

# The press in the United Kingdom

## Dailies :

### Daily Mail

(Conservative)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/>

### Daily Mirror

(Liberal<sup>1</sup>)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk>

### Financial Times

(Centrist)

<http://www.ft.com>

### Guardian, The [ˈɡɑːdɪən] (**Le u est muet**)

(Liberal)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

### Independent, The

(Liberal)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/>

### Times, The

(Conservative)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

### Sun, The

(Conservative tabloid)

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/>

## Weeklies :

### Guardian Weekly, The

(Liberal)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/GWeekly/front/>

### Observer, The

(Liberal weekly)

<http://www.observer.guardian.co.uk/>

### Sunday Times, The

(Conservative),

<http://www.sunday-times.co.uk>

### Economist, The

(Conservative newsmagazine)

<http://www.economist.com/index.html>

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<sup>1</sup> *Definition of "liberal"*

1. favorable to progress or reform, as in political or religious affairs.

2. (often initial capital letter ) noting or pertaining to a political party advocating measures of progressive political reform

The **Liberal Party** was one of the two major political parties of the United Kingdom during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was the third largest political party throughout the latter half of the 20th century, until it merged with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in 1988 to form the present day Liberal Democrats. The party came to be seen as on the centre-left of British politics. The Liberal Democrats have been led by Nick Clegg since 2007. At the 2010 general election, 57 Liberal Democrat MPs were elected, making them the third largest party in the House of Commons, behind the Conservatives with 307 seats and Labour with 258. The Liberal Democrats formed a coalition government with the Conservatives, with Clegg becoming Deputy Prime Minister and other Liberal Democrats taking up government positions.

# The press in the United States

National newspapers in the United States:

- **USA Today** — Has the highest circulation of any American newspaper.
- **The Wall Street Journal** — Financial-focused newspaper, though it's tried to expand its reach in recent years. The actual reporting is well-regarded by most people, regardless of political affiliation. The editorial page, however, is a bastion of conservatism.
- Some consider **the Christian Science Monitor** to be the third national paper in the United States. As it is published by the Boston-based First Church of Christ, Scientist, some may consider it a *cult*-based newspaper. As it is run by a non-profit, it cherishes its independence from the for-profit model and as such, its non-religion articles are generally well written. (Only one proselytizing article per day runs.) Went from a daily printing model to a hybrid weekly printing/online all week model in 2009.

Most other papers are local, generally known as *The [city name] [paper name]*. In practice, **The New York Times** is available nationwide and other major papers are available throughout their regions of influence: the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Omaha World-Herald*, and the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* in the Midwest, the *Los Angeles Times* on the West Coast, *The Seattle Times* in the Pacific Northwest, etc.

Not officially national, but two papers with wide-reaching national influence are:

- **The New York Times** — Founded in 1851. Daily read of the East Coast intelligentsia, known as the "Old Grey Lady". Despite its fame, it's still not recession-proof — for the first time in history, it now runs ads on the front page. Despite nominally being a New York paper, it is easily available in most parts of the country, if only by being the paper sold at most Starbucks
- **The Washington Post** — Main paper of the capital region. Most famous for exposing Watergate.

These two papers are widely considered to be the top of the journalistic profession in America, and you can expect any young reporter in fiction to dream of working at either one. In general, the *Times* does better in reporting international news, as well as arts and culture, while the *Post* is considered to be the go-to for political news. Both are often cited as being proof of the "liberal bias" of the press. The accuracy of this accusation is extremely debatable, and many observers vociferously disagree with it. (The *Times* has several columnists, such as Paul Krugman and Maureen Dowd, who do tend to make conservatives' blood pressure rise; on the other hand, they also boast well-known conservative writers such as Thomas Friedman and the late William Safire, who in addition to his political column wrote a highly-regarded column on the American English language for the Sunday edition for many years. The *Post* generally steers a middle line in its editorial coverage, with the results that they irritate conservatives when a Republican president is in power and annoy liberals when a Democrat holds the White House.)

Other papers of note:

- *New York Post* — Founded by Alexander Hamilton in 1801; has gone through a dizzying series of ownership and format changes. Currently, it's owned by Rupert Murdoch, and is as sleazy, sensationalist, and slanted as you can get while still technically remaining a newspaper. Arch-rival to the *Daily News*, a slightly less obscene NYC tabloid. (Slightly.) Not much overlap in readership with the *Times*.
- *The National Enquirer* — The king of the trashy supermarket tabloids.

## News magazines

- *Time* (*sans article, à ne pas confondre avec The Times*) is the largest news magazine in the world, with over 45 million subscribers worldwide, less than half of whom are in the US. It is published weekly. They are famous for their annual "Person of the Year" award, which goes to whoever they feel had the greatest influence on world events. The "person" may not necessarily be a living human being — the award went to the personal computer in 1982, and to "The Endangered Earth" in 1989.
- *Newsweek* has traditionally played second-fiddle to *Time* in terms of both readership and respectability. Like *Time*, it is a weekly magazine.
- *U.S. News & World Report*: Alongside *Time* and *Newsweek*, the third of the "Big Three" American news magazines. It tends to lean more center-right than the above magazines. Originally a weekly, it went to a biweekly, then monthly format in 2008, before finally going online-only at the end of 2010. It is best known for its annual rankings of American colleges and universities.

In addition, *The Economist*, while published in Britain, has a large American following, possessing a circulation in the US three times higher than what it has in its home country.