

## Case Study#3 America's Media Landscape

April 8, 2019

**Due:** Upload your answer file in the form of a simple Word document to Canvas by **Friday, April 12, 2019 before class starts** (just pick one group member to upload the file on behalf of the entire group).

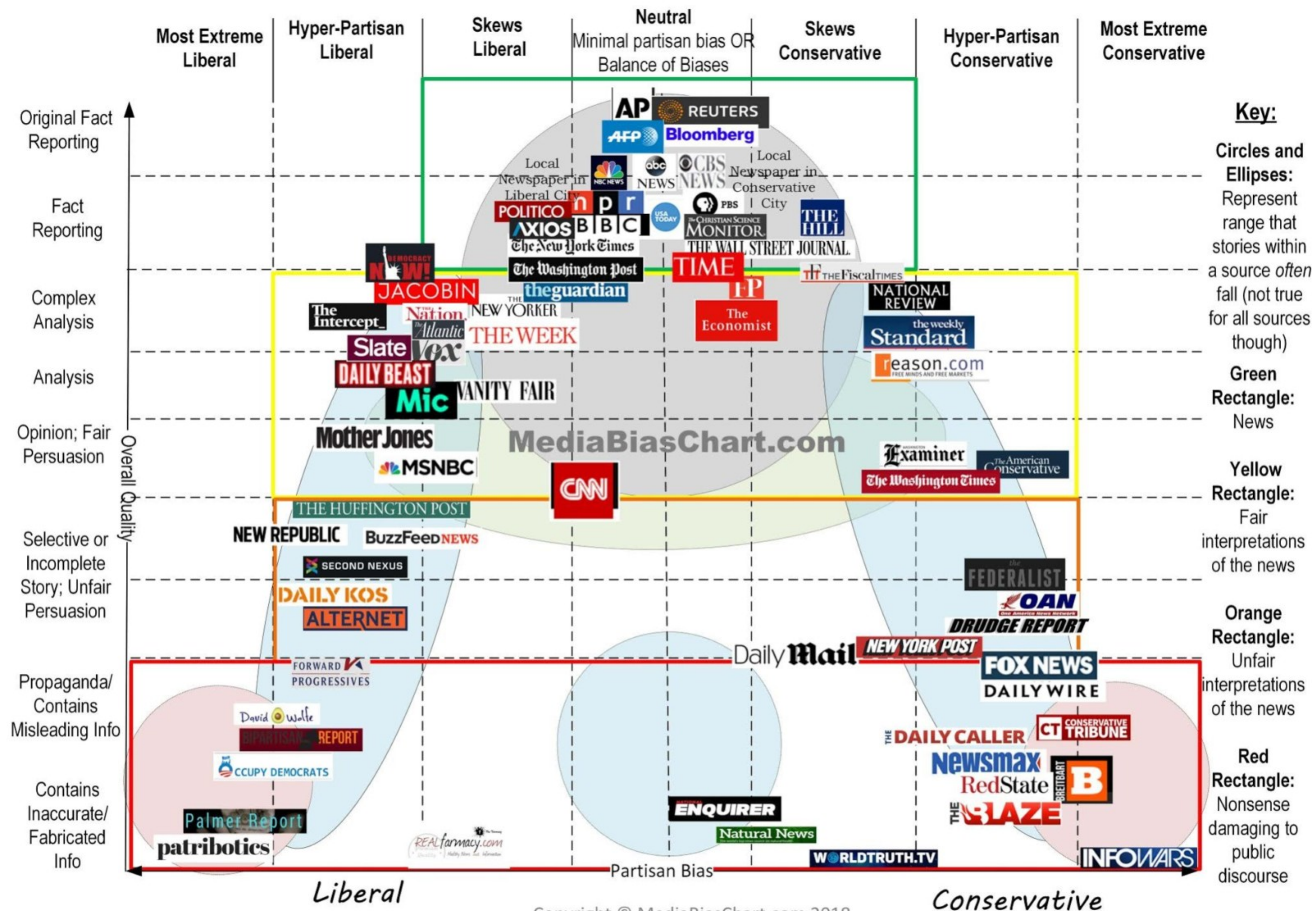
### Assignment:

Read: (1) ["One Nation, Under Fox" NY Times](#); (2) [Sabrina Tavernise "Why the Announcement of a Looming White Minority Makes Demographers Nervous" The New York Times](#) and (3) Benkler et al. (2018) "The Architecture of Our Discontent" (Canvas).

1. Briefly describe the role of the news media in a democracy and compare and contrast this discussion with what we know about ongoing trends in U.S. foreign policy news coverage over the past several decades. Is the news media doing what it is supposed to do?
2. Discuss the *strategic* and *psychological* dimensions of foreign policy news coverage in the U.S. Consider both how the senders of information can shape the delivery of news and the way publics receive and interpret the news. Provide a brief discussion on how this may shape the relationship between public opinion formation and the mass media.
3. With this framework in place, identify a salient foreign policy related news story and examine how different news outlets (e.g. Infowars vs NPR) cover the story.
  - a. Try to be diverse in your selection and choose **three news outlets** that you think are very different from each other. You can either directly search for foreign policy news or go to different news outlets first and find a foreign policy article that way. It's up to you!
  - b. After choosing your articles, read through them and locate them somewhere on the "American news media map" provided below. You can also do some research on the news outlets to figure out how they relate to the two dimensions.
  - c. Lastly, for each article find evidence for the operation of some of the different themes and concepts we have discussed in class. For example, how do different news organizations frame their stories? Are there clear differences in framing strategies? Is there evidence that news outlets are aware of people's tendency to use motivated reasoning when they read the news? How so? Is there evidence for the different trends or characteristics that Hook discusses in the book (e.g. conflict-orientation, US-centrism)? Prepare to share at least one of your selections with the rest of the class on Wednesday.
4. Upload your answer to the Canvas site under the assignment tab. An online submission option will be available. Only one of your group members needs to submit the form, but make sure that **all your names are listed at the top of the document!**
5. Get ready for our check-out session on Monday and make sure you come prepared to answer a brief quiz about the material and rate the performance of your group members.

Good luck!





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