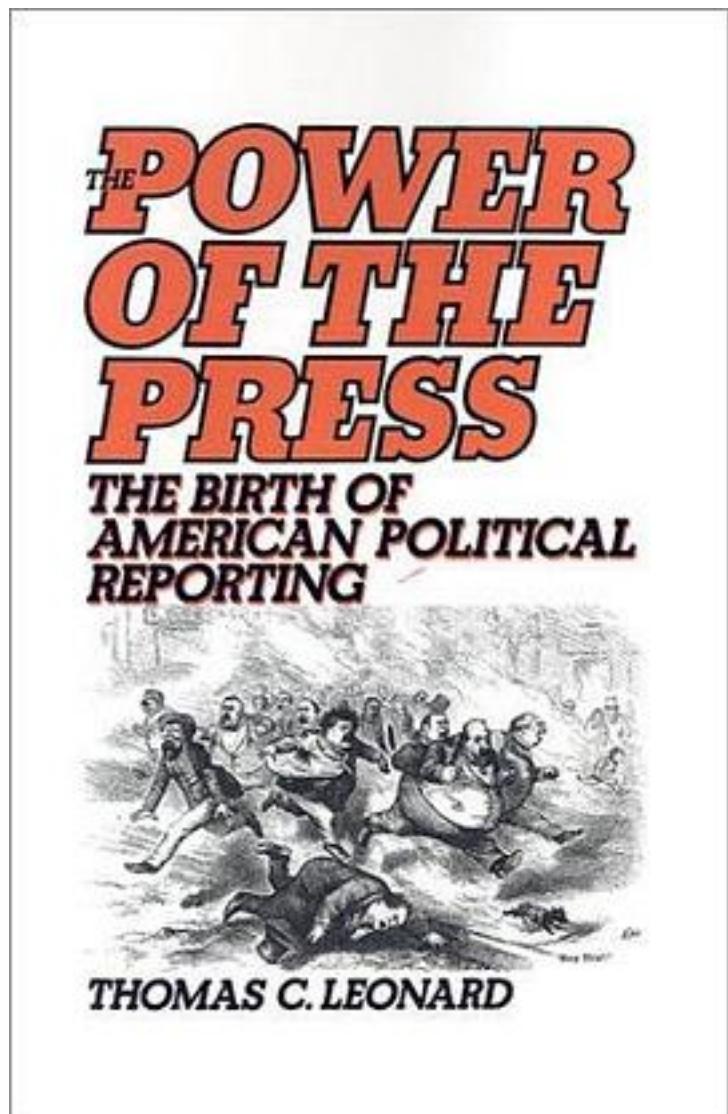


The Power of The Press



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著者:Thomas C. Leonard

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Many books have shown that journalists have political power, but none have offered a more wide-ranging account of how they got it. *The Power of the Press* is a pioneering look at the birth of political journalism.

Before the American Revolution, Thomas Leonard notes, the press in the colonies was a timid enterprise, poorly protected by law and shy of government. Newspapers helped make the Revolution, but they were not fully aware of the way they could fit into a democracy. It was only in the nineteenth century that journalists learned to tell the stories and supply the pictures that made politics a national preoccupation. Leonard traces the rise of political reporting through some fascinating corridors of American history: the exposes of the Revolutionary era, the "unfeeling accuracy" of Congressional reporting, the role of the *New York Times* and *Harper's Weekly* in attacking New York City's infamous Tweed Ring, and the emergence of "muckraking" at the beginning of our century.

The increasing power of the press in the political arena has been a double-edged sword, Leonard argues. He shows that while political reporting nurtured the broad interest in politics that made democracy possible, this journalism became a threat to political participation.

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