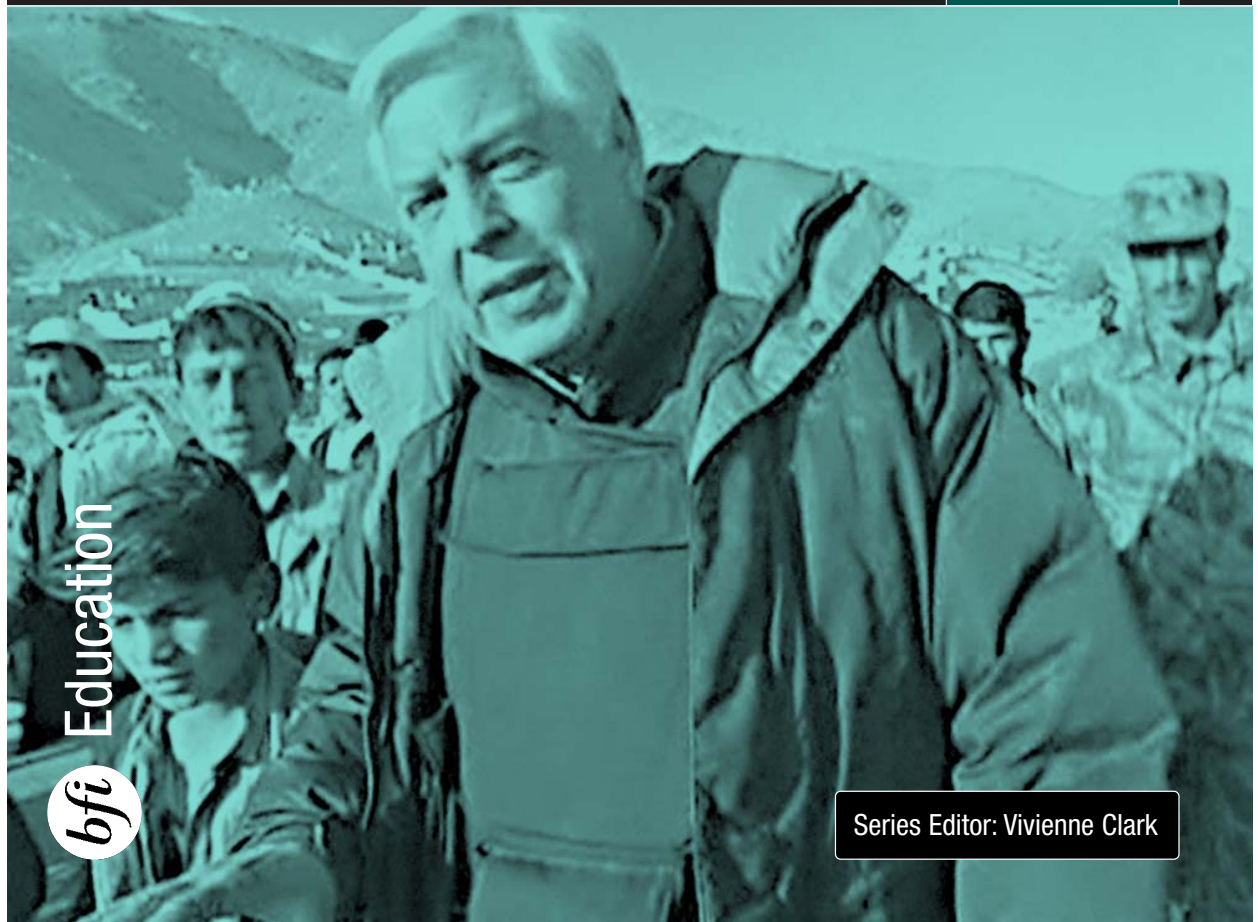


SERIES TEACHING FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

Teaching TV News

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Education



Series Editor: Vivienne Clark

A brief history of TV news

- November 1922 The British Broadcasting Company is formed. It begins a daily radio broadcast, consisting of news, politics and music. Announcers are mainly upper class, speak with received pronunciation (RP) and wear full evening dress. They read the news bulletins twice, once at normal speed, then more slowly, so that listeners can write them down if they wish. There was some news but in the early days only after 7pm to avoid upsetting the sales of newspapers.
- 1924 King George V's opening of Wembley Exhibition is broadcast live to 10 million people.
- 1925 The British Broadcasting Corporation is formed.
- 1926 The principle of 'neutrality' is established during the General Strike: Churchill wants the government to take over the BBC. Reith argues successfully against this, although the BBC follows the government line and denies access to the strikers.
- 1936 The BBC begins the first regular news service, broadcasting from Alexandra Palace.
- 1937 The coronation procession of King George VI is broadcast to 2000 TV sets in Britain – one of the first examples of a shared national experience.
- 1939 Radio news reports are heavily censored but attract huge audiences of 10–15 million, when portable recording equipment allows reporters to make vivid reports of battle scenes with diegetic sounds of the fighting.
- 1952 Six newsreel transmissions a week by the BBC, mostly made up of feature stories and shot without sound; commentaries were added later in post-production.
- 1953 The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II is broadcast to 2.5 million TV sets. More than 20 million people (56% of the population of Britain) watch this as a shared experience. Richard Dimbleby provides the commentary.
- First *Panorama* programme broadcast in November.
- 1954 The Independent Television Authority is established to oversee the setting-up of commercial television.
- 1955 ITV begins with the live transmission of the inaugural banquet from the Guildhall. Regional networks provide a mixture of national and regional programmes.
- Independent Television News (ITN) is established to provide current affairs and news broadcasts in London and the South East; these differ from the BBC's approach, offering more challenging interviews and on-the-spot reports. Athlete Christopher Chataway and Robin Day are the first ITN newscasters.