

## Media and War

1) **Churchill** said truth so important it had to be protected by “bodyguard of lies.”

Total war is information war & propaganda war

Need disinformation to deceive enemy, undermine enemy morale

Need propaganda to sustain support on home front

### 2) **Media coverage attacked by right**

Claim media lost Vietnam War

Senator Alan Simpson called CNN’s **Peter Arnett** a traitor

Claim images of enemy civilians killed in bomb shelter in first Gulf War helped enemy

Al-Jazeera

### 3) **Media coverage attacked by left**

**Noam Chomsky**’s critique

Claim of corporate/ government control

Claim protests under-reported

Concerns about “the pool” in first Gulf War

Concerns about “embedding” & its effects on journalistic objectivity

Fox News

Hollywood’s post-9/11 agreement to make patriotic movies

### 3) **Other issues to look at**

“reader-response”: **Chomsky** treats audiences as passive dupes, but they’re active consumers

Internet & access to foreign media, independent media

Rise of Arab media

El-Qaeda’s use of internet, rock videos etc

### 4) **Questions**

To whom does a US journalist in Iraq owe loyalty? To the US state?

If a US journalist was offered an interview with bin Laden, should they accept?

What are the boundaries of taste in showing dead bodies?

How far should journalists go with anonymous sources?

Did the media undermine US national security with their reporting of Abu Ghraib?

Why have almost no US journalists interviewed insurgents?