## The Media

## Facts and events

Definition: "Media" is the name of **communication** tools. There are many forms of media: newspapers, TV, the radio, the Internet... Media are evolving with society and the access to information isn't the same as in the past:

With the improvement of the Internet, people have information faster than in the past. Information spreads all around the world very easily. This leads to a different consumption, because of those **cultural innovations**. This can raise the issue of the control of information and the significant number of **fake news** causes a distrust in the media

Ex : Donald Trump who didn't want to recognize his defeat against Joe Biden, and said on TV that the election was fraudulent

Ex: Influence of social media, like Facebook which removed advertising a few weeks before the American elections so as not to influence voters, but this is a proof of their influence and their responsibility (something they didn't want to admit at first)

**Distrust in the media** has increased: recent polls have shown that, globally, twice as many people distrust the media as trust it. People watch less news and generally cut back on news. This is due to the number of fake news but also because some media are in the hands of a few billionaires

Ex: Media can be public like the BBC which is a state-funded corporation which has five radio stations and two main television channels, it is independent as it does not broadcast any advertising.

**Freedom of Speech** is not respected in every country. In those countries, people are not free to say what they want, and governments are not transparent with their nation and even with other countries, they are using **censorship**.

Ex: On TikTok, a 17 year-old girl has disguised a video about the Uighur situation in China as a make-up tutorial. The video of this whistleblower has been deleted in China.

Ex: Putin sent his competitor Alexeï Navalny in jail.

Ex: The murder of Samuel Pati because he showed caricature

## Problématiques

- Are Facebook and other social media platforms harmful to our well-being / to society / to democracy?
- Is it an issue that nowadays, people are choosing their sources of information, compared to the past (information was given only by the public service of the state)?
- Should people share information they get with others?
- To what extent do the media have an impact on public opinion?
- Nowadays, is it possible to have unbiased and independent information?

## Idées d'amorces • « The people will believe what the media tells them they believe. » -George Orwell • The average American watches over 5 hours of TV a day. (from BLS American Time Use Survey) • Social media platforms are used by one-in-three people in the world, and more than two-thirds of all are internet users. (from the website 'Our World in Data') By the mid-term, Trump had said nearly 4,200 fake news according to The Washington Post. Vocabulaire a breach of ethics : une faute éthique a broadsheet : un journal grand format a channel: une chaîne a journal: une revue a netsurfer : un internaute a network : un réseau A survey = une enquête a tabloid: un quotidien populaire Advertising : la publicité an editor : un rédacteur en chef Columnist = un journaliste data processing: le traitement des informations Debate is stifled = le débat est étouffé gossips: rumeurs hit the headlines : faire la une des journaux investigate: enquêter media coverage : la couverture médiatique news gathering: la collecte des informations press freedom : la liberté de la presse record: enregistrer self-censorship: l'autocensure sensational news : des nouvelles à sensation Silence someone = réduire qqn au silence slander: une diffamation spy (on smb): espionner quelqu'un the gutter press : la presse à scandale the ratings: le taux d'audience to broadcast: diffuser to inform: mettre au courant, informer to raise people's awareness: sensibiliser l'opinion publique viewers : les téléspectateurs be subject to censorship: être soumis à la censure On / off the record : de souce officielle / de source officieuse