

Topic #1: Union Busting

Unions allow workers and employers to negotiate on more equal footing. However, many employers try their hardest to prevent workers from organizing into unions, thus creating an imbalance of power

Stakeholders: workers (specifically employees), business owners, politicians, union leaders/organizers

Popular Sources		
Title and Author of Source	URL	Brief Summary
Title: Union busters are more prevalent than they seem, and may soon even be at the NLRB Author: Marni von Wilpert	https://www.cpi.org/blog/union-busters-are-more-prevalent-than-they-seem-and-may-soon-even-be-at-the-nlrp/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) protects union rights for private sector workers Trump considered (may have appointed but source is from 2017) Doug Seaton for a vacancy in the NLRB Seaton has a history of union busting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> his firm says "We partner with non-union employers to develop effective and lawful avoidance strategies for maintaining union-free workplaces and counsel them on how to respond to union organizing campaigns."
Title: Google is accused of union busting after firing four employees Author: Sean Hollister	https://www.theverge.com/2019/11/25/20983053/google-fires-four-employees-memo-rebecca-rivers-laurence-berland-union-busting-accusation-walkout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google fired two employees who were worker activists for allegedly accessing data they weren't supposed to Around 200 Google employees rallied in protest Google fired two of the protesters Google says the firings were all for data breaches The workers say Google is firing workers to prevent worker organization
Title: 'It's union busting 101': documents reveal Verizon's attacks on organized labor Author: Michael Sainato	https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jan/16/verizon-union-busting-cwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six Verizon stores in Brooklyn voted to join the union Communications Workers of America (CWA) in 2014 Verizon tried to get union

		<p>decertification at the Brooklyn stores, but workers voted against it in 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents circulated in Verizon's human resources department were filled with anti-union rhetoric meant to bust unions
<p>Title: Union-Busting App Backed by Billionaires Author: not given, article from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)</p>	<p>http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/19Daily/1910/191001_Union</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization Edunity in New York state launched a web tool containing anti-union rhetoric and called it an educational tool for workers on their labor rights The anti-labor State Policy Network (SPN) website links Edunity to a partnership of SPN affiliates SPN is backed by multiple Fortune 100 companies, the Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation and the Koch family-funded Americans for Prosperity
<p>Title: Samsung boss sent to prison for union busting Author: Al Neal</p>	<p>https://peoplesworld.org/article/samsung-boss-sent-to-prison-for-union-busting/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Korea's Seoul Central District Court sentenced Lee Sang-hoon, Samsung Electronics chairman of the board to 18 months in prison for union busting in violation of South Korea's labor laws. Several other management officials of Samsung were also sentenced South Korea's Trade Union and Labour Relations Adjustment Act of 1997 illegalizes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing union formation Conditioning employment on a lack of union membership Conditioning employment on not forming a union

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Firing workers based on joining or planning to join a union ◦ Firing workers for collective activities
Scholarly Sources		
Title and Author of Source	URL	Brief Summary
Title: De-collectivism and managerial ideology: towards an understanding of trade union opposition Author: Tony Dundon, Brian Harney, Tony Cullinane	Link One: https://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/bitstream/handle/10379/2088/Decollectivism%20and%20management%20ideology.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/unions/tony-dundon-de-collectivism.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper analyses reasons for opposition to unions, concluding that the "managerial ideology" of managers wanting control over workers leads to them seeking to prevent union formation • To circumvent this, the paper says that workers who wish to be protected by unions must engage in discourse that speaks for the workers.
Title: In Defense of Public-Sector Unions Author: Anne Mari Lofaso	Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=13&sid=0c4c1609-0af7-4311-be2a-20c70010950d%40sessionmgr4008 Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/unions/anne-marie-lofaso-public-sector-unions.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politicians in states with large public deficits often blame public-sector unions for budgetary issues • Republican Governor Scott Walker proposed the Budget Repair Bill, which would strip public-sector employees of most of their collective-bargaining rights
Title: Bleeding Edge: New Deal Farm Labor Mediation in California and the Conservative Reaction Author: Kathryn Olmsted	Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=0&sid=b48e0e9d-bf99-4b25-b638-ad83ffaaa4e6%40sessionmgr4008 Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/unions/kathryn-olmsted-bleeding-edge.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers have a history of violent reactions to labor organizing • The federal government often aided employers in their violence before the 1930s, but during the 1930s started aiding unions instead
Title: "Protect Wisconsin Families"? Rethinking Left Family Values in the 2011 Wisconsin Uprising.	Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=0&sid=0b9d92de-fd5b-411b-b30e-24cd76ada4b1%40sessionmgr4006 Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/unions/david-seitz-protect-wisconsin-families.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austerity "right to work" rhetoric of the right has led to union busting • Right wing politicians claim to be pro-family

<p>Author: David K. Seitz</p>		<p>while at the same time pushing policies such as union busting that hurt families financially</p>
<p>Title: The Feminization of Austerity Author: Mimi Abramovitz</p>	<p>Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=0&sid=2280cda4-ef44-4f1a-9e25-2a33c95aa55a%40sdc-v-sessmgr03</p> <p>Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/unions/mimi-abramovitz-feminization.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union busters have turned to the public sector, demonizing public workers and beneficiaries as lazy and privileged • Union busting politicians claim that their stripping of labor rights is budgetary, not anti-labor

Topic #2: Corporate Media

Media sources such as news outlets and social media platforms comprise a large portion of information consumed by the public. Most news outlets and social media platforms are owned by corporations, with their main objective being profit rather than spreading accurate information.

Stakeholders: general public, news outlets, media corporations

Popular Sources		
Title and Author of Source	URL	Brief Summary
Title: Who Owns the Media? Author: not given, article from Democracy on Deadline	https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/democracyondeadline/mediaownership.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most media is owned by six corporations: Time Warner, Disney, Murdoch's News Corporation, Bertelsmann of Germany and Viacom 80% of the top 20 online news sites are owned by the 100 largest media companies When the press is corporately owned, it can't be relied upon to honestly investigate the press
Title: How Corporate Media Threatens Our Democracy Author: Bernie Sanders (excerpt from <i>Our Revolution: A Future to Believe In</i>)	http://inthesetimes.com/features/bernie-sanders-corporate-media-threatens-our-democracy.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media influences what people buy, what they prioritize, and what they believe Corporate media rarely covers injustices such as poverty, the climate crisis, or healthcare
Title: The Incredible Belief That Corporate Ownership Does Not Influence Media Content Author: Alison Rose Levy	https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/09/17/incredible-belief-corporate-ownership-does-not-influence-media-content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate influences on media can be CEO dictates, but also more subtle things such as the framing of a question by an interviewer Managers don't tell journalists when the orders they're given are coming from high-level executives of the corporation
Title: These 6 Corporations Control 90% Of The Media In America Author: Ashley Lutz	https://www.businessinsider.com/these-6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america-2012-6 Infographic link, if it doesn't load in the article: https://image.businessinsider.com/4fd9ee1e6bb3f7af5700000a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 media giants control 90% of media as of 2011, compared to 50 companies in 1983 The companies are GE, Newscorp, Disney, Viacom, Time Warner, and CBS As of 2011, just 232 media executives have control of this media
Title: Bloomberg exposes 'true danger' of 'corporate media'	https://www.businessinsider.com/these-6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america-2012-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloomberg editor in

Author: Saagar Enjeti		<p>Chief John Micklethwait told staffers how to write with owner Michael Bloomberg running for president</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Bezos owning the Washington Post allows him to stop the country's second most powerful news organization from investigating him or his company
Scholarly Sources		
Title and Author of Source	URL	Brief Summary
<p>Title: Media Framing: a comparative content analysis on mainstream and alternative news coverage of Occupy Wall Street</p> <p>Author: Margaret Cissel</p>	<p>Link One: https://www.elon.edu/docs/e-web/academics/communications/research/vol3no1/08CisselEJSpring12.pdf</p> <p>Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/media/margaret-cissel-media-framing.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream media said Occupy Wall Street movement was crazy and confusing. Alternative media described its diversity and strength • Reason for difference is the profit motive of the corporately owned mainstream media
<p>Title: Pluralism and Concentration of Media Ownership: Measurement Issues</p> <p>Author: Dr. Petros Iosifidis</p>	<p>Link One: https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/1857/1/Javnost_2010.pdf</p> <p>Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/media/petros-iosifidis-pluralism-and-concentration.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of merging of media sources started in the 1990s • It's difficult to ascertain the exact influence that any given media source has
<p>Title: Charlie Hebdo: Differences in Corporate and Alternative Media Coverage</p> <p>Author: Robert K. Beshara</p>	<p>Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=1&sid=d984535a-6edd-432d-80e7-ffc8f94da0f%40sessionmgr4006</p> <p>Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/media/robert-beshara-charlie-hebdo-terrorism.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study analyzed four articles about a terrorist shooting, two of the articles being corporately owned and two being independent • The corporate media talked much more about Muslims and Islam than the independent media did
<p>Title: The political economy of the print media and the decline of corporate investigative journalism in Australia</p> <p>Author: Andrea Carson</p>	<p>Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=1&sid=e006fb17-6db3-470a-af16-8056650e0902%40sdc-v-sessmgr02</p> <p>Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/media/andrea-carson-decline-investigative-journalism.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In democracy with free press, investigative journalism is supposed to scrutinize concentrated power sources • Mainstream media has become lacking in its investigations of corporate entities
<p>Title: Corporate Crime and the Corporate Agenda for Crime Control: Disappearing Awareness of</p>	<p>Link One: http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=0&sid=732177ec-fa67-49ae-be4d-813b05ccbec0%40sdc-v-sessmgr02</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elite doesn't

<p>Corporate Crime and Increasing Abuses of Power</p> <p>Author: Paul Leighton</p>	<p>Link Two: https://mpattok.github.io/seminar/irr/pre-research/media/paul-leighton-corporate-crime.pdf</p>	<p>want subversive ideas about societal injustice being spread</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas of the elite who own the mass media become the norm via the mass media• Corporate media neglects to talk about class inequality
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