Influence from Abroad

Foreign Voices, the Media, and U.S. Public Opinion

In *Influence from Abroad*, Danny Hayes and Matt Guardino show that United States public opinion about American foreign policy can be shaped by foreign leaders and representatives of international organizations. By studying news coverage, elite debate, and public opinion prior to the Iraq War, the authors demonstrate that U.S. media outlets aired and published a significant amount of opposition to the invasion from official sources abroad, including British, French, and United Nations representatives. In turn, these foreign voices – to which millions of Americans were exposed – drove many Democrats and independents to signal opposition to the war, even as domestic elites supported it. Contrary to the conventional wisdom that Americans care little about the views of foreigners, this book shows that international officials can alter domestic public opinion, but only when the media deem them newsworthy. The authors’ conclusions raise significant questions about the democratic quality of U.S. foreign policy debates.

Danny Hayes is Assistant Professor of Political Science at George Washington University. Professor Hayes is a former journalist whose research focuses on how information from the media and other political actors influences citizens’ attitudes during public policy debates and election campaigns. His work has been supported by the National Science Foundation and has appeared in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Politics & Gender*, *American Politics Research*, and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Matt Guardino is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Providence College. Professor Guardino is a former journalist whose research focuses on the political-economic forces that shape news coverage of public policy debates, how media coverage affects public opinion, and how these dynamics impact the health of democracy. His work has appeared in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Communication*, and *New Political Science*. 
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*Foreign Voices, the Media, and U.S. Public Opinion*

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To our parents:
Dan and Charlotte Hayes, the best a kid could luck into
Francis and Estelle Guardino: for your love, patience, and support
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Acknowledgments

What a cliché. Like so many professional endeavors these days, this book began at Starbucks.

It was August 2006. Danny had just been hired as an assistant professor at Syracuse University, where Matt was working on his PhD. Over a cup of coffee on a late summer afternoon, we hatched a vague plan for a research project that would examine media coverage of the Iraq War. Neither of us had any inkling that we’d still be at it six years later, much less that our collaboration would result in a book. And absent the generous professional and personal support we’ve received over the years, it never would have. The audience for our ideas might have remained but a barista.

At Syracuse University, we were fortunate to receive significant support from the Department of Political Science and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, which gave both of us time, in the form of fellowships and research leave, to work on the project. In addition, the Campbell Public Affairs Institute provided funding that allowed us to finish the painstaking content analysis of network television news coverage without which this book would not exist. We also benefited from fellowships from the Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics, and the Media. At American University, where Danny taught while much of the book was being written, Fei Han, John Quinn, and Jon Weakley provided valuable research assistance. More generally, we have been blessed to study and work amid groups of wonderfully supportive colleagues at Syracuse, American, George Washington University, and Providence College.
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