

The Cost of Trump's Assault on the Press and the Truth | The New Yorker

By David Remnick

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Presidents have always complained about the press. At awards ceremonies and journalism-school conferences, Thomas Jefferson is often remembered for his principled support: in 1787, he wrote to the Virginia statesman Edward Carrington, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." Yet, by 1814, having endured the Presidency, Jefferson was not quite as high-minded, whining by post to a former congressman about "the putrid state" of newspapers and "the vulgarity, & mendacious spirit of those who write for them."

[...]

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