

News & Media: Censorship

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3 Quotations on Censorship

1. To suppress the freedom of the arts is not only to **cut off knowledge of the actual movements of human feeling** but also, and more disastrously, **make contact with the realities of life** – Joyce Cary
2. With the abolition of censorship, anything goes now. As a result, **we get the worst, artistically speaking, in all the media** – Henry Miller.

3 Quotations on Censorship

3. In some respects, the life of a censor is more exhilarating than that of an emperor. The best the emperor can do is snip off the heads of men and women who are mere mortals. The censor can **decapitate ideas which but for him might have lived forever**. – Heywood Brown.

Class Discussion:

Is Censorship Necessary? Why or Why not?

Censorship is Necessary

- Removing **undesirable values** to **protect the young & the gullible** *e.g. promiscuity, obscenity & violence*
- **Enforces Control & Guidance** in the absence of Parental Authority
- To **maintain Political Stability** by removing Conflicting Ideologies.

Censorship is Necessary

- To **prevent leakage of Military Secrets**
- To **Strengthen the Morale** of the Troops & the Citizens
- Prevent **Exploitation of Media for Self-Interest** *e.g. Raising Racial/Religious Issues for Political Support*

Censorship is Necessary

- To prevent Opposition Groups from **Misleading the People, Creating Distrust of the Ruling Government & Causing Unrest.**
- **Cults** with undesirable Practices can use the Media to Influence & Recruit.
- **The Mass Media** (Internet/TV/Broadcasts) – is **too powerful & pervasive** to remain unmonitored.
- Only the Government has **the Power & the Mandate** to control the Media.

Censorship is Unnecessary

- **Dominant Groups** use Ideologies to **Legitimise their Power & Manufacture Consensus**.
- Note the use of **Ideological Tools** to enact **Positive Self-Representation & Negative Other-Representation**.
- **Ideologies** are constructed from **Group-Defining Categories** e.g. *Identity/Membership, Activities, Goals, Norms, Values, Resources* & tend to feature **group-relevant, self-serving selections of fundamental socio-cultural values**.

Censorship is Unnecessary

- It **undermines the truth** behind the **relationship between Discourse & Power** e.g. *how **discourse structures** enact, confirm, legitimise, reproduce or challenge **relations of power and dominance** in society.*
- Note the dangers underlying the control of public discourse.

Censorship is Unnecessary

The use of Metaphors in News

- ✓ **Limit** what we notice
- ✓ **Highlight** what we are supposed to see
- ✓ Provide a **vital part of our inferential structure**
- ✓ Are **totally unavoidable**.

Thus:

- ✓ It is vital that we **comprehend** and **identify** the **presence of metaphors** in foreign policy debates to identify what is hidden and **discern** the **true implications** of decisions made.
- ✓ Note: **Metaphors backed up by bombs can kill.**

Censorship is Unnecessary

- Goes against **Freedom of Expression & Stifles Creativity**.
- **Matured Adults & Educated Young People** can differentiate right from wrong & should have freedom of Choice.
- It is **unfair to deprive the majority** just to protect the children and teenagers.

Censorship is Unnecessary

- Is “**Over-Protectiveness**” through censorship a good idea?
- Censorship can lead to the **excessive use of Propaganda** & the **Removal of all voices of Dissent**.
- Who reserves **the right to censor**? Difficulty in finding a representative group?
- Are **market forces** a good form of unregulated censorship?

Your Turn

- Imagine you were responsible for drawing up **ensorship guidelines for your country**. List **the areas you would examine** and the **ensorship criteria** you would use.
- Imagine you were **responsible for appointing your country's Board of Censors**. Describe the **criteria** you would use to select its members.