especially) emperors
need to control information



Lecturer Note: Qin is pronounced “Chin”

From wikipedia:

Beginning in 213 BC, at the instigation of Li Si and to avoid scholars' comparisons of his reign with the past, Qin Shi Huang ordered most existing books burned with the exception of those on astrology, agriculture, medicine, divination, and the history of the State of Qin. This would also serve the purpose of furthering the ongoing reformation of the writing system by removing examples of obsolete scripts. Owning the [Book of Songs](#) or the [Classic of History](#) was to be punished especially severely. According to the later [Records of the Grand Historian](#), the following year Qin Shi Huang had some 460 scholars buried alive for owning the forbidden books.[\[45\]](#)[\[46\]](#) The emperor's oldest son [Fusu](#) criticised him for this act.[\[47\]](#) The emperor's own library still had copies of the forbidden books but most of these were destroyed later when [Xiang Yu](#) burned the palaces of Xianyang in 206 BC.[\[48\]](#)

Even (especially) emperors
need to control information



"Four hostile newspapers
are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

2000 years later, after the invention of the printing press made newspapers possible, the Emperor Napoleon faced the same powerful enemy: an informed populace.

Napoleon, a military genius who emerged from the French Revolution, won battle after battle against stronger armies, established French influence across Europe and worked to spread the ideals of the Revolution, most notably through the Napoleonic Code of legal procedure...Yet he feared the un-muzzled power of the flimsy, melt-in-the-rain thing known as a newspaper.

Here's what he knew: that you control the public by controlling their access to information.

Yes, he said knowledge is only potential power. But without it, there is no potential for power.

North America's first newspaper



1690:
Publick
Occurrences
Both Forreign
and
Domestick

That battle for control of information followed us here from Europe.

The first news sheet in North America debuted in 1690... and produced just one edition.

Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick, was published in Boston by Benjamin Harris. The English authorities, in "high Resentment" that Harris dared to report that English military forces had allied themselves with "miserable" savages, put him out of business four days later.

Same battle. New battlefield.



There have been numerous examples where police or security officers have erroneously told photographers that filming or taking pictures of a particular building is a violation, due to either national security or homeland security reasons.

Photography is Not a Crime, also PINAC, is a [weblog](#) that focuses on the rights of photographers and the [First Amendment](#) rights of the public. It was founded in 2007 following the arrest of its creator, Carlos Miller, a [photojournalist](#).

PINAC has documented a number of cases where police officers seized cameras and cell phones, apparently in an effort to coverup police misconduct, such as the murder of Oscar Grant by BART police officers.[19] In Broward County, an off-duty deputy sheriff pulled over a motorist, and then seized and destroyed her cell phone in an attempt to get rid of the video that she had taken of the misconduct.[20] In early 2007, Miller was on assignment for an article about the Biscayne Boulevard area of [Miami, Florida](#). He observed five police officers interviewing an individual and began to take photographs. The officers asked Miller to move on, but he refused, informing them that he was on public property and had the right to photograph. The officers then arrested him for numerous [misdemeanor](#) offenses, including [resisting arrest](#).^{[fn 1][4][5][6][7]} Miller created the blog due to his arrest, the [freedom of the press](#) and [free speech](#) violations by the Miami Police Department, and his desire to educate the public on the issue

Examples covered in the blog include a police officer advising that photographing the National Laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch was prohibited,[15] and similar examples involving photographing an art exhibit in downtown Indianapolis,[16] and a train station in New York City.



ANIMATION: CLICK BRINGS UP CHRISTIE ONCE YOU HAVE SET UP THE STORY

Chris Christie's aides worked very hard to block inquiries into the cause of the traffic jam on the GW Bridge. When The Bergen Record, another of America's shrinking newspapers, made those emails come spilling out, they showed top aides to the Governor created the traffic on purpose to punish the Mayor of Fort Lee for not backing Christie.

Christie, who works hard to both charm and bully the press, couldn't ignore what the newspapers were digging up.

He held a long press conference to clear the air.

His bid for President is thought by many to be over.



The control of information and the use of propaganda - a concept we will discuss at greater length later - can lead to terrible results.

In Germany in the 1930s, where the Nazi Party bought weak newspapers before it came to power and cranked out propaganda. Once in power, they licensed newspapers and dictated content.

For the sake of their license, even non-partisan papers agreed to print Nazi propaganda free and to take no ads from Jews. As insurance, dozens of German advertisers cynically bought space in Nazi organs.

Thus controlled, Germany's newspapers did little to challenge Hitler.

What do autocrats fear? Anyone who can tell

their secrets.



(Lecturers: animation automatically brings up suicide, then prison camp internee, then Gutman)

One thing the powerful fear is scrutiny.

Bosnia's civil war in 1992 was, to Americans, not interesting. Far away, and fought over ideologies we didn't understand, it was a fight we were glad to stay out of.

So while the world turned its back(1992-1995) the Serbs started systematically using mass rape of civilians as a weapon in so-called "Ethnic Cleansing." Estimates ranged from 20,000 to 50,000 victims. Impregnated by Serbian fighters, the women were forced to carry the child of their rapist. In this way, the Serbs intended to wipe out Muslim bloodlines. The U.N. investigation found Serbs took steps to maximize shame and humiliation to not only the victim but also the victim's community. (UN report *(S/25274)*)

Roy Gutman of Newsday was the first reporter into prison camps like Srebrenica. His reporting sparked worldwide outrage that pushed the U.S. and other nations to intervene to end the war and punish those who organized the campaign of rape.



ANIMATION: ON CLICK, TECHNOLOGIES FLY IN, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER: Press, Radio, TV, Social Media

But just as Guttenberg's invention enabled ordinary people to challenge authority 650 years ago, around the world the Internet and particularly Social Media have begun to challenge this equation, domestically and globally.

The speed at which words, pictures and video can now be delivered and the degree to which individuals can blast information to the world has changed politics in your lifetime.

It's hard to imagine, but at the end of George W. Bush's first term there was: No Facebook. No You Tube. No Twitter

When you think that half of all Americans now get their online news via these social networking sites, that's a breathtaking change. Again, this course asks you to ponder...Who is deciding what you read and watch and hear?

How else have these technologies changed your life as a citizen and the functioning of your government and political system?



On the night of August 11, 2012, drunk high school girl was publicly and repeatedly sexually assaulted by her peers at two parties in Steubenville, Ohio. Several teens documented the acts on their cellphones and posted material on Facebook and Twitter and in text messages.

Hearing frustration from residents and law enforcement officers over the lack of cooperation from witnesses and concern the popularity of the football program could influence the outcome, a crime blogger who grew up in the area, Alexandria Goddard, grabbed screenshots of images and posts on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube before many of them were deleted. Realizing that not everyone knew how to find the posts on Twitter, she said she also [posted some screenshots](#) of what football players at the parties had said about the victim.

Goddard is credited with unearthing material that forced action on the rape case.

The evidence presented in court mainly consisted of hundreds of text messages and cellphone pictures that had been taken by more than a dozen people at the parties and afterwards traded with other students and posted to social media. Two students and high school football players, Ma'lik Richmond and Trent Mays, both 16 at the time of the crime, have been convicted in juvenile court for the rape of a minor.

Citizens armed with information toppled Middle Eastern regimes



Twenty-seven-year-old Mohammed Bouazizi from the town of Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, had been struggling to feed his family and found his only means of doing so, his fruit cart, confiscated by local authorities. Slapped in the face by an official, in despair and rage, Bouazizi set himself on fire on December 17, 2010, outside the local magistrate's office.

Self-immolations are not unheard of in this part of the world. But a new factor had entered the equation: cell phone technology and social media. Captured on cell phone video, his protest went viral, was seen around the world, and within weeks sparked the start of the Middle East uprisings that became known as the Arab Spring.

Within a month of Bouazizi's death, the President of 23 years was swept from power in Tunisia, inspiring rebellions that toppled governments in Egypt (twice), Libya and Yemen. Major protests and uprisings, all fuelled in part by cell-phone information sharing, broke out in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco and Sudan.



ANIMATION: SLIDE OPENS WITH POST COVER. FOUR MORE CLICKS BRING UP: TV SCREEN GRABS CHINA BRIDGE STORY, BRIDGE STORY ZOOMED IN

For a long time, we used China as the example of information control.

Here's an example of the way things were as recently as 2007 in China.

Our cultures view an informed public very differently, as this case shows:

On Aug. 1, 2007 during evening rush hour, the I-35W Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis collapsed, killing 13 people and injuring 145. On the evening of the collapse, CNN, MSNBC and Fox News went live and stayed live through the overnight, along with local stations. In the days that followed, most of America's top anchors broadcast live from the scene: Shepard Smith and Greta Van Susteren(FOX), Katie Couric (CBS), Charlie Gibson(ABC), Brian Williams and Matt Lauer (NBC) Soledad Obrien and Anderson Cooper (CNN), Contessa Brewer (MSNBC)

Ten days later in Southern China, Communist authorities banned most state media from reporting on the collapse of a bridge under construction near Fenghuang, which killed at least 47 people. Local officials punched and chased reporters from the scene.

With globalization, those values increasingly clash and with new technologies, Chinese netizens are challenging the traditional Communist Party emphasis on stability and serenity.

In China, Weibo arms citizens
and humbles the powerful



The clearest sign of change came two years ago.

July 2011, two high-speed trains collided on a viaduct in the suburbs of Wenzhou, in Zhejiang province. The two trains derailed each other and four cars fell off the viaduct. In all 40 people were killed, 192 were injured. Officials responded by ordering the burial of the derailed cars. Using Wei bo (A Twitter-type microblogging platform) citizens exposed the situation and even state-owned news networks followed suit. The railways ministry apologized for the collision in eastern Zhejiang province and announced an inquiry. Spokesman Wang Yongping added: "[*China*](#)'s high-speed rail technology is up to date and up to standard, and we still have faith in it."

Internet users attacked the government's response to the disaster after authorities muzzled media coverage and urged reporters to focus on rescue efforts. "We have the right to know the truth!" wrote one microblogger called kangfu xiaodingdang. "That's our basic right!"

Napoleon's Worst Fears?



The revenge of the "flesh searchers"

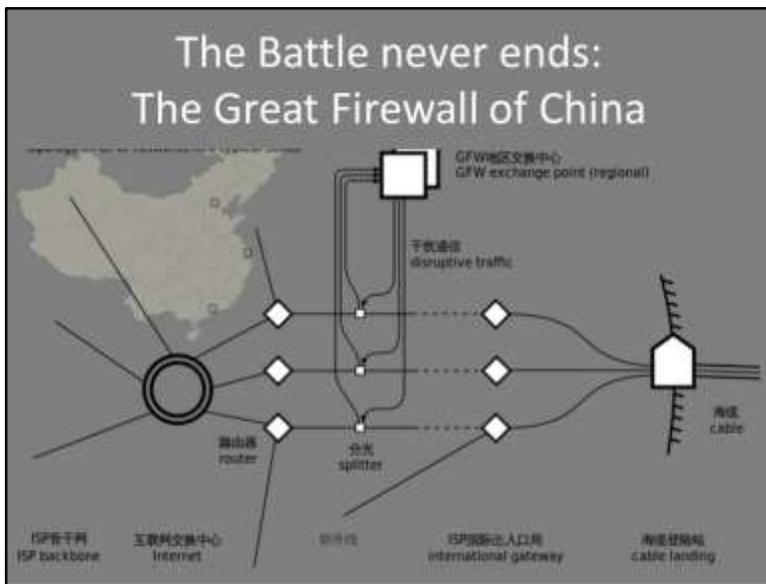
Yang Dacai, the former head of Shaanxi province's Bureau of Work Safety, was reportedly relieved of his duties following a campaign by internet vigilantes who accused him of amassing a luxury wardrobe worth up to £110,000.

Mr Yang, 55, was thrust into the limelight after a photograph was published showing him grinning at the scene of a road accident in which 36 people died.

Angered by Mr Yang's apparent insensitivity, online vigilantes – known in China as "flesh searchers" – launched an all-out internet assault on the previously unknown civil servant.

China's flesh searchers trawled the internet for more embarrassing poses but instead found photographs of Mr Yang sporting a dazzling selection of wrist watches including an Omega Constellation valued at up to £6,500, and a Constantin, worth over £20,000.

Mr Yang attempted to defend himself, claiming to have bought five luxury watches with his own "legal income".



It would be easy to overstate the impact of social media in China (and elsewhere). Governments everywhere – including the US – seek to control the flow of information.

From Freedom House

"July 24, 2013 - China's internet controls, which were already among the most extensive in the world, have grown even more sophisticated and pervasive under the new Communist Party leadership, according to a Freedom House [special report released today](#). [New regulations made it harder for activists to conceal their identity online](#). [Some circumvention tools, which help users access uncensored websites overseas, were significantly disrupted](#). [And private companies stepped up their capacity to delete banned content, sometimes within minutes](#). [The report is based on Freedom House's unique Freedom on the Net methodology](#)."

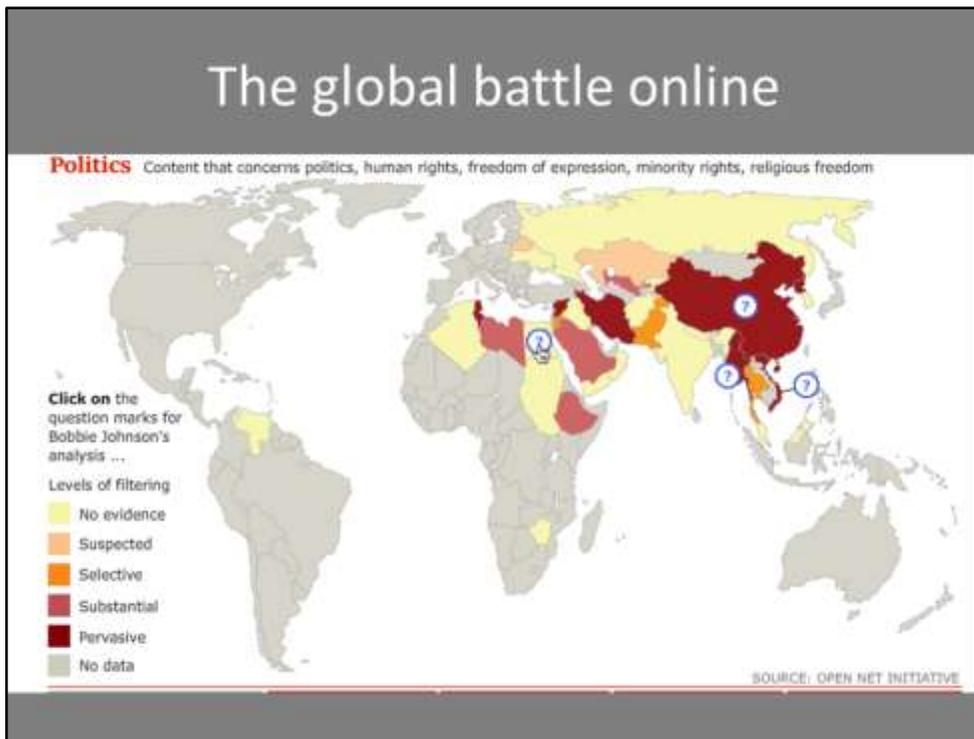
But just as banning America's first newspaper didn't stop people from sharing information the government wanted to suppress, the Great Firewall of China may prove weaker than the power of people's desire for information.

U.S. citizens battle for information about Congress and the White House



This organization, OpenSecrets.Org, builds easy-to-read charts from the complex financial reports about Congress, helping citizens to see how campaign contributions match congressional and White House actions.

Again, citizens armed with information that the powerful would just as soon hide.



This map compiled by the Guardian shows which countries control or censor the Internet for political purposes



This map, too, challenges our pride in American press freedoms.

From Reporters Without Borders:

“After the “Arab springs” and other protest movements that prompted many rises and falls in last year’s index, the 2013 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index marks a return to a more usual configuration.

*The ranking of most countries is no longer attributable to dramatic political developments. This year’s index is a better reflection of the attitudes and intentions of governments towards media freedom in the medium or long term. The same three European countries that headed the index last year hold the top three positions again this year. For the third year running, **Finland** has distinguished itself as the country that most respects media freedom. It is followed by the **Netherlands** and **Norway**.*

*Although many criteria are considered, ranging from legislation to violence against journalists, democratic countries occupy the top of the index while dictatorial countries occupy the last three positions. Again it is the same three as last year – **Turkmenistan, North Korea and Eritrea**”*

The U.S. ranks 32 on that list and may drop, with the news that the Justice department monitored the work and personal phone numbers of individual reporters the Associated Press, the major daily news agency for U.S. news outlets. Records show that leak-seeking investigators monitored Associated Press office numbers in New York, Washington and Hartford, Conn., and for the main number for the AP in the House of Representatives press gallery, according to attorneys for the AP.

North Korea’s constitution provides for freedom of the press and free speech, but the government restricts information to praise of the country and its government and leader. The government-run [Korean Central News Agency](#), provides the only source of information for all media outlets in North Korea.

Bad news is carefully controlled: the death of Kim Jong-il was not divulged until two days after it occurred. Kim Jong-un, who replaced his father as leader, is making information technologies more freely available in the country. State-run media outlets are setting up websites, while mobile phone ownership in the country has escalated rapidly. By early

2012 there were more than a million mobile phone owners in North Korea.



And lest we forget, the battle for information rages in the US as well.

Giant corporations like Google want access to your information to make a profit. Companies with something to hide seek to manipulate search results on Google. And the US Government's National Security Agency has recently been shown to be violating the civil rights of American citizens by collecting our phone calls, emails and websearches for future reference.

But people everywhere continue to pursue information and spread it regardless of the risks.

During the protests and rioting in Ferguson, Missouri after Michael Brown was shot, police gassed an Al Jazeera America video crew and arrested two reporters who were taking a break at a McDonalds' when they didn't evacuate fast enough and took video of the police.

We learned all about it in real time as Jon Swaine, a reporter for the US edition of the London Guardian tweeted photos and reports on the arrest.

Information as a power equalizer in America



In the wake of the police-involved shooting death of unarmed black teen [Mike Brown](#) during the weekend, black youth are making the hashtag [#IfTheyGunnedMeDown](#) go viral. The powerful hashtag is being used by Twitter users to share photos of themselves in graduation gowns, in military uniforms or other innocent-looking pictures alongside one of them making hand gestures, smoking marijuana or drinking liquor, rhetorically asking which picture the media would use to portray them.

And the images of police armed in military gear and pointing rifles at civilians, some taken by journalists, but many taken by citizens, fuelled the hashtag protest, which is credited with making police more careful in their use of force during the latter days of the unrest.

Today's themes

There is a universal need
to receive and share information.

People kill
– and risk death–
over information.

The battle to control information
is also universal – and changing
with technology.

(Animation: When ready, click for each lecture theme)

Why would insurgent leaders target someone armed only with a video camera, a laptop full of interview notes, a notebook and a pen?

And why would James Foley, armed with only a camera and a laptop, purposely go to Libya and Syria, where bullets are flying and life is cheap?

Why would he do that?

Clearly, from the title of the slide, we think information is powerful stuff. So powerful, James Foley died seeking it.

Here are the three main themes of today's lecture, in which we hope to explore this idea of the power of information.

A thousand bayonets
vs. a smartphone

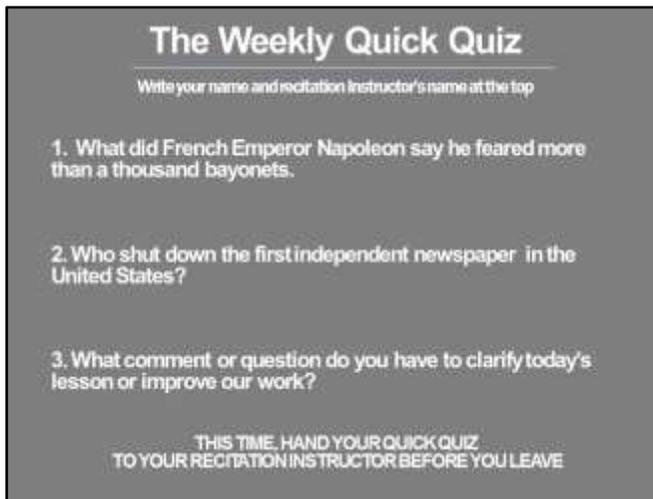
WardAnatomyofDangerCut.mov

NEWS FELLOW: LINK VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE AND SELECT “START AUTOMATICALLY”

Here’s Clarissa Ward, discussing an interview in which she confronts a Syrian rebel military commander, challenging

(Reminders regarding tickets, etc)

ASK: Under what circumstances would YOU take risks like that?



Every lecture, we'll stop and give you a quick quiz, just three questions.

This helps cement key lessons in your memory.

Plus, it helps us see if we explained things well.

And the third question is a chance for you to improve your own course.

We'll start lectures with a selection of your comments and suggestions.



hus endeth the Lesson...