

Abstract

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**Journalism and Press/Media Control
under the Kadar Era**

Political journalism remained under the control of the party-state in Hungary during the Kadar Era. However official censorship institution was not established, the party and the state had diverse instruments to instruct and control the press and the media. Editors, who received regular and ad hoc commands on 'official line' were in key position to execute information policy. On the other hand the unfolding de-Stalinization process significantly altered both journalistic style and information policy.

Propaganda followed more indirect patterns, discussion with altering opinions was recognized as more effective and by the mid-1960s official information policy admitted the need for informing the public about all events and process. Also, political journalism – but also practice of state control – had gone through a significant professionalization process in the 1960s and 1970s.

This shift – accompanied by the expansion of the press offer on newsstands, which did not mean pluralisation – did not cease the potential failures of information policy in concrete situations, where regarding critical questions the Hungarian press and media was paralyzed. By the first half of the 1980s a new tension emerged in journalism, which was palpable in general among the intelligentsia: the

new generations of the editorial rooms represented different professional values and also looked at the bargain of their elder superiors as a burden. This situation with the deepening economic difficulties of the decade lead to a more nervous and intolerant practice in press control in 1980s.