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Journalism 101

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Journalism in Cuba

A) Brief History of Cuban Journalism

1)1782 First newspaper, *Gazette de la Habana*

2)1790 first magazine, *Papel Periodico de la Habana*

3)All media fell under the Spanish Press laws formulated during the Sixteenth Century

4)In the early Nineteenth Century laws became lax

- . Fading influence from Madrid

- . Influence fromThe French Revolution

5)In Cuba's war for independence many reform periodicals began

- .Colonial Government issued a freed press decree in the hopes of gaining favor with reformist

- . The most important was *El Cubano Libre*

6)Gerardo Machado period was the golden age of journalism for Cuba

- .At least a dozen daily newspaper flourished during this time:

- strong economy

- easy to start a paper

- political parties were willing to back papers

7)Following 1930 golden days journalism ended:

- . Increased government involvement culminated in the Batista dictatorship
- .labor unrest

8)1959, Fidel Castro comes to powers and marks the begin of modern journalism in Cuba

B)Modern Journalism in Media

1)Three national newspapers which are:

- .Granma: most circulated paper in Cuba, the official paper of the Communist Party, and is written in five languages

- .Juventud Rebelde: Union of Young Communist newspaper, and is translated into English:

- 2001-2002 coverage of “Cuban Five” who were arrested for espionage in the United States hailed as the “five innocents” , following 9/11 fighters of terrorism

- .Trabajadores: Most Marxist of the three

2) Government controls 5 national and 65 regional radio broadcast stations along with the international service of *Radio Habana Cuba*

3) Four Tv networks, the largest of which is *Cubavision*:

- . State run

- . offered internationally and streams broadcast on the internet

4) Main program for *Cubavision* is *Television Cubana*

- .Runs from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m

- .Included political and economic coverage, stories on science, culture, society,

and sports

.Broadcast special reports, some are considered to be propaganda pieces

5)23% of people has internet access:

.heavily monitored by the government

.can only access a handful of websites

6)Internet presence is CubaWeb which is a large directory of government and government-controlled web sites:

.300 websites

C) Overview of Media in Cuba

1)The highest award in journalism given in Cuba is the "José Martí National Award of Journalism"

2)The Unión de Periodistas de Cuba (Union of Cuban Journalists):

.primary obligations as the assistance of journalists in the "legal and ethical exercise of the profession"

."contributing to the formation of journalists in the best traditions in Cuban political thought, and in the high patriotic, ethical and democratic principles that inspire the Cuban society"

3) Exact opposite of the United States:

.No freedom of press:

-Constitutional Article 62 limits freedom of the press, and Article 5

grants to the Communist Party on behalf of the society and the state the

duty to organize and control all of the resources for communication in order to realize the benefit of state

-Yoani Sanchez made *Time Magazine* list of 100 most influential people in 2008 and awarded the International Women of Courage Award by the U.S. State Department in 2011

.No influence from foreign media:

-1997 Law of National Dignity, which provides for prison sentences of 3 to 10 years for “anyone who, in a direct or indirect form, collaborates with the enemy’s media”

-Substantial harassment of foreign journalist which has included detaining them for extended periods of to

-Carlos Hernando a Spanish journalist for *El Mundo* was held for five hours and ordered to leave Cuba within 48 hours

.The government monitors all forms of media:

-Department of Revolutionary Orientation or DOR

.Private ownership of media is banned

.The government owns all forms of media

.Journalist must work within the confines of the law:

.Insulting officials or anti-government propaganda can result in three years of prison

.Examples of Cuban journalism

