

FRAMES OF CONFLICT IN THE MEDIA

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Fact
or

Truth

WHAT IS NEWS?



AP/Getty

WHAT IS NEWS?

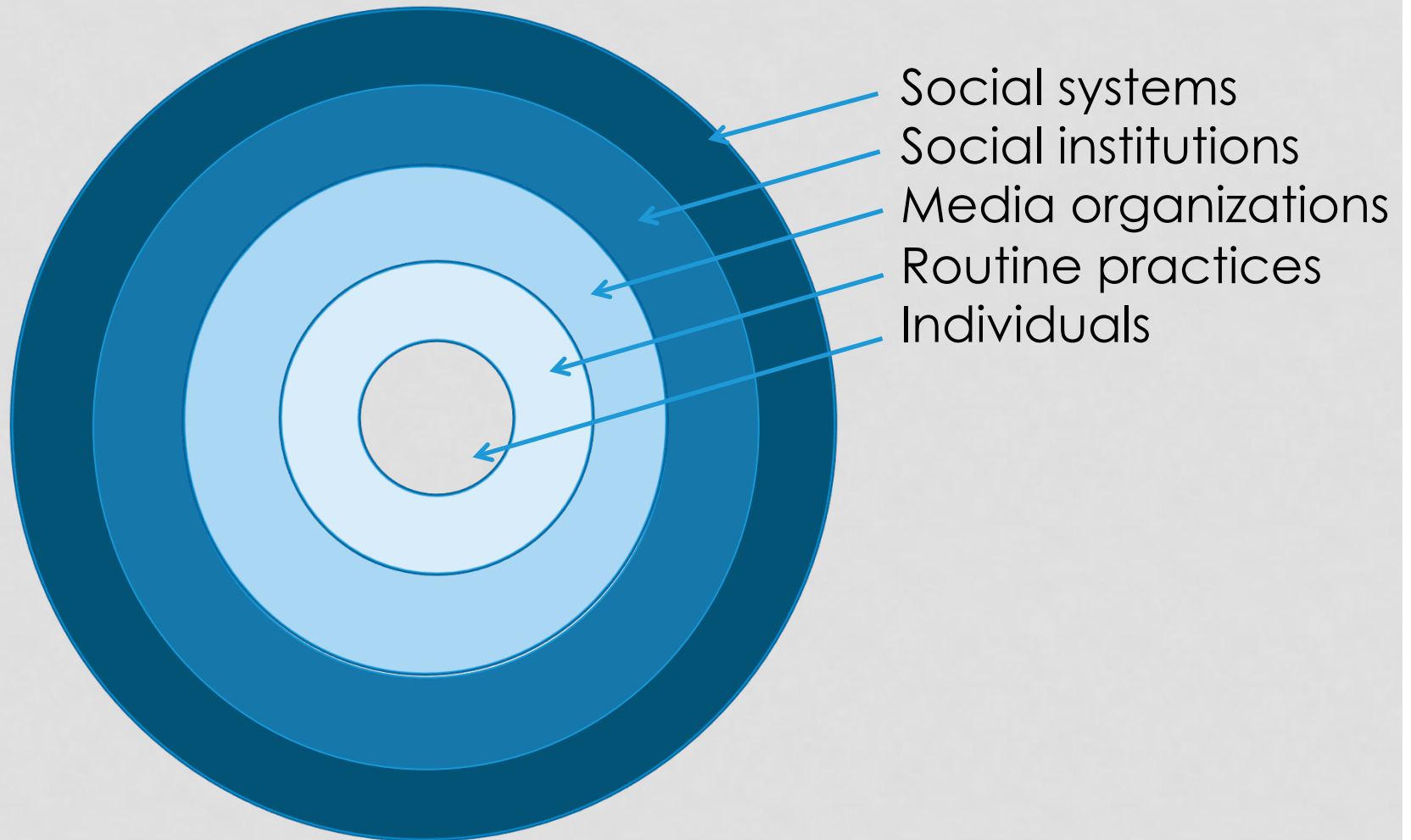


WHAT IS NEWS?

**Socially constructed
representation
of reality**

How I present a fact
is what dictates what
'reality' is to me

WHAT IS NEWS?



Shoemaker and Reese's (2016) Hierarchy of Influences model

FRAMES AS REPRESENTATIONS



FRAMES AS REPRESENTATIONS



Le Monde

TIME



What does this mean in the media?

Why does it matter how the media
present the information?

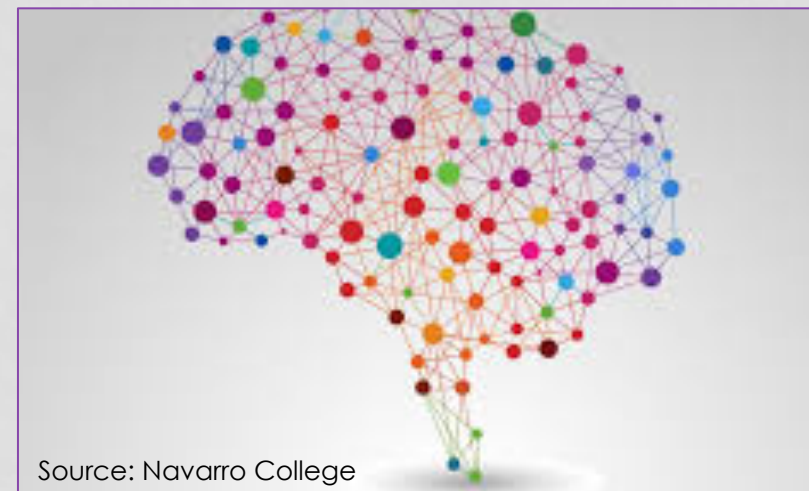
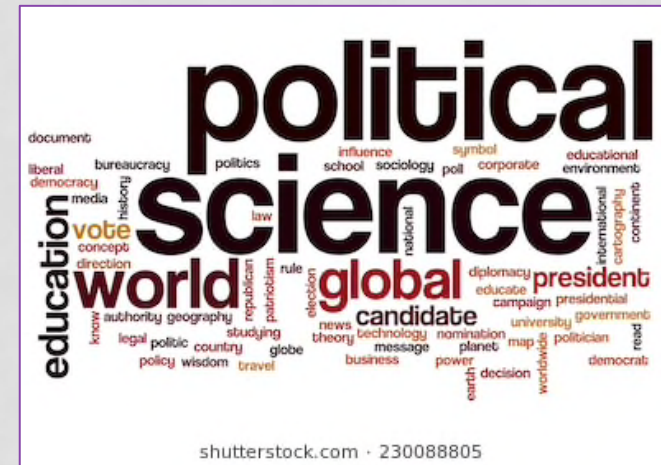
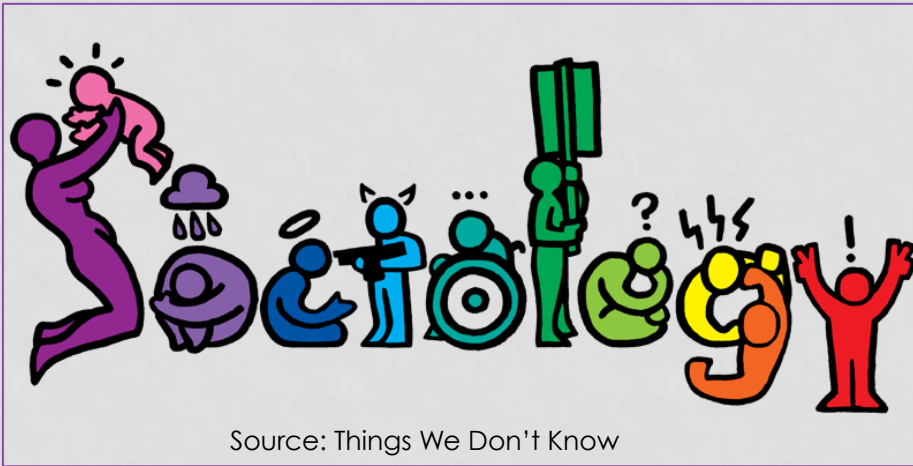
Frames affect how consumers
learn,
interpret,
and evaluate
information

FRAMING RESEARCH: APPROACHES

“To frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation.”

Robert Entman (1993, p. 52)

FRAMING RESEARCH: APPROACHES



FRAMING RESEARCH: APPROACHES



GRAMMAR

Police attacked the crowd.

The crowd was attacked.

DESCRIPTORS

Two Arab youths were caught with guns.

Two young men were caught with guns.

CONCEPTS

Global warming is affecting the environment.

Climate change is affecting the environment.

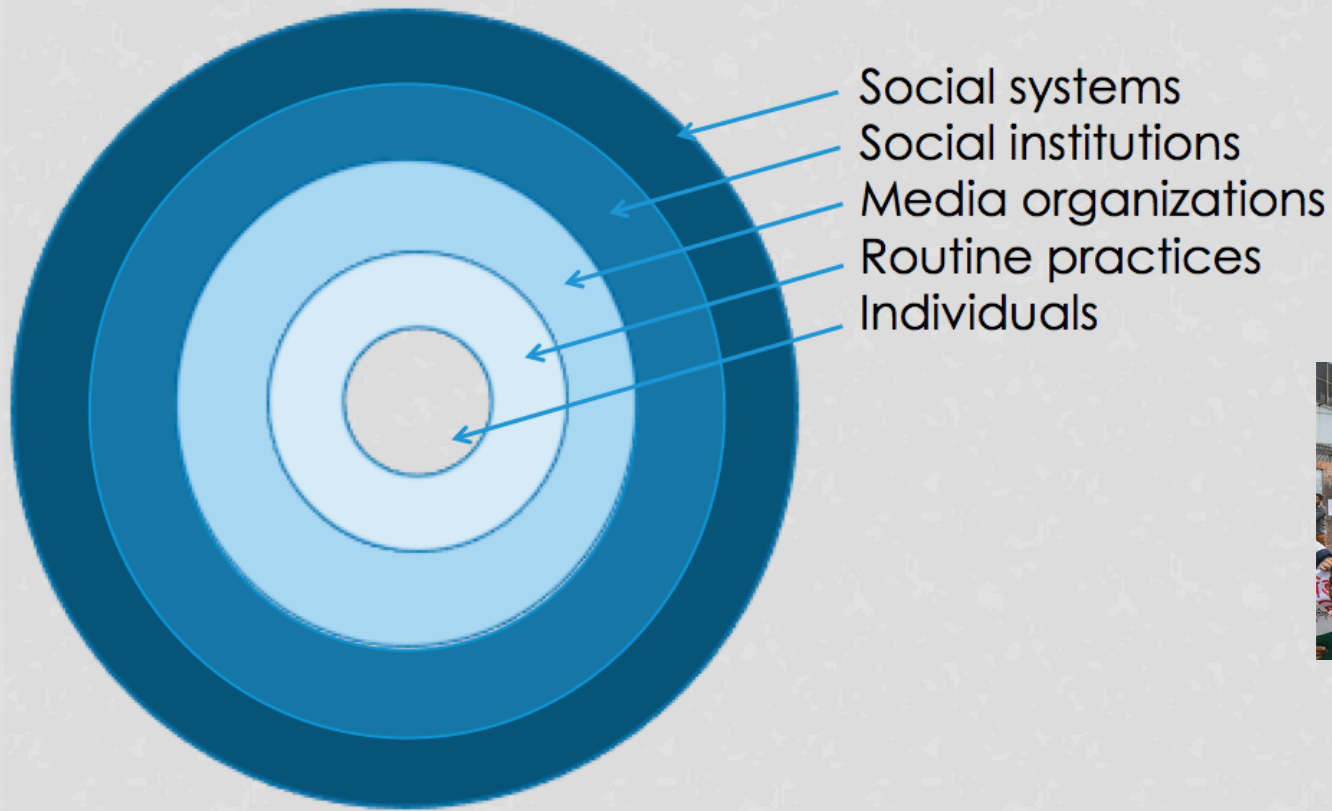
She aborted the baby.

She aborted the fetus.

STRUCTURE

- ◆ Byline
- ◆ Visuals
- ◆ Layout
- ◆ News peg
- ◆ Sources
- ◆ Reporter wrap-up
- ◆ Source expertise
- ◆ Sequence of events
- ◆ Components of a story

FRAMING AND SOURCING



FRAMING CONFLICT

FRAMING CONFLICT

How would you describe
war in the media?

FRAMING CONFLICT

In the media,
Wars = infotainment

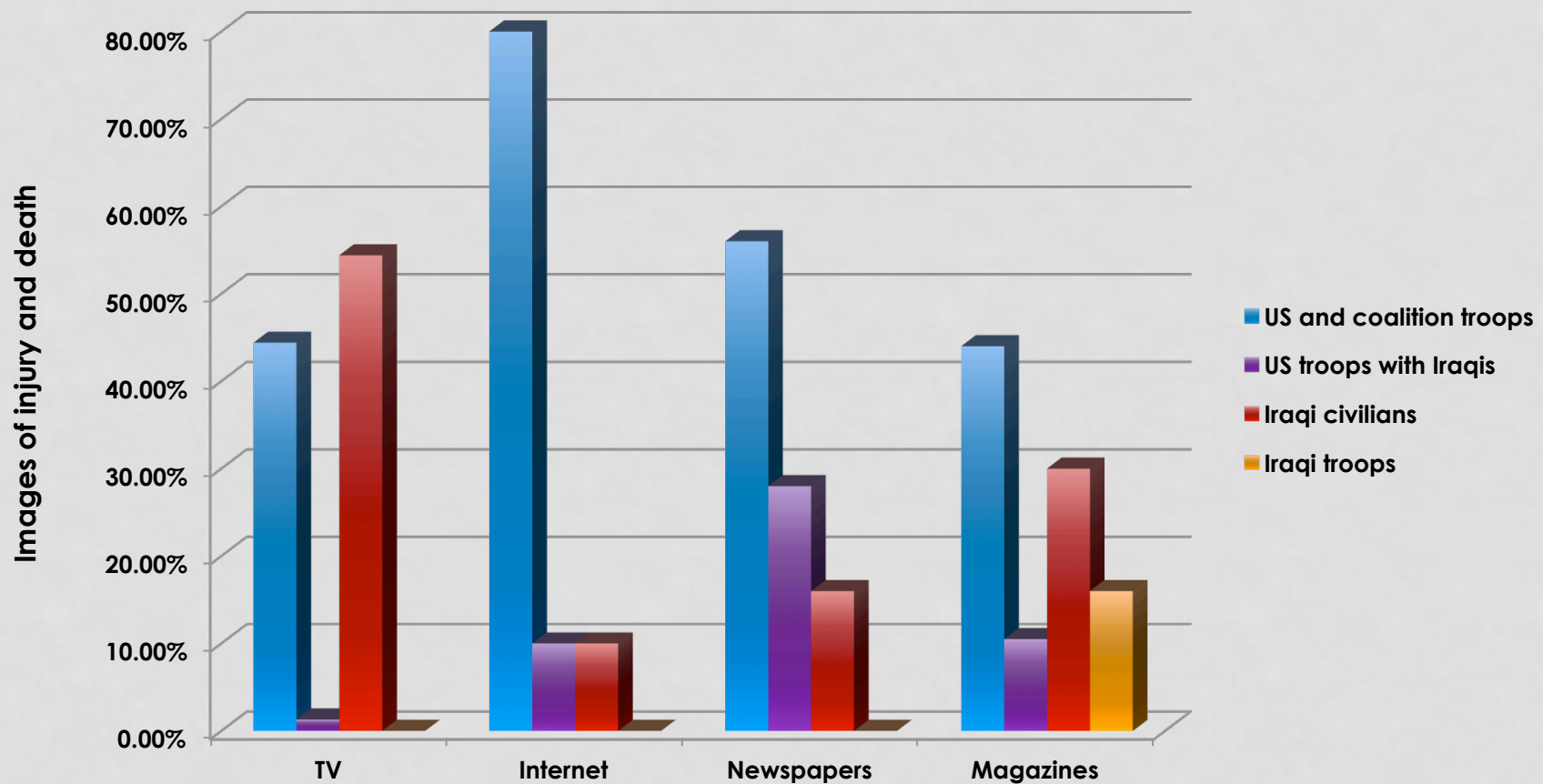
Conflict

Sensationalism

Trivialization



FRAMING CONFLICT: IRAQ



Silcock, Schwalbe, & Keith (2008)
2003 invasion of Iraq, US media

FRAMING CONFLICT: SYRIA

Linear regression analysis with conflict framing as dependent variable and types of sources as predictors

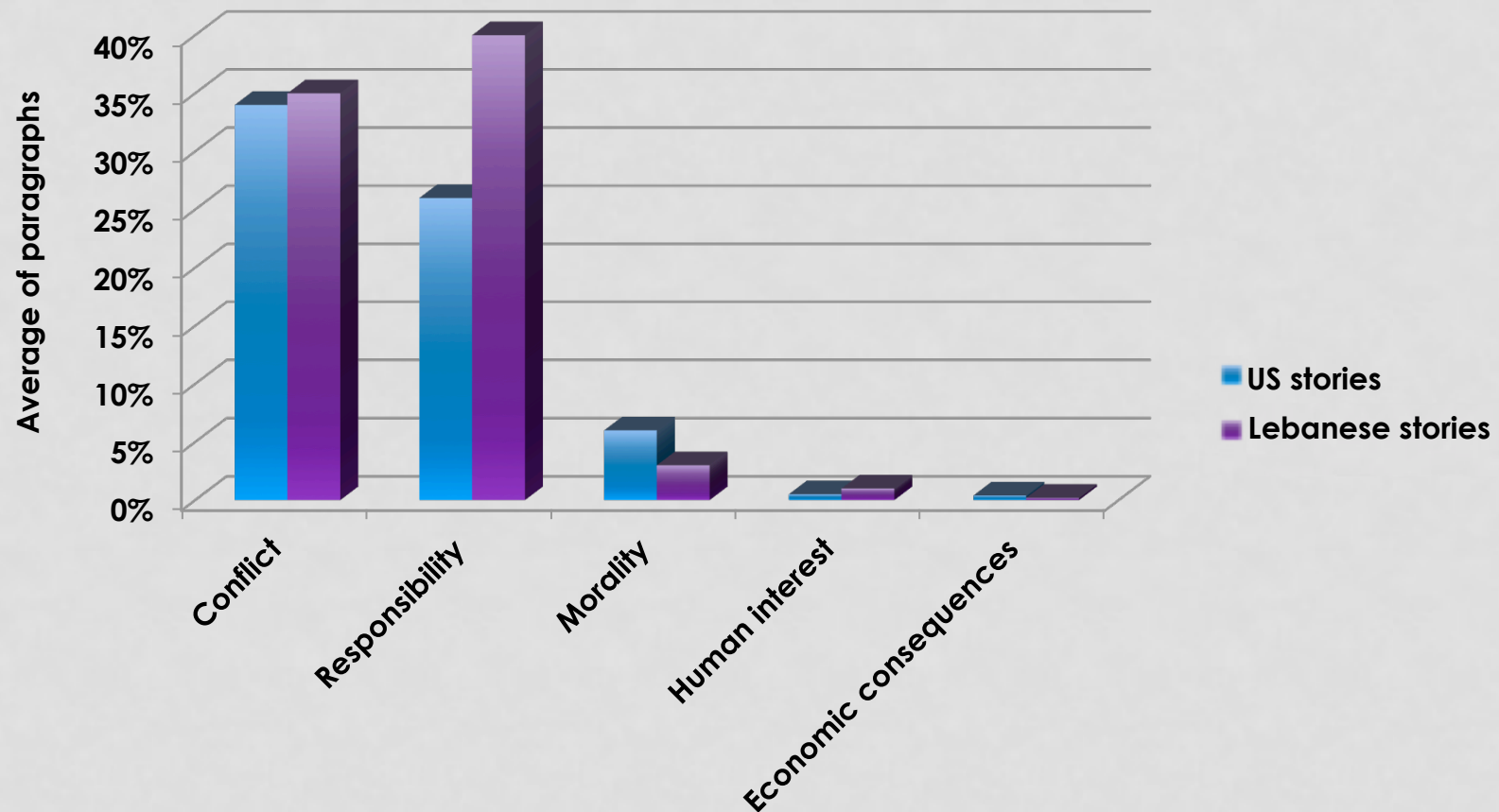
Sources	<i>B</i>	SE	<i>t</i>
(Constant)	3.819	1.277	2.99**
Obama	-0.114	0.21	-0.53
US officials	0.169	0.09	1.82*
International officials	0.194	0.12	1.59*
Russian officials	0.239	0.21	1.12
Syrian officials	0.172	0.33	0.51
Syrian rebels	0.269	0.34	0.78
Syrian citizens	-1.06	0.85	-1.23
Experts	0.509	0.18	2.78**
Interest groups	0.997	0.29	3.44***
Media	0.851	0.31	2.66**
Documents	-0.104	0.61	-0.16

$R = 0.53$, $R^2 = 0.19$.

* $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Cozma & Kozman (2014)
Aug-Sept 2013, NYT and WP

FRAMING CONFLICT: SYRIA



Cozma & Kozman (2017)
Aug-Sept 2013, US and Lebanese newspapers

FRAMING CONFLICT: SYRIA

Sources	Mean percentage of attributions		
	<i>U.S. stories</i>	<i>Lebanese stories</i>	<i>t</i>
U.S. officials	46.6	14.7	7.54**
International officials	15.3	37.1	-4.93**
Russian officials	8.0	6.3	.70
Lebanese officials	0	14.0	-4.10**
Syrian officials	4.6	3.4	.69
Syrian rebels	2.5	3.4	-.66
U.S. citizens	3.8	0	1.04*
Lebanese citizens	0	.3	-.94
Syrian citizens	.4	.1	.75
Experts	11.3	5.4	2.30*
Other sources	10.0	14.8	-1.53
N	93	106	
* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < .001$			

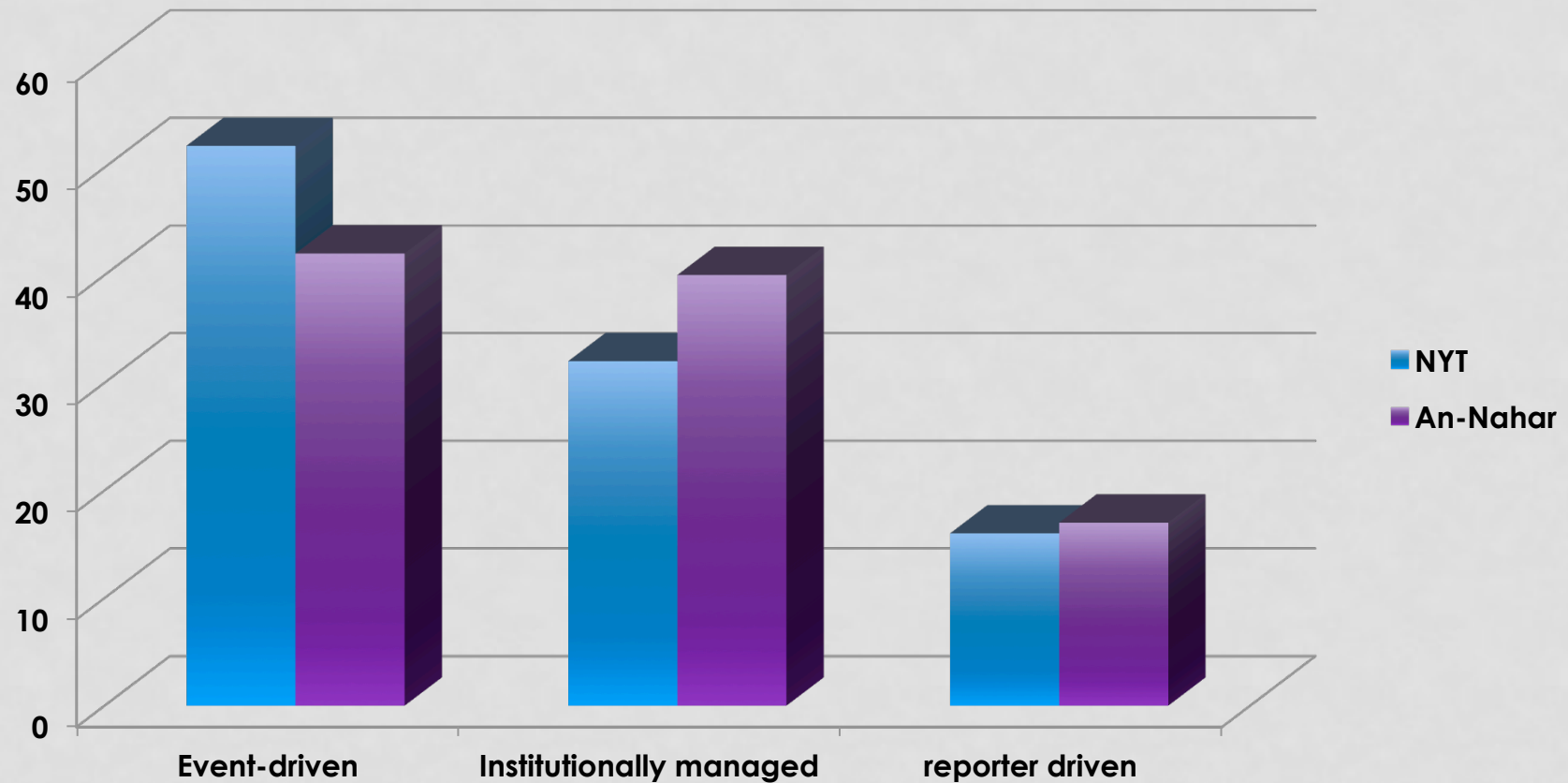
Cozma & Kozman (2017)
 Aug-Sept 2013, US and Lebanese newspapers

FRAMING CONFLICT: SYRIA

Social-media sources	<i>New York Times</i>	<i>An-Nahar</i>	<i>t</i>
U.S. officials	4.8	3.6	0.44
U.S. citizens	2.8	1.3	0.82
Syrian officials	1.6	2.7	-0.56
Rebels	6.1	2.7	1.26*
Extremists	21	20.1	0.16
Syrian citizens	9.6	0.9	3.03**
Lebanese officials	0	17.8	-5.17**
Lebanese citizens	0.8	5.1	-2.01**
International officials	17.7	11.7	1.28*
Activists	21.2	18.1	0.59
Scholars/experts	3.3	1.8	0.77
Media sources	7.1	2.8	1.51*
Other sources	3.4	11.7	1.28*
* <i>p</i> <.05, ** <i>p</i> <.001			

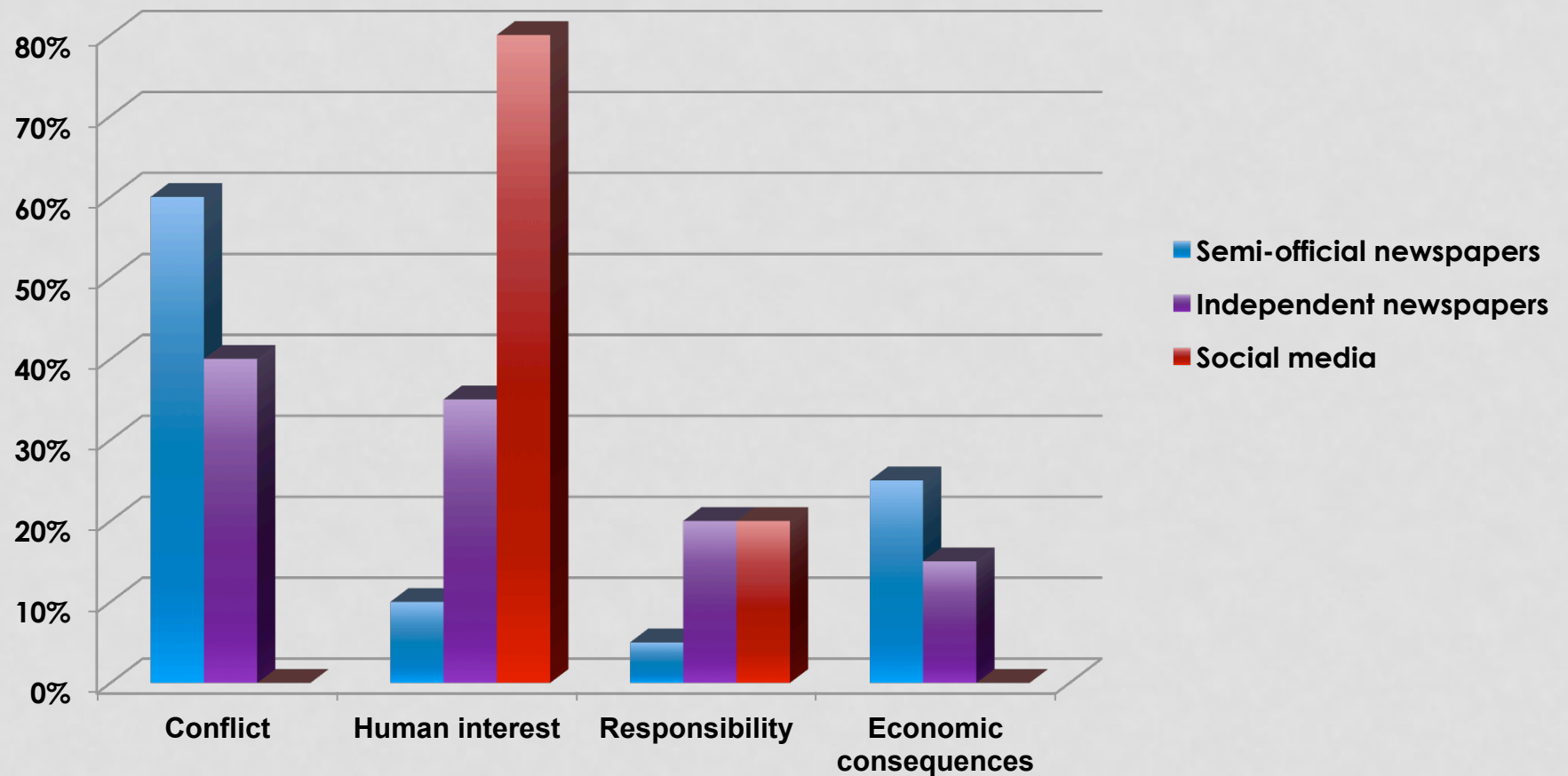
Cozma & Kozman (2017)
2011-2016, NYT and An-Nahar

FRAMING CONFLICT: SYRIA



Cozma & Kozman (2017)
2011-2016, NYT and An-Nahar

FRAMING CONFLICT: EGYPT



Hamdy & Gomaa (2012)
Jan-Feb 2011, Egyptian media

FRAMING CONFLICT: EGYPT

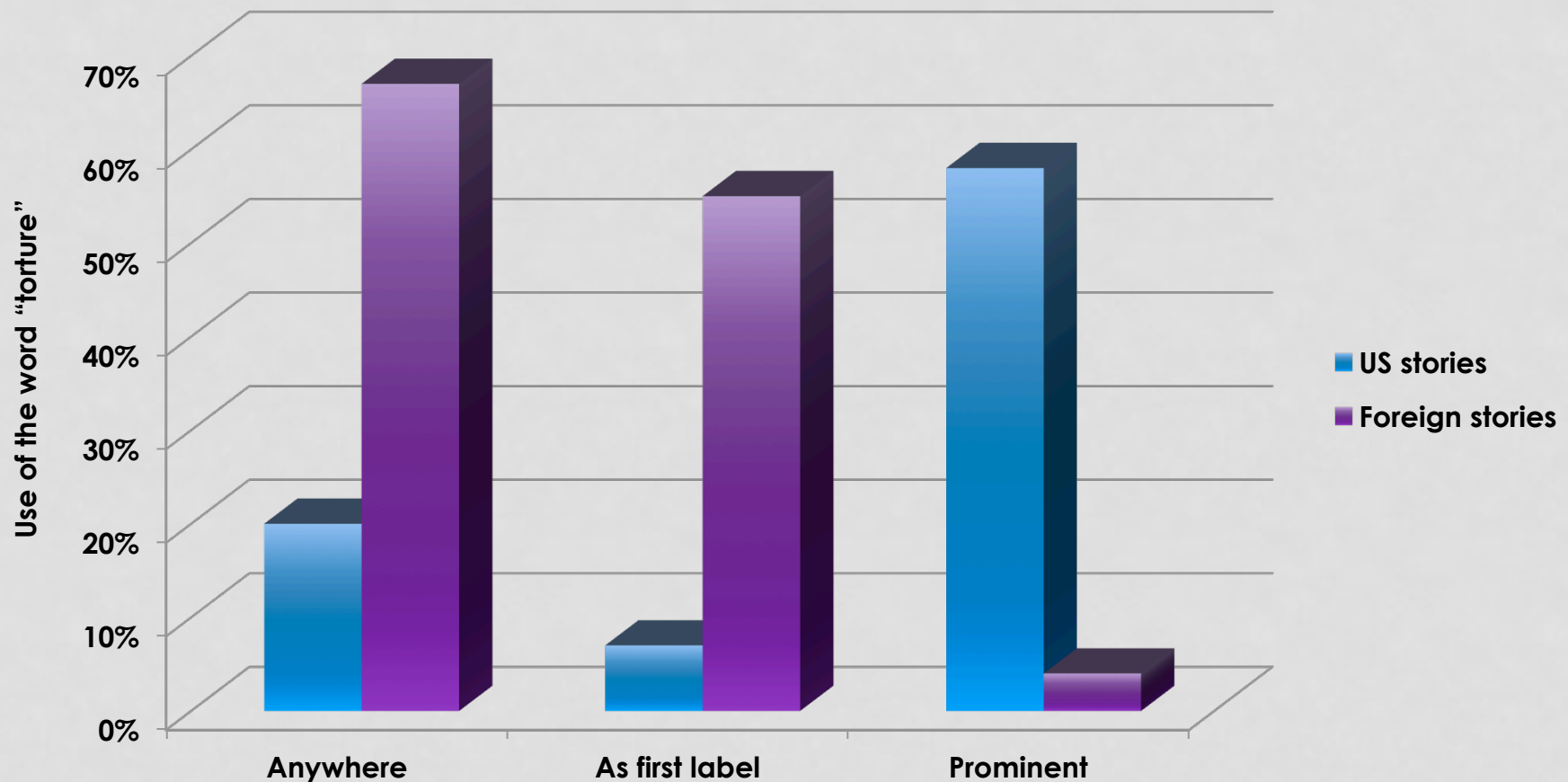
◆ Governmental newspapers:

“a conspiracy on the Egyptian state” frame, warning of economic consequence and attributing blame and responsibility for the chaos on others

◆ Social media:

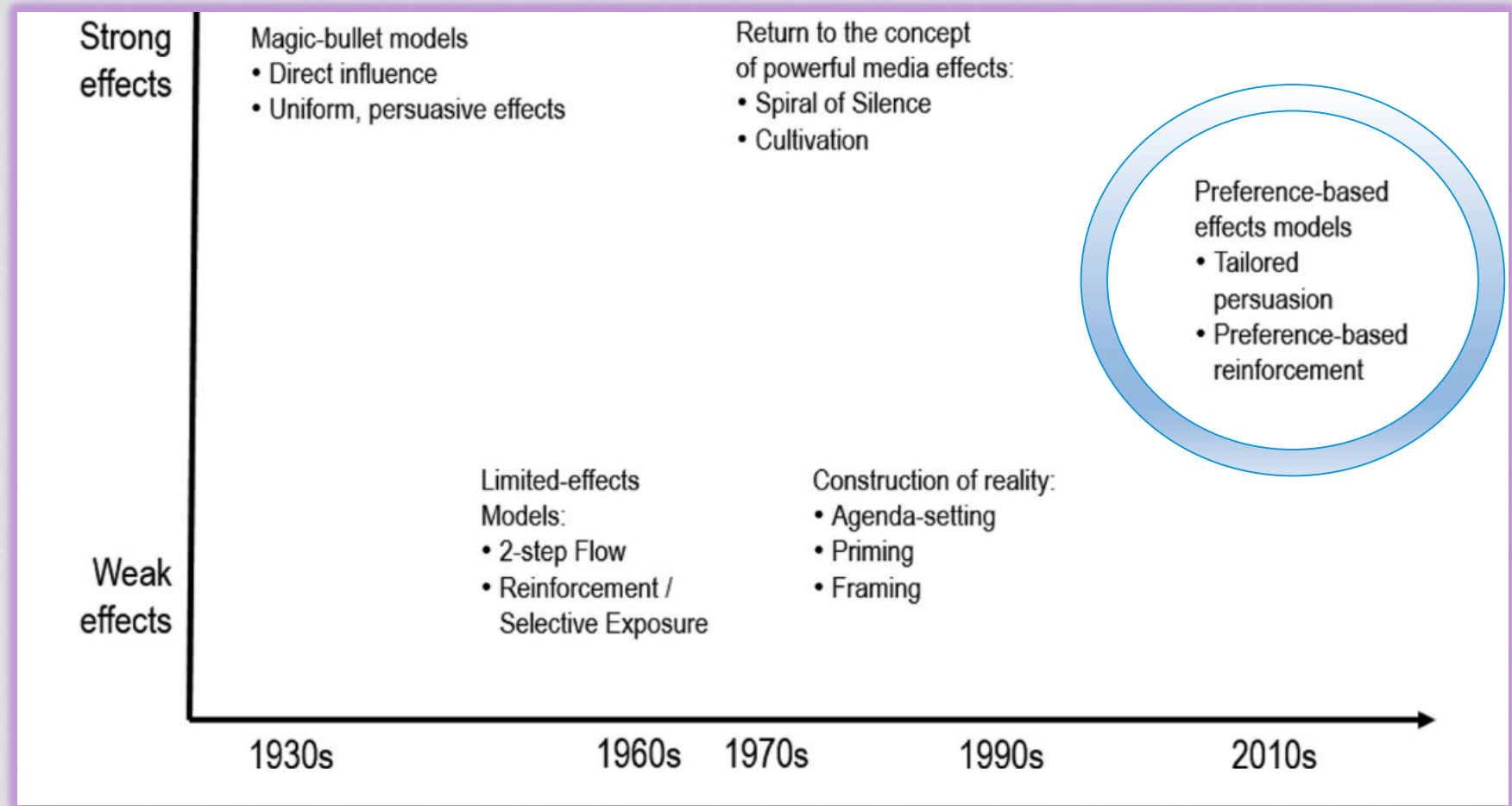
*“a revolution for freedom and social justice”
using the human interest frame*

FRAMING CONFLICT: ABU-GHRAIB



Jones & Sheets (2009)
2004-2005, US and int'l media

FRAMING IN THE DIGITAL AGE



FRAMING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

◆ Preference-based reinforcement:

- ❖ Media's tailoring of information to target fragmented publics and individuals
- ❖ The public's reliance on "echo chambers" and "filter bubbles"
- ❖ Tailored results from search engines and personalized news aggregators

FRAMING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

- ◆ War and conflict are “mediatised”
- ◆ Media frames were “weaponised”: fear, risk and resilience
- ◆ Jihadi discourses in anti-West forums framed incidents as a global attack on Islam by a “Zionist-Crusader alliance”

CONCLUSIONS

**News is
socially
constructed**

**Facts are
presented
in frames**

**Sources
influence
frames**

**War is
presented
as conflict**

Thank you!



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