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## Journalism and the Republican Dream

*Thus, in just four years, a new government like that of Piñera could be reissued, with a people even more violated in their rights.*



Who better than journalists themselves could warn the country that the deepening of democracy also requires drastic reforms to the information system and the media. The requirement of diversity, which is assumed as an essential condition of a republican regime, is expressed in no or very little in Chile, where the levels of disinformation regarding what is happening in the country and in the world are mainly responsible for the major media of television, radio and the press.



Boric and the press. (Image by Enzo Blondel)

Nations much poorer and less pretentious than ours can exhibit newspapers, magazines and audiovisual spaces very varied in terms of their levels of pluralism and independence. Even wealthy states like France, Germany and others maintain policies that give the media all sorts of subsidies and incentives so that they can fulfill their mission of informing. At the same time, an excellent training is sought for future journalists and social communicators, understanding that their task is as necessary as the practice of medicine, economics, law and other disciplines that have an old place in universities.

Regarding conflicts such as Russia's with Ukraine, the Araucanía crisis, as well as the pandemic and the deep economic and social inequities, we can see that they are treated with the bias of the most powerful media, also endorsed by the ignorance of many journalists and analysts who act as true mercenaries. The uniformity in the media orientation becomes alarming, with television media that reach the gall to use archive images referring to other conflicts to convince us of the position that us interests practically impose on the information order today. In Chile, we still have fresh in our memory the repugnant lies promoted by the Piñera government through the media in order to undermine the vindications of the Mapuche and hide the crimes of the police and military. The same thing he did to discredit the student mobilizations and the Social Outbreak.



Today the opportunism of the best known faces of journalism is surprising to empathize now with those who prevailed in the presidential elections seeking to maintain their presence especially in the television media. Sure that in the shortest time they will be able to return for their privileges and resume the defense of the great interests that continue to dominate the audiovisual spectrum. Something similar happened after Patricio Aylwin arrived at La Moneda and the most prominent faces of Pinochet were allowed to remain in their functions, leave them unpunished and then reiterate their opposition to the reforms that were said to be indispensable to overcome the dictatorial regime.

It is certainly not a question of changing some faces for others or that the newspapers add to their payrolls, as in the past, some columnists "liberal" or considered "Left" to appear independent or objective. When history shows us that almost all of them, moreover, ended up as battering rams of conservatism and abjuring the positions they held before becoming the most prominent "feathers" of the duopoly diaries.

The pluralism that is needed must actively engage the State and republican institutions in the multiplication of the media in such a way that culture, science, technology and even sport gain space and can contribute to civic education. There is a lack of printing presses, paper newspapers, radio stations and, of course, TV channels that expand their theme and editorial lines. A stimulus and financing to strengthen the means in favor of the

development and progress of all, of the sustainable environment and of human rights. Let those magazines for young and new entrepreneurs reappear, for example. And, of course, report on the world of the regions, so that Santiago diminishes its exaggerated media attention in such a diverse country from north to south and from mountain range to sea.

Nor should diversity be exhausted politically. A true democracy must consider what happens to many ideological and social expressions that have no place in the spheres of the State, due to an exclusive electoral system and digitized by money and power groups friendly to bribery and corruption. Chile is a country practically unparalleled in the world in terms of maintaining parties and political expressions almost without militants and with ideologies that account for other times, problems and challenges.

Now, if President Boric wants to have his own and addicted press, preventing free journalists from questioning his government, what he has to do is allocate fiscal resources to continue enchanting the usual feathers, as to exterminate the uncomfortable and incorruptible press, which was even able to sustain itself during the dictatorial harassment. To continue, then, what the governments of the Concertación did, whose administrations inherited from the right, Piñera and the most powerful businessmen a communication system prostrated to their interests, delighted to receive official publicity, in addition to the bribes of the AFPs, of the isapres, the companies of the Mining Council and of the Banking. That is, of the governing institutions and beneficiaries of the Chilean neoliberal republic.

Thus, in just four years, a new government like that of Piñera could be reissued, with a people even more violated in their rights.

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Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

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