



HOW DID AMERICANS GET THEIR NEWS IN THE 1930s AND 1940s?

Today we read, hear, and learn about the world on smartphones and television. But **BEFORE AND DURING WORLD WAR II, AMERICANS GOT THEIR NEWS FROM RADIO, NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND FILM NEWSREELS SHOWN AT MOVIE THEATERS.**

Newspapers, available in most American communities, were delivered to subscribers' homes or sold at newsstands. Dailies were published either in the morning or the evening. Other papers were printed only on certain days of the week.

Some newspapers were written for specific audiences, such as Black people, Christians, Jews, and workers in particular industries. They focused on topics of interest to those communities and were sometimes created to fill gaps in mainstream newspapers.

HOW WAS THE NEWS PRESENTED?



Newsboys in Redding, California, selling extra editions of *The Searchlight* newspaper. The headline reports the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. *Library of Congress*

Americans saw:

- Attention-grabbing headlines on the front page
- Black and white photos and cartoons
- Factual news stories written by well-known, trusted reporters
- Up-to-date news: International events were often in US newspapers within 24 hours, sometimes even with photographs



American soldiers read of Hitler's death in an "extra" edition of *Stars and Stripes*, 1945. *National Archives*

- Local coverage alongside articles from around the world reported by wire services, such as the Associated Press, which provide news content to member or subscribing organizations—often smaller papers that did not have the resources to do their own international and national reporting
- Editorials, or opinion columns, written by the newspaper's editors or wire service staff, local and national officials, and average citizens
- Letters to the editor from community members, who often wrote to react to the news or to support or oppose previously published editorials

READERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES HAD ACCESS TO NEWS ABOUT WHAT WE NOW CALL THE HOLOCAUST—the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million European Jews by Nazi Germany and its allies and collaborators. The Museum's History Unfolded database contains more than 55,000 articles from 1933 to 1946 showing how the Holocaust was reported in US newspapers.

LEARN MORE AT ushmm.org/newspapers

BACKGROUND IMAGES, ABOVE: The front page of the *Columbus Free Press* newspaper in Columbus, Georgia, on Sunday, December 15, 1940. **PREVIOUS:** People look at Washington, DC, newspapers with headlines about Nazi Germany's September 1, 1939, invasion of Poland. *Both, Library of Congress*