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978-1-107-03195-1 - American Journalism and International Relations: Foreign  
Correspondence from the Early Republic to the Digital Era

Giovanna Dell'Orto

Frontmatter

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## American Journalism and International Relations

*Foreign Correspondence from the Early Republic  
to the Digital Era*

*American Journalism and International Relations* argues that the American press's disengagement from world affairs has critical repercussions for American foreign policy. Giovanna Dell'Orto shows that discourses created, circulated, and maintained through the media mold opinions about the world and shape foreign policy parameters.

This book is a history of U.S. foreign correspondence from the 1840s to the present, relying on more than 2,000 news articles and twenty major world events, from the 1848 European revolutions to the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. Americans' perceptions of other nations, combined with pervasive and enduring understandings of the United States' role in global politics, act as constraints on policies. Dell'Orto finds that reductive media discourse (as seen during the 1967 war in the Middle East or Afghanistan in the 1980s) has a negative effect on policy, whereas correspondence grounded in events (such as during the Japanese attack on Shanghai in the 1930s or the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991) fosters effective leadership and realistic assessments.

Giovanna Dell'Orto is assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota, where she received her PhD in 2004. She was a reporter for the Associated Press in three U.S. states and Italy. She is the author of *The Hidden Power of the American Dream: Why Europe's Shaken Confidence in the United States Threatens the Future of U.S. Influence* (2008) and *Giving Meanings to the World: The First U.S. Foreign Correspondents, 1838–1859* (2002) and coauthor (with Hazel Dicken-Garcia) of *Hated Ideas and the American Civil War Press* (2008).

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*For my family, my love, and for all the foreign correspondents who  
lost their lives while trying to shine a small light on world affairs*

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GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO

*University of Minnesota*



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While many scholars and executives wring hands over the business of new news media, a few dedicated correspondents continue to risk their lives to make some tiny addition to our collective knowledge of the world. I dedicate this book to all foreign correspondents who died for the belief that understanding should inform our actions. And, of course, I also dedicate it to my family. Most simply, without my parents, Dario Dell'Orto and Paola Casella Dell'Orto, nothing would be.