

# **“Trumpism' and its implications for the Caribbean”**

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Implications for Journalism and Media Freedom

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# Presentation Outline

- Context– the Trump Conundrum
- ‘Trumpism’ Defined
- Role of media in democratic governance
- Media bias versus fake news
- Media in the 2016 campaign
- Trump’s war with the US media
- The problem with Trumpism and the media
- Why the issue matters to the Caribbean

- Context– the Trump conundrum
  - “The leaks are real... but the news is fake.”
  - Trump acknowledges that information leaked about contacts between (then) National Security Adviser Flynn and Russian embassy officials.
  - Subsequently dismisses Flynn for lying about said contacts.
  - Lambasts ‘fake media’ for reporting the facts
  - How come? Trump’s old penchant for turning reality upside down

# Definitions of 'Trumpism'

- A social/political movement based on elements of (a) racism, (b) religious bigotry, (c) demeaning attitudes towards women, (d) attempts to intimidate the press, (e) rejection of scientific findings ... It is often characterized by completely baseless, false statements. (Urban Dictionary)
- noun1. the [policies advocated](#) by [Donald Trump](#), [especially](#) those involving a rejection of the current political [establishment](#) and the [vigorous pursuit](#) of American national interests
- 2. a controversial or [outrageous](#) statement [attributed](#) to Donald Trump (Collins on-line dictionary)

# Press Freedom

- Critical to democratic governance
  - Provide information and insight to empower audiences to engage as citizens in democracy
  - Hold state and public officials accountable
  - Speak truth to power
    - “You don’t get to tell us what to say”, Fox News’ Chris Wallace told Trump Chief of Staff Preibus in interview
    - Media role enshrined in First Amendment: Congress shall make no law limiting the freedom of the press

# Media Bias vs Fake News

## Bias (Wikipedia)

- **Media bias** is the **bias** or perceived **bias** of journalists and news producers within the mass **media** in the selection of events and stories that are reported and how they are covered.

## Fake (Webopedia)

- **Fake news**, or hoax **news**, refers to **false** information or propaganda published under the guise of being authentic **news**. **Fake news** websites and channels push their **fake news** content in an attempt to mislead consumers of the content and spread misinformation via social networks and word-of-mouth.

# Major Media Supported Clinton in 2016 campaign

## Example of Pro-Clinton editorial



## Editorial bias?

- Among largest 100 US newspapers:

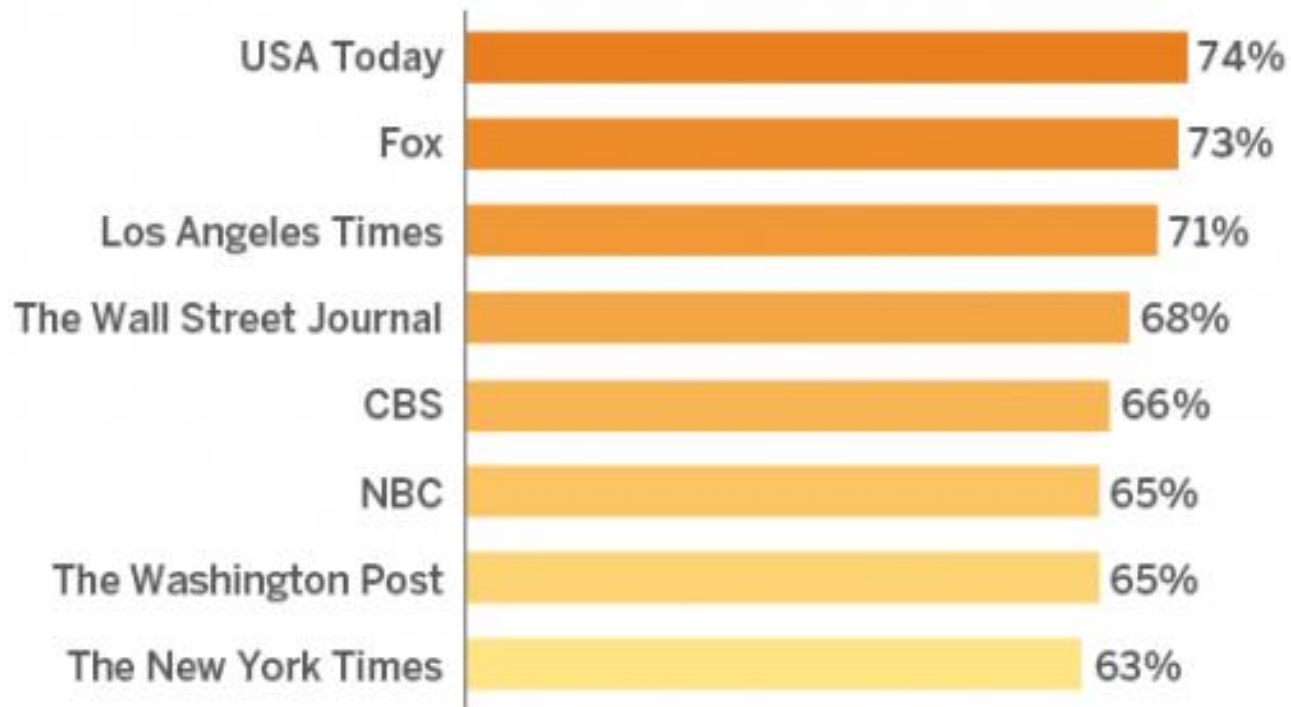
- 57 Endorsed Clinton
- 2 Endorsed Trump
- 4 Endorsed Libertarian Johnson
- 3 “Not Trump”

Yet media and polls got it wrong.

# Harvard Study Shows Early Pro-Trump Bias

## FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF DONALD TRUMP

Percentage that is positive or neutral in tone



Source: Media Tenor, January 1-December 31, 2015



# DJM immune from 'normal'

- Things that would disqualify 'normal' candidates:
  - Slander against Mexican immigrants
  - Slur about John McCain's record as a POW
  - Lie about New Jersey Muslims celebrating 9/11
  - Attacks on Megyn Kelly, ... a disabled New York Times reporter ... a Mexican-American judge
  - Sly overtures to David Duke and the alt-right
  - Unwavering praise of Vladimir Putin
  - Refusal to release his tax returns
  - Boast of groping women on the tape of him with Billy Bush
  - Unsubstantiated claims against opponents

# Fake News examples in 2016 election

Trump is getting support from every leader, and that's the support that will make him grow great and strong. These elections will bring an immense change in our country.



**BREAKING: Pope Francis Just Backed Trump, Released Incredible Statement Why- SPREAD THIS EVERYWHERE**

WWW.DAILYPRESSER.COM | BY THE AMERICAN PATRIOT

Like Comment Share Embed

125 Top Comments

Snopres is known for telling the truth... but I'm sure the liberals are going to call this another conspiracy!



*"I'm going to bring down the United States by funding Black Hate groups. We'll put them into a mental trap and make them blame white people. The Black community is the easiest to manipulate."*

-George Soros  
(Interview with Germany's BILD - Sept. 2014)

**George Soros: 'I'm Going to Bring Down the U.S. by Funding Black Hate Groups'**

A quote ostensibly uttered by billionaire George Soros about his goal of 'bringing down the United States' by funding 'Black Hate groups' is fake.

SNOPRES.COM | BY DAN EVON

Like Comment Share Embed

2.8K Top Comments

5,179 shares

# Trust in US institutions

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Support (%)</b>
Military	72
Small Business	68
Police	55
Presidency	36
Supreme Court	36
Banks	25
TV News	21
Newspapers	20

# Fake news 'Trump-style'

- [Donald J. Trump](#)
- [✓ @realDonaldTrump](#)
- Any negative polls are fake news, just like the CNN, ABC, NBC polls in the election. Sorry, people want border security and extreme vetting.
- [7:01 AM - 6 Feb 2017](#)
- -Example of attacking unfavourable news, even if true

# Why Trump's 'fake news' world is dangerous

- [Donald J. Trump Verified account @realDonaldTrump](#)
- The FAKE NEWS media (failing [@nytimes](#), [@NBCNews](#), [@ABC](#), [@CBS](#), [@CNN](#)) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

# Fake news harms public trust

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## Majority say fake news has left Americans confused about basic facts

*% of U.S. adults who say completely made-up news has caused \_\_\_ about the basic facts of current events*



Source: Survey conducted Dec. 1-4, 2016.

"Many Americans Believe Fake News Is Sowing Confusion"

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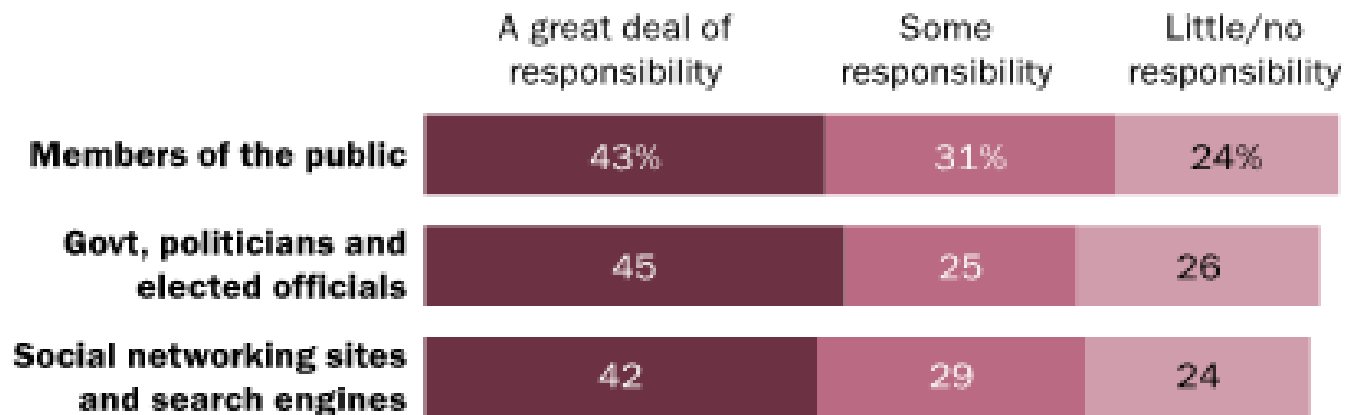
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# Responsibility for ‘Fake News’

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## Public, politicians, social media all receive share of responsibility for stopping spread of fake news

*% of U.S. adults who think \_\_\_ have a great deal/some/little or no responsibility in preventing completely made-up news from gaining attention*



Source: Survey conducted Dec. 1-4, 2016.

"Many Americans Believe Fake News Is Sowing Confusion"

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# Trump supporters remain loyal





# Trump's 'fake news' world is dangerous

- Promotes legitimacy of 'alternative facts'
- Undermines America's moral authority to promote freedom of the press globally
- Undermines US global human rights advocacy
- Seeks to redefine 'truth' as what you can get away with (The post-truth world)
- Encourages would-be authoritarians to copy Trump's conflating criticism of government policy with 'opposition to the people'
- Seeks to intimidate media into submission

# Lessons for Jamaica

- Fake news increasing staple of social media in Jamaica
- Jamaican police wasting resources chasing 'fake news' on-line
- Three men (separate incidents) attacked by mobs accusing them of on-line stories about 'harvesting body parts'
- Media and audiences must recommit to journalism values of truth and fairness