

Damning Darkness in Isolation

By
Elliott Pflueger

A world without news. A world of peace, prosperity, simple people going about their simple ways, no constant blabbering of politicians, no fear-mongering. A life where people can regain their sense of community and belonging.

A world without news. A world of ignorance, ostracism, simple people remaining simple forever, an echo chamber within one's mind, a fear of the world outside your town. A life where communities cannot come together and instead remain hateful.

When asked what news is, most will come to the conclusion that it is either politically biased reporting on current events or local affairs. The general public sees news as a divider, something that causes hatred and strife; forcing families and friends apart with politically affiliated nonsense. A constant whine of hatred and anger, causing peaceful peoples to take up arms against imaginary enemies, and creating tension between those who should have no conflicts with one another. But this is only part of the story.

The term “news” is very broad; it encapsulates so many facets of our lives that many of us cannot even recognize it. News isn’t just politicians droning on about how the opposing party is the antichrist; bringing about the downfall of our society and causing every global, national, local, and personal problem to exist. News is the local paper letting the community know that there will be a fundraiser for extensions to a local accessible playground.¹ News is reporters revealing the human rights violations taking place in the world, and then showing how to help. News is one of the richest men in the world announcing his plans to donate most of his wealth to charity during his lifetime. News is a magazine showcasing the recent winnings of state sports, telling the tales of the most valuable players with wonder and regard. News is the newest innovation in technology to reduce pollution. News is the world around you.

Without news, society would become more divided than it already is. We would no longer have stories of those who spend their time working in soup kitchens to feed the poor and homeless. We would live without knowledge of what is happening outside of our communities, let alone the world. No person would have the ability to send support to countries caught in the crosshairs of wars we wouldn't know about. Those who don't care for world or national politics wouldn't be able to talk about the new drama between their favorite pro wrestlers. Scientists would have no way of knowing about new discoveries in their field. Average people would not know of human rights movements happening across the globe, fighting for equality.

No matter its downfalls, news is ultimately what brings us together; as people and communities. The only possible result of the eradication of news is a life trapped in suffocating darkness, a complete inability to see the true beauty of the outside world; a severing of the ties that bind the human spirit together. True isolation.

¹“Jump! Playground to Start Fundraising for Phase 2.” *Port Townsend Leader*, Port Townsend Leader, 22 Mar. 2023, <https://www.ptleader.com/stories/jump-playground-to-start-fundraising-for-phase-2,111852> .

The world would be dark without news

By

Tessa Richardson

No clue who won last night's high school football game, not sure what to wear today because there is no weather forecast, and you don't know who won last week's presidential election. The news shapes our personal values, increases the depth and variety of our communication, and fuels our economy. Without news, our community would be clueless.

News can influence our personal values and our decision-making. People tend to base their beliefs on what they hear and want to believe. As [upi.com](https://www.upi.com) reports, "People lend greater credence to sources of information that tell them what they want to hear..."¹ As we become the people we desire to be, we develop our personal image to reveal how we will be perceived by others. For example, if you constantly listen to CNN then your personal values may lean liberal. However, if you prefer FOX News, you are probably conservative.

News shapes personal and community decision-making. An article from [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) claims "The latest research suggests that the news can shape us in surprising ways."² My family recently, unfortunately, decided to forgo a vacation to Mexico due to reports of drug cartels kidnapping Americans.

Isn't it nice when you are sitting with someone and can have a wonderful conversation? I think so, too. But we're taking these conversations for granted because, without the constant flow of information, these conversations would not exist. I can not tell you the number of times I was sitting at the dinner table and about 90% of the conversation was based on recent newscasts. My grandma brought up the other day that TikTok is going to be banned due to its connections with China. Yet, I was just listening to an interview from www.npr.org stating, "Tik Tok CEO says company is not an agent of China or any other country."³ Grandma got her information from The New York Times article which reported "In recent months, lawmakers in the United States, Europe, and Canada have escalated efforts to restrict access to TikTok."⁴ If the news was non-existent there would be no conversation, no debates, and shorter dinners.

As the hours and the minutes pass through your day, a variety of news is getting bombarded into your ears whether you realize it or not. This news may be coming through the radio, television, the local newspaper, and social media. Think of all the money that goes into these industries. These industries provide many jobs for people. In 2021, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said "There are 47,100 jobs in the US news industry."⁵ Some of these jobs include reporter, editor, cameraman, podcaster, makeup artist, and sound quality artist, just to mention a few. Without the news industry, there would be a blank spot in the economy.

This world and community would be entirely different without news, it plays a huge part in our daily lives and gives us knowledge. The world would be blank without news. As Edward R. Murrow famously said "Good night and good luck."⁶

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5. "News Analysts, Reporters, and Journalists : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics." 24 Jan. 2023, www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/reporters-correspondents-and-broadcast-news-analysts.htm.
6. John, Uncle. "Famous TV Sign-Offs." Portable Press, 13 Mar. 2023, www.portablepress.com/blog/2013/12/famous-tv-sign-offs.

The Nature of News

by

Keanu Morrison

“No news is better than evil news,” proclaimed King James I of England in 1616¹.

Here in Chimacum, news flows through newspapers, broadcasts, websites, and cell phones. But, “What would our community look like without news?”

Hello everyone, I'm David Attenborough, and this is ‘Chimacum Without News’. Our observations start on a cedar-lined road. John is leaving his cozy farmhouse; heading to an overtime shift. (Unbeknownst to John, a windstorm brought down a cell tower onto the Hood Canal entrance severing all but satellite news media.) He tunes into his favorite radio channel, but is greeted by static. ‘Those damn sun flares’ he thinks as he continues into an unexpected road closure and kicks the road sign down to relieve his anger. If only the radio had been working. Twenty minutes late to work from his detour, John notices the newsstand is empty as he enters his work building. The lobby TV is colored by a test screen. “No news is good news,” John murmurs to himself. However, no one is at work. “Is it a holiday?” John checks his phone but no websites come up for his search and no co-workers have texted. “Fine, they’re going to leave me in the cold,” he grumbles waving his arms in frustration; sending the lobby monitor crashing to the ground. Fuming, John heads home.

The next day, John wakes to the full force of news again on his phone, stating, “Citizens Growing Restless Over Rising Crime, Signs Downed and Screens Smashed”. Mr. Apple, his neighbor, sweaty with panic comes to talk to John. John agrees the crime wave seemed to come out of nowhere. The next day, the news headlines are, “Panic Rises as Citizens Arm Themselves”. Mr. Apple, now as red in the face as his name suggests, argues with John over getting a firearm. Tired of arguing, John goes to take a nap. Another news flash comes in, “Neighbors Turn on Each Other as Assault Rates Skyrocket.” John awakes to find two groups of neighbors armed and yelling over who is right from behind hay bales. News super-flash, “Chimacum Hay Bale Massacre.” John turns off his phone and starts to walk away as shots ring out.

To conclude our ‘News in Nature’ observations, news appears both good and bad for human civilization. News can be very helpful to inform us of future events or let us know what's going on around us. However, news can also spread lies, bias, violence and misinformation. The worst part of this is that bad news usually pulls in the most viewers, and is therefore promoted due to money earning power. It seems that news and removing it would both benefit us and worsen us as a civilization. As consumers of news, we have a choice of what we support. Perhaps, King James I should have stated, “No news can be evil and evil news should be no news.”

¹ "What Does No News Is Good News Mean? - Writing Explained." Writing Explained, 28 Mar. 2023, writingexplained.org/idiom-dictionary/no-news-is-good-news.