FAKE NEWS

by Kari A. Cornell

BrightPoint Press

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TIMELINE

1690
Benjamin Harris prints the first newspaper in the American colonies. It is called *Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick*. Authorities in Boston, Massachusetts, shut down the paper.

1791
The First Amendment to the US Constitution is adopted. It protects a person's right to free speech and press.

1500   **1600**   **1700**   **1800**   **1900**

1790s
The *National Gazette* and *Gazette of the United States* publish fake news stories.

1926
The Society of Professional Journalists publishes the first Journalism Code of Ethics. This is a guide for journalists. It requires that illustrations, interviews, and quotes in newspapers be truthful.

WHAT IS FAKE NEWS?

The term *fake news* describes media that appears to come from real news outlets but is made up. It also refers to stories that are exaggerated. **Conspiracy theories** are one type of fake news. These are beliefs that powerful organizations are secretly causing certain events.
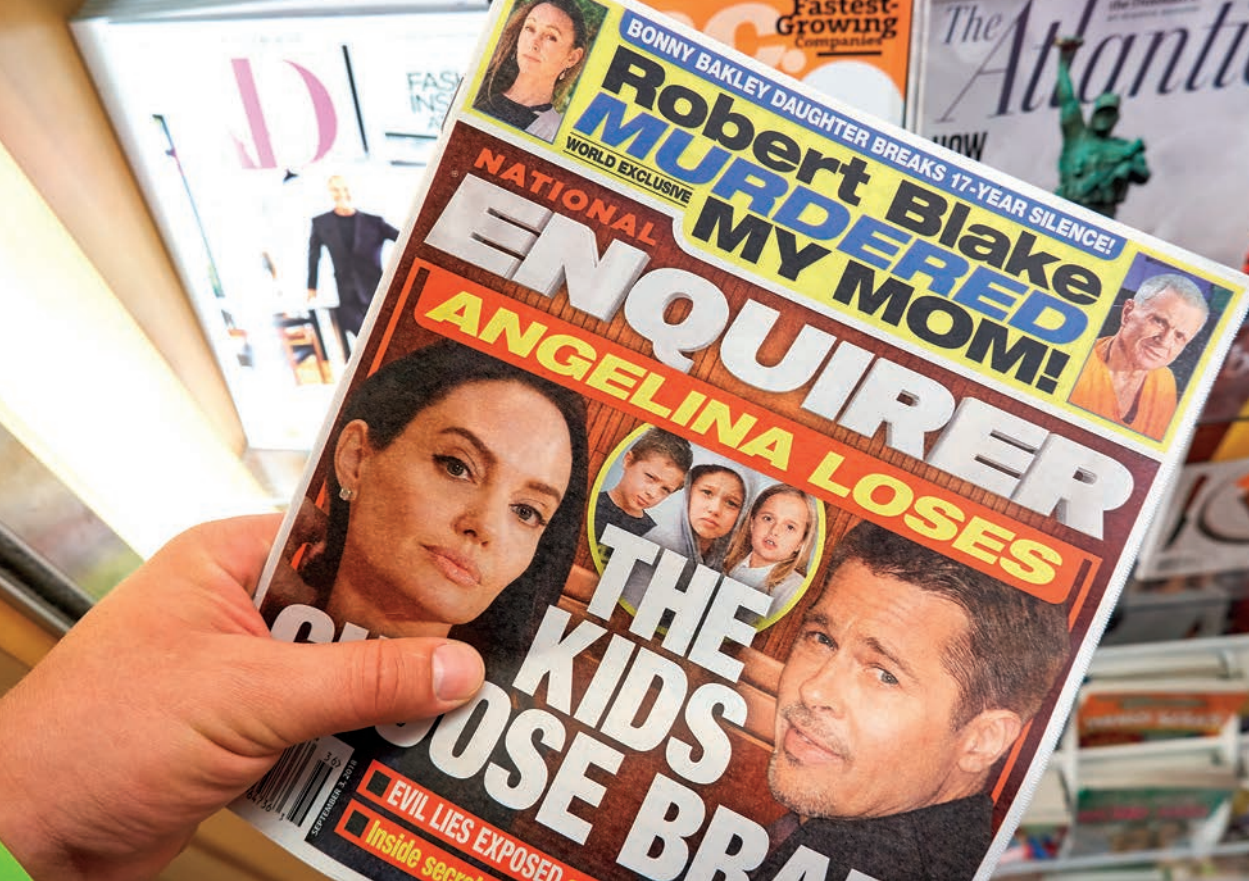
Some news sources use shocking and exaggerated headlines to attract readers.

Some politicians use the term incorrectly. They call news they do not like or agree with "fake news." Trump used the term often in speeches and interviews. He also used it in social media posts. The term is

*A man protests Fox News at a rally in North Carolina in 2014.*

often overused. Many people are confused

about its meaning. In a 2018 survey,

51 percent of Americans defined fake news

as any news politicians do not agree with.

THE BEGINNING OF FAKE NEWS

People have been publishing fake news stories for many years. Broadsides were published in the American **colonies** beginning in the 1640s. Broadsides were like posters. They were single sheets of paper with print on one side. They announced the news. They also contained songs and illustrations. They were distributed throughout a town or city.

Broadsides built support for people in power. The news reports were often biased. **Bias** is the favoring of one view over another. Reports were influenced by
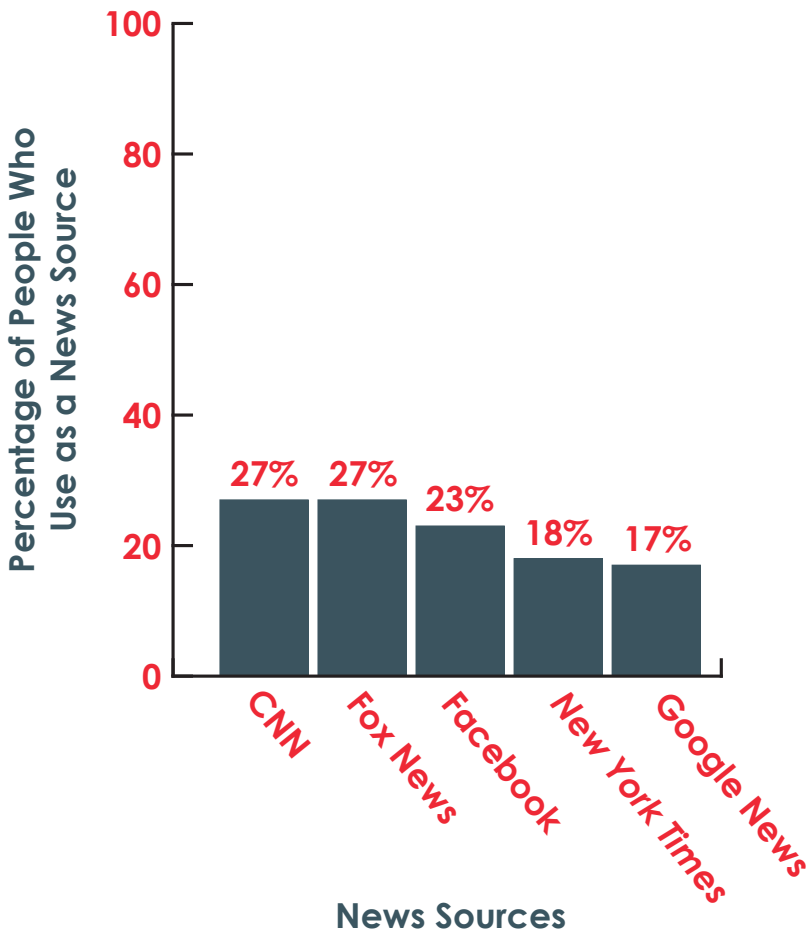
This graph shows the most popular news sources among Americans in 2017.

support these news organizations. The

companies may control what these media

outlets report.

GLOSSARY

algorithms

instructions that help a computer solve a problem

allied

partnered with someone or something

amendments

changes or additions to an existing law

bias

an author's opinion or point of view that shapes the way an article or post is written

censor

to make media content unavailable to the public

colonies

settlements on land owned by a faraway country or nation

conspiracy theories

beliefs that powerful organizations are secretly causing certain events

media literacy

the ability to study and evaluate media

viral

something that spreads quickly and becomes popular

SOURCE NOTES

INTRODUCTION: THE SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS

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5. Quoted in Andrew Kragie, "Everything's Political to Trump, Even Killing Osama Bin Laden," *Atlantic*, November 19, 2018. www.theatlantic.com.

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6. Quoted in Robinson Meyer, "Why It's Okay to Call It 'Fake News,'" *Atlantic*, March 9, 2018. www.theatlantic.com.

CHAPTER FOUR: WHO IS FIGHTING FAKE NEWS?

7. Quoted in Carl Holm, "The Radio Drama That Shocked America 80 Years Ago and the Modern Birth of Fake News," *Deutsche Welle*, October 26, 2018. www.dw.com.

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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