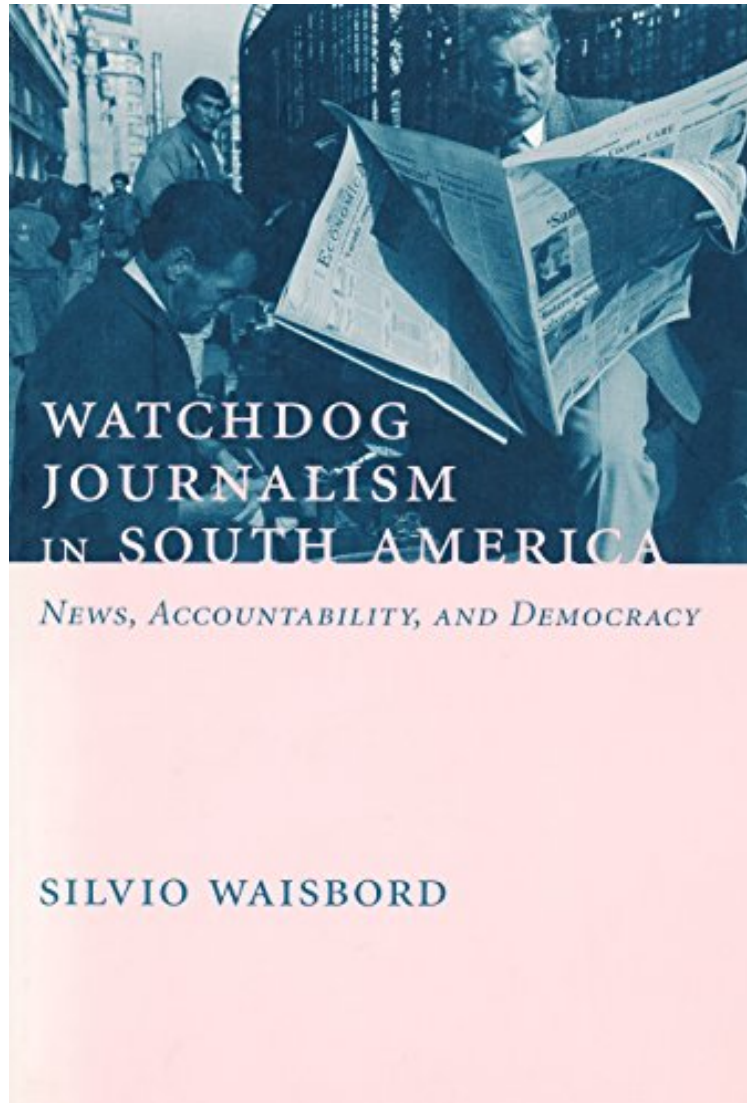


(Ebook free) Watchdog Journalism in South America

Watchdog Journalism in South America

Silvio Waisbord

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Silvio Waisbord : Watchdog Journalism in South America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watchdog Journalism in South America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Engaging review By Ron Mader- (From Planeta.com Journal)
Watchdog Journalism in South America is one of those rare books that places journalistic coverage of the region into perspective. Argentine author Silvio Waisbord argues that critical reporting in South America can be better understood as "watchdog journalism" than as "investigative reporting" and that it is going mainstream. "Watchdog journalism is no longer the province of alternative publications but has been incorporated by leading news organizations," Waisbord

writes. The book, published by Columbia University Press, is organized in three sections. The first deals with the factors behind the current surge in watchdog journalism. Part two looks at how journalistic principles drive the interest of some news media in publishing exposes and how they shape the "thematic agenda of contemporary muckraking." Finally, Waisbord examines the consequences of muckraking for the quality of contemporary South American democracies. "Such an ambitious undertaking could have faltered, but the author weaves together the anecdotal experiences and analysis of news stories from throughout the region. This provides a unique and valuable perspective of what is taking place within the region.

Since the 1980s, investigative journalism has undergone startling development in South America, where repressive regimes have long relegated such reporting to marginal publications or underground outlets. *Watchdog Journalism in South America* explores the rise of critical journalism in four countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. Drawing upon interviews with journalists and editors and analyzing selected news stories from each country, Silvio Waisbord offers a unique look at the significant differences between critical reporting in developing democracies and that already in place in the United States and European democracies. As Waisbord demonstrates, critical reporting in South America can be better understood as watchdog journalism than as investigative reporting as understood in the tradition of Anglo-American journalism. Examining the historical absence of a muckraking press, he argues that watchdog journalism represents new political and media dynamics and discusses the emergence of a new journalistic culture and its contributions to the quality of democracy and public debates about morality, truth, and accountability.

This impressive book makes important contributions to both the theory and study of investigative journalism. It offers a clear and comprehensive analysis of the political accountability exercised by South America's fourth estate, which is quite different from that of more developed democracies. Even more important, it clarifies the necessary conditions under which news media can effectively check political power by moving beyond the familiar but limiting cases of press systems common to Northern hemisphere countries. "This impressive book makes important contributions to both the theory and study of investigative journalism. It offers a clear and comprehensive analysis of the political accountability exercised by South America's fourth estate, which is quite different from that of more developed democracies. Even more important, it clarifies the necessary conditions under which news media can effectively check political power by moving beyond the familiar but limiting cases of press systems common to Northern hemisphere countries." -- Scott L. Althaus, "Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics" From the Back Cover

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About the Author Silvio Waisbord is assistant professor in the Department of Communications at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He is the author of *The Great Parade: Election Campaigns and Mass Media in Argentina*, as well as numerous articles about media, politics, and globalization.