

I became involved in the media reform movement because of the 2003 Iraq War and the coverup, lies by the Bush Administration about them having weapons of mass destruction even though the WMD program was according to reports contradicting intelligence the Bush Admin used obliterated by the U.S. Government during the 1990s after the first Persian Gulf War to stop Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein from conquering Kuwait. Few remember the 16 words President George W. Bush used his 2003 State of the Union to justify the Iraq War but most remember the name of former U.S. diplomat Joseph Charles Wilson IV's wife. Joe Wilson was the U.S. diplomat best known for his 2002 trip to Niger to investigate allegations that Saddam Hussein was attempting to purchase yellowcake uranium; his subsequent New York Times op-ed piece, "What I Didn't Find in Africa" that was written and published sometime after the war started led to the subsequent outing of his wife Valerie Plame as a CIA agent. The decision to out her was made to discredit Joe Wilson's reporting and change the conversation so people would stop asking whether the 2003 war was built on lies and ask about Joe Wilson's wife.

Another policy of the Bush Administration's Department of Defense was to try to control press reporting of the war in Iraq to prevent anti war sentiment from rising. They sought to achieve this with a policy denying the media access to caskets of fallen U.S. troops. A policy the Obama Administration rescinded in President Barack Obama's first year in office. Media can be a force for good or a force for evil. The media establishment is too cozy often with Washington D.C. politicians on either side of the political spectrum. MSNBC's Chris Matthews and CNN's Jessica Yellin have since admitted their bosses were pro war so it slanted their initial coverage of Iraq. If we had more independent media they would be less likely to collude with the government in covering up the truth. We need more diversity that is why I find the FCC decision to loosen cross ownership rules deeply troubling. I ask that the FCC reconsider its decision which has been rejected already by the courts, Congress and the public when former Chairmen Michael Powell (yes Collin Powell's son) and his immediate successor Kevin J. Martin tried to weaken media ownership limits.