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“Mass media by the many; for the few” refers to the plutocracy’s ownership of large media corporations that control what goes on TV, what is printed in newspapers, and more recently what people see on social media. About six companies own the majority of large media corporations, and wealthy banks and corporations own the majority of stocks for these companies, and they sit on their boards, make decisions, and ultimately decide what gets published by these media corporations. As a result, ideological monopolies form. For example, large numbers of Republicans own stock in these corporations and thus many news corporations and political pundits in the mainstream media have a rightwing bias in favor of free trade and capitalism. Because of corporations such as Fox News and the Christian Broadcasting Network, which collectively own hundreds of radio stations and magazines, republican ideology is far more prevalent within our media than liberal viewpoints. While much of liberal media tends to rely on policy and equality issues, many rightwing pundits resort to mean-spirited tactics that tend to focus on attacking people rather than their messages and ideologies.

Many instances of the CIA meddling in the mainstream media in order to change public perceptions have been documented. For instance, a reporter Gary Webb published an article in the *San Jose Mercury News* citing evidence that proved that the CIA was involved in drug trafficking between groups in Central America and innercity drug dealers in the United States. The CIA coerced other news outlets such as the *New York Times* into refuting these claims, resulting in Webb losing his job. Later, a report by the CIA confirmed that Webb’s accusations were mostly correct. Many journalists have also worked for the government on covert operations wherein they were made to public articles in specific geographical locations in order to garner government support for certain military actions. Also, the Bush administration created fake news stories and broadcasted them to large news corporations in direct violation of laws protecting the spread of covert propaganda.

Political censorship is used by the government to censor speech and rhetoric in movies and television that take steps to criticize the American government and American culture in general. The military even provides authentic equipment for Hollywood movie sets in exchange for oversight over the movie’s script in order to ensure that the military is being portrayed in a positive fashion. Because of government oversight and large corporations that own most of the stock in these companies, much of what we experience in mass media is directly manufactured by plutocrats and the government, and rarely are political issues such as income inequality, poverty, and racism explored in meaningful ways.

The two-party monopoly is the fact that Republicans and Democrats are the only parties that have a chance of winning any elections. They achieve this by creating laws that make it almost impossible for any third-party candidates to be elected. For example, in some states, third-party candidates actually must pay fees to even run on their own ballots. This is actually an incredibly undemocratic system. While the Democratic and Republican parties are given funds through the Federal Election Campaign Act, third parties receive essentially no funding from the government, making it nearly impossible for them to run successful campaigns. Furthermore, millionaires and billionaires are able to provide a massive amount of funding to either of the two parties and particular candidates. As a result, any competition that doesn’t have billionaires backing their campaigns are left at a massive disadvantage in terms of support and media coverage. The general public does not get to choose who gets funded by the plutocrats and are basically given the illusion of choice between two candidates that have been decided by the wealthiest one percent of the population.

Shady elections are elections in which shady tactics are used by either party to suppress or discourage people from voting in order to sway the election in a certain candidate or party’s favor. For example, during the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore, 30,000 citizens were turned away from voting in Florida because they were not added to the voter rolls in time. The person in charge of this was a Republican with deep ties to the Bush campaign. This resulted in Florida voting republican instead of democrat, which ultimately led Bush to win the presidency. Pale democracy refers to the lack of influence that people have over politics in America. Unlike in many European countries, American politics is mainly influenced by money and wealth rather than by public opinion. As a result, democracy in America has become “pale” in comparison to other more progressive countries.

The film industry is largely affected by CIA and the Department of Defense (DoD) interference by vetting what filmmakers put in their movies. The article “Washington DC’s role behind the scenes in Hollywood goes deeper than you think” explains how close a role that the government has played in American film history. According to the article, the CIA assisted in 60 films and TV shows since 1947, and the DoD in 800 films and shows. These alterations were mainly to take away any accounts of wrongdoing by the government. These effectively forced Hollywood movies that depicted the US government to become propaganda pieces in support of the military. In movies such as *Black Hawk Down*, supports for certain military actions, such as the Iraq war, were partially garnered through positive depictions of the military. Furthermore, the use of media to create a false narrative that the US military is always justified causes people to support wars that they otherwise would not support. Hollywood has been used by the United States government as a massive propaganda outlet to manipulate the general public into adopting favorable views of military actions and war.