

Michael Bromley & Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova (2019). *Global Journalism: An Introduction*. London: Red Globe Press, pp. 282, ISBN: 978-1-137-6040403-3.

With the book entitled *Global Journalism: An Introduction*, authors Michael Bromley and Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova try to show the current state of knowledge about the contemporary global situation of journalism. The authors have made an attempt to answer several questions dedicated to journalism and its development; the book therefore provides up-to-date knowledge on the profession in its global context now and visions related to the future. The book takes up the problems often in a comparative perspective, for example the authors describe the state of journalistic practices and media freedom in the global North and global South using the same indicators. The contributors pay attention to theories and theoretical approaches to global journalism, but the work also contains a description of some topics temporarily discussed in the scientific literature, like alternative and citizen journalism, the identity of journalists, and the presence of women in the profession.

The book consists of nine chapters from an introduction through seven chapters on different problems connected to global journalism to conclusions. *Global Journalism: An Introduction* features chapters which have a similar structure — all of them have a chapter overview and learning outcomes at the beginning and suggestions for further reading at the end. It seems that such a system can be friendly for students who are interested in this title.

The opening chapter introduces and explains selected topics dedicated to global journalism, development in journalism and studies in this area, as well as the future of journalism. The authors pay attention to factors and processes which influence journalistic work. This part of the work is an introduction to topics discussed in the following parts of the book. Then the authors present the distinction between the situation in media in the global North and the global South, which is the topic of the next chapter. In this part of the book, the reader can find a long list of comparative criteria ranging from measuring freedom of expression and journalism cultures (regulation, plurality and diversity, the political environment, transparency, structure of media market, economic environment, etc.) to some case studies.

The third chapter presents a set of theoretical approaches to global journalism. The purpose and character of this part of the book is reflected in the words of the authors: *As theories are derived from, and reflect, ideology (a set of beliefs) and their biases, we urge that they should be approached critically through an understanding of their origins, histories, and manifestations.*

The authors dedicated the next chapter to news flow around the world. They explain the flow of news and factors which can influence this process. There is also an important part of this chapter dedicated to the distinction between dominant

news flow from the global North and contra-flow disseminated in the global South. Also, online content and digitalization are important conditions for analyzing journalism flows.

The chapter entitled *The Evolution of Global Reporting* presents the beginning and professionalization of foreign correspondence, as well as its golden age and later development of reporting in the twentieth century. This part of the paper presents also some case studies and the current condition of foreign correspondents today. The authors pay attention to different (technological, political, economic and other) reasons contributing to the visible decline in foreign correspondence.

Alternative and citizen journalism included in the sixth chapter are presented from basic definitions and concepts to more complex problems. After a short definitional introduction the authors present the history of alternative and citizen journalism, giving examples from different parts of world. There are also reflections on the relationship between traditional media and new forms of journalism created by citizens.

The seventh chapter of the book is devoted to women in the global journalism population. This gender topic is connected with changes in the profession. The authors present their reflections on the presence and participation of women in media as well as data about the presence of women in journalism in many states around the world. The theme of women's presence in journalism and its feminisation appears in the context of changes in composition of the global journalism population over a period of the last three decades.

Chapters eight and nine are the last parts of the book. The first is dedicated to the — as the authors say — *foreseeable future* of global journalism. There are a lot of questions about the role of some new phenomena and problems, such as fake news and disinformation in social media. According to the authors, journalism education plays an important role and may be considered as an antidote to fake news. Education and training of journalists is a crucial aspect of the reflection on the future of journalism, especially the question of how will university journalism education manage in a new and changing environment. Closing the book, chapter nine leads us to the conclusions. This part summarises the main themes presented in the monograph and gives answers to previously formulated questions about global journalism.

The book by Michael Bromley and Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova is a valuable piece of work, being a successful attempt at describing the main concepts, problems, and evolution of global journalism. The advantage of the work is its logical and well-organized structure. At the beginning the authors present key terms, concepts, and introduce the main topics. The initial chapters are more general and introductory, like that dedicated to the theories of global journalism. Subsequent chapters are devoted to more detailed problems, like alternative journalism or the presence of women in the journalistic profession. Students may find useful that consistently in each chapter are found an overview, summary, and suggestions for further reading.

Without any doubt it could be a required and useful introduction to the processes associated with modern journalism around the world. Although media are changing very dynamically, the authors try to capture the current problems of journalism and often use examples from various countries without limiting themselves to one perspective. The book finds its place in contemporary studies on media and journalism and is a real introduction to a wide range of topics connected with modern journalism across the world.

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**Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova (2018). *Russia's Liberal Media. Handcuffed but Free*. New York-London: Routledge, pp. 221, ISBN: 978-1-315-30019-1 (ebk).**

The freedom of speech is one of the basic principles in the modern world. Undoubtedly, it is also crucial for the media industry in general, but especially for journalists. Nonetheless, although the freedom of speech is accepted worldwide as an immanent part of democracy, in some countries it is only illusional. In those countries the government still has a big impact on what media cover and how they do that. Nevertheless, even in those countries there are organizations that choose to fight for it. There are journalists who still believe in their mission and who struggle in those regimes that are hardly considered to be free. One of them is Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova, a Senior Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies at the University of Liverpool and an author of many publications on journalistic work. In her book *Russia's Liberal Media. Handcuffed but Free*, she focused on the situation of media and journalists in a country which is undoubtedly restricting freedom of speech and journalistic independence, but still trying to keep up appearances — Russia.

The content of the book can be divided into two parts: media before the president Vladimir Putin era, and how it looks after he came to power. The first chapter is further divided into three main sections: “(1) Mass Media Development after Communism and Before Putin, (2) Mass Media in Putin’s Russia, and (3) Russia’s Liberal Media”. The first section briefly introduces how free media developed after the fall of the Berlin Wall to the readers. It also includes “the legacy of *perestroika*” and the role of Boris Yeltsin. The next part describes the main challenges and changes after President Vladimir Putin came to power for the first, second, and the third time. The last section focuses on some common challenges which liberal media face every day, such as propaganda, threats and harassment, self-censorship, etc. Chapter 2 provides information on the theoretical framework and the main conceptual contributions of the research. The theoretical framework focuses on three key