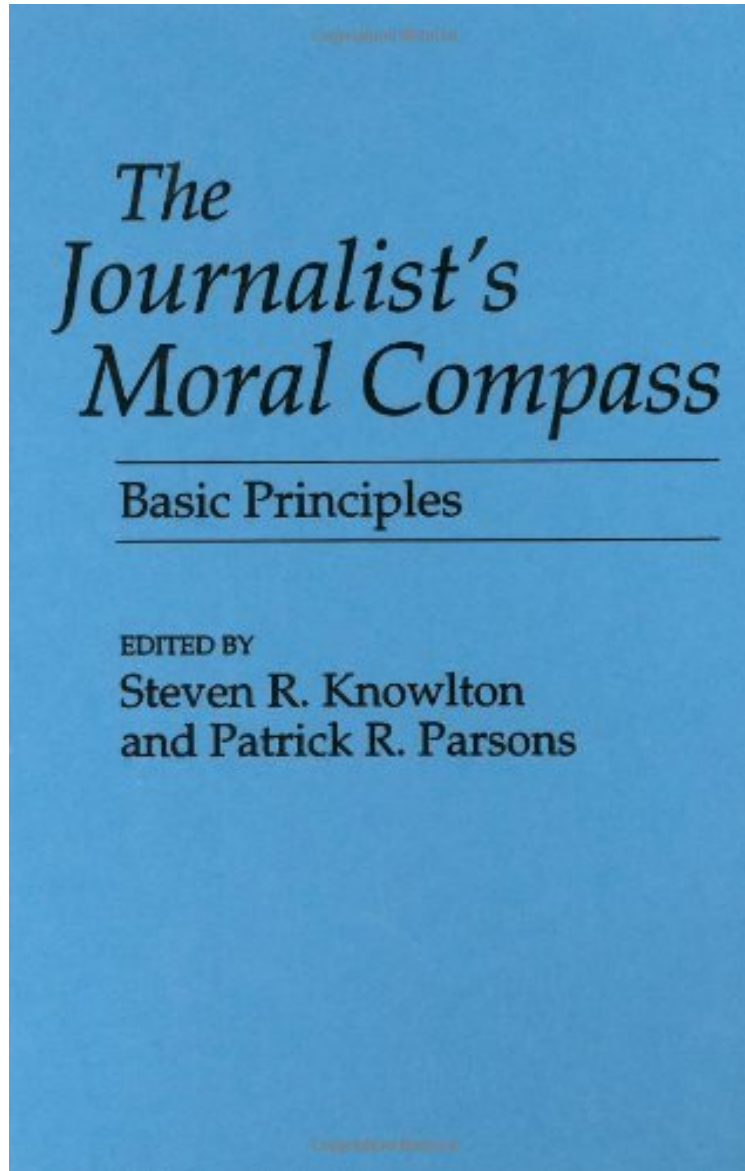


[Get free] The Journalist's Moral Compass: Basic Principles

# The Journalist's Moral Compass: Basic Principles

*Steven Knowlton, Patrick Parsons*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#915125 in eBooks 1993-11-30 1993-11-30 File Name: B000USS914 | File size: 32.Mb

**Steven Knowlton, Patrick Parsons : The Journalist's Moral Compass: Basic Principles** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Journalist's Moral Compass: Basic Principles:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential Philosophy for Journalists and Media WatchdogsBy doomsdayer520This is a unique collection of writings and book excerpts providing a philosophical and ethical background for anyone interested in the ethics of journalism or the media system. These go as far back as Plato in

ancient times, to the medieval musings on free speech by John Milton and Francis Bacon, which in turn started the press freedom concepts later brought to fruition by the likes of John Locke and "Cato," which are all presented here. The book proceeds to more modern examinations of the ethics and issues behind the press, including powerful submissions by media watchdogs such as Ben Bagdikian and A.J. Liebling. The book ends on a strong note with the prophetic but problematic findings of the 1947 Hutchings Commission and the rebuttal by John C. Merrill, which are strongly leftist and rightist respectively, and wrap up the modern realms of thought from all sides of the matter. The only problem with this volume is that some of the writings have been fragmented and edited due to space concerns, making some submissions difficult to follow (such as the essay by Samuel Warren and Louis Brandeis). In the case of book excerpts such as these, the editors should have considered a more intensive review-style description of each book's main points. [~doomsdayer520~]

What basic ethical principles should guide American journalists to help them justify their invasion of an individual's privacy, to be objective in their reporting, to avoid being influenced by government or economic controls? A wire service and newsroom veteran and a sociologist and scholar in mass media/communications have designed a philosophical guide for students, scholars, and practitioners to use as a kind of moral compass. Key excerpts from some of the most important writings on the subject from Milton to Louis Brandeis, from Plato to Sissela Bok, and from Adam Smith to John Merrill deal with some of the most serious contemporary issues in journalism today. This short text also includes the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics and a full index.

"This book does not claim to offer any simple solutions; rather, it is a succinct yet exhaustive attempt to introduce readers to the crucial issues from a historical perspective. . . . The editors' lucid introductions provide clarification. In an age of mass media characterized by a propensity for stooping to serve the lowest common denominator given expression in such pseudojournalism as *The National Enquirer* and *A Current Affair*-- it is refreshing to rediscover the field's noble roots." - *Choice*"A valuable collection of readings that will put anyone in touch with thinking on ethics from John Milton to Karl Marx to James Gordon Bennett to A.J. Liebling. The richness of these sources is what gives the book its value. . . . The book is rich in seminal ideas, and is ideal for the student of ethics. And doesn't that include all of us?" - *Journalism Educator*"An extremely helpful map of the journalism ethics territory." - *Quill*"[S]hould be a worthwhile addition to the library of most media ethics professors." - *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*About the AuthorSteven R. Knowlton, assistant professor of journalism at Pennsylvania State University with a PhD in history, worked for more than twenty years as a reporter and editor for six different newspapers around the country and for United Press International and as a press aide on a presidential campaign. His most recent book is *Popular Politics and the Irish Catholic Church* (1991).Patrick R. Parsons is associate professor of communications at Pennsylvania State University with his doctoral degree in journalism and mass communications. His recent publications include *Milestones in Cable Television USA* (1990) and *Cable Television and the First Amendment* (1987). He has written at length on ethical issues for journalists and on their roles in society.