A PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY INTO JOURNALISM

The Journalist's Dilemma

What Never Makes the News



History Inherits More Than the Headlines.

SANDEEP CHAVAN

The Journalist’s Dilemma

by **Sandeep Chavan**

BOOK DESCRIPTION

What appears in the news is not everything that happened. What remains outside the news is not necessarily something that was deliberately hidden.

Between these two realities lies the journalist’s dilemma.

Journalism is often described as the first rough draft of history. But what determines which version of reality becomes part of that draft? What happens to investigations that are never assigned, stories that are stopped, information that is responsibly withheld, and accounts that are published but remain largely unseen?

In The Journalist’s Dilemma: What Never Makes the News, Sandeep Chavan presents a philosophical and evidence-based inquiry into the complex relationship between journalism, truth, institutional authority, professional survival, and historical memory.

Drawing upon documented cases—including the Pentagon Papers, the Panama Papers, the BBC’s Newsnight investigation, Rolling Stone’s reporting failure, and the Der

Spiegel fabrication scandal—the book examines the difficult decisions through which reality becomes public knowledge.

Across sixteen chapters, it explores:

• The difference between factual accuracy and truthful representation.

• The unseen mechanisms of editorial selection and omission.

• Professional sincerity, intellectual independence, and institutional pressure.

• The ethical responsibilities of publication, delay, and silence.

• The consequences of reporting and the limitations of correction.

• The incomplete historical record inherited by future generations.

Neither an indictment nor an unconditional defence of journalism, this book recognizes the genuine constraints under which journalists work while insisting that professional responsibility remains accountable to evidence.

Written for journalists, researchers, educators, students,

policymakers, and thoughtful readers, it offers a deeper understanding of how societies come to know what they believe they know.

Because what never makes the news does not cease to belong to reality. It may simply cease to belong to what the world remembers.

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