



Alarming Reports: Communicating Conflict in the Daily News (Anthropology of Media)

By Andrew Arno's



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News stories provide an essential confirmation of our ideas about who we are, what we have to fear, and what to do about it: a marketplace of ideas, shopped by rational citizen decision makers but also a shared resource for grounding our contested narratives of identity in objective reality. News as a fundamental social process comes into being not when an event takes place or when a report of the event is created but when that report becomes news to someone. As it moves off the page into the community, news discovers - through its interpretations - its reality in the lives of the consumers. This book explores the path of news as it moves through the tangled labyrinth of social identities and asserted interests that lie beyond the page or screen. The language and communication-oriented study of news promises a salient area of investigation, pointing the way to an expansion, if not a redefinition of basic anthropological ideas and practices of ethnography, participant observation, and "the field" in the future of anthropological research.

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Review

"...Extensively referenced, this is a book for communication theorists and anthropologists." • **Choice**

"...an intriguing read which can broaden the perception of the news media and stir class debates as well as suggest further academic research...[It] is a complex academic work...[offering] suitable and inspiring reading for postgraduate students and scholars." • **Media, Culture & Society**

About the Author

Andrew Arno's degrees include a JD from The University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University. Currently, he is a Professor and Graduate Chair in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i. His research and publications focus on communication about conflict. His publications include *The World of Talk on a Fijian Island: An Ethnography of Law and Communicative Causation* (Ablex, 1993) and *The News Media in National and International Conflict*, edited with Wimal Dissanayake (Westview, 1984).

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