



The Eyes Wide Open Film series presents
Weapons of Mass Deception

To introduce the film, here are a few words from the producer/directory, Danny Schechter, adapted from his blog page "Putting the Media on Trial": <http://www.mediachannel.org>

The principle that the media can be held responsible, by omission or commission, for their role in inflaming conflicts and promoting wars of aggression, is well established.

If you've seen the Orson Welles film *Citizen Kane*, you know about William Randolph Hearst and the "yellow journalism" he created a hundred years ago, i. e. his trumped-up stories concocted to get American public opinion to support a war against Spain, in order to grab Cuba (coveted by the U.S. cane sugar and tobacco industries). But there are plenty of other examples of yellow journalism. And not just in the United States.

At the Nuremberg Tribunal after World War II, American prosecutors asked to put the German media on trial for promoting Hitler's policies. State propagandists were convicted. More recently, hate radio was indicted by the Rwanda tribunal investigating the genocide there. In the former Yugoslavia, Serbian and Croatian TV was criticized for inciting the war that divided that country.

As for the lead up to the current war in Iraq, it can be easily shown that the major networks did more propagandizing than reporting. For example, of 800 experts on all the channels before and during the invasion, 794 were in favor of the war. 794!

Already major American media, like The New York Times and Washington Post, have published mea-culpas acknowledging their pro-war coverage was flawed. Last November the Presidents of the News Divisions of CBS, ABC and NBC admitted their coverage was not critical enough. "Simply stated, we let the American people down" admitted David Westin, President of ABC News.

Is "let down" the right word to describe **mass deception** that has caused, so far, the loss of 1, 600 American lives and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives? And that has cast the U.S. in the role of international bully, out to invade any country with petroleum or on petroleum routes, with the excuse of combating terrorism?

How did all this happen? And why?

Danny Schechter gives us his answer in this razzmatazz documentary.

To buy the film on the Internet: <http://www.wmdthefilm.com> DVD length: 98', Cost: \$19.95.
Media watch sites: [Alternet: MediaCulture](http://www.alternet.org/mediaculture/), <http://www.alternet.org/mediaculture/> | [CJR's Campaign Desk](http://www.cjrcampaigndesk.org/), <http://www.campaigndesk.org/> | [Editor and Publisher](http://www.editorandpublisher.com/), <http://www.editorandpublisher.com/> | [I Want Media](http://www.iwantmedia.com/), <http://www.iwantmedia.com/> | [Media Channel](http://www.mediachannel.org/), <http://www.mediachannel.org/>

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