The 1979 Iranian hostage crisis was an event that galvanized the nation as 52 Americans were held hostage for over a year in Iran. The hostage crisis was humiliating for the United States, and it harmed the Carter administration, which had underestimated the growing Islamic revival in Iran. An operation was planned that sent an elite team into the embassy compound to rescue the hostages. The timing of the release created the impression that Reagan had engineered the settlement, although the release had been completely arranged by the Carter administration with Algerian diplomats as go-betweens. Freed Americans held hostage by Iran disembark Freedom One, an Air Force VC-137 Stratoliner aircraft, upon their arrival at the base. The American policymakers attitude to the Iranian crisis was riddled with ignorance and arrogance, and following the hostage crisis, the United States proceeded to sever diplomatic relations with Iran and support Iraq's invasion of the country. Reconciliation seemed difficult, if not impossible. At the time of writing, hostility is flaring up again between the two countries, and it seems obvious that the hostage crisis created deep wounds that should have been treated a long time ago. To Americans in general, the hostage crisis was never really about Iran. It was about the American nation's jo

Time and Newseek's coverage of the Iranian hostage crisis: a counterpoint to the critics

Flanderka, Peter Charles

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Abstract:
The Iranian hostage crisis, some have claimed, attracted more media attention than any international diplomatic incident in recent history. In turn, that large amount of coverage attracted considerable and severe criticism from several sources, most notably Edward W. Said of Columbia University. This thesis is a qualitative examination of that coverage in two of the United States' most widely read and respected news media members: Time and Newsweek magazines. Despite boasting circulations of more than 4 million (Time) and 2.5 million (Newsweek), and being recognized as legitimate members of the U.S. elite press, the newsmagazines have rarely been studied with regard to their reporting habits. This study offers a systematic, chronological analysis of their reporting of the 444-day hostage crisis, examining several coverage qualities and focusing on their agenda-setting roles during the 14 1/2-month period. The study is based on a page-by-page analysis of every other issue of the newsmagazines, starting with the November 12, 1979, issues and finishing with the February 2, 1981, issues. The major finding of the thesis is that, while exhibiting some coverage flaws, Time and Newsweek reported the hostage crisis better than hypothesized. Host of the criticism aimed at U.S. media coverage generally by Said and others simply do not apply to the two newsmagazines. Time and Newsweek, exhibiting virtually identical coverage, were found to have reported the hostage crisis extensively and equitably, avoiding blatant bias and stereotypical labels. They offered insightful background material and reported the story from several approaches, but were, nonetheless, guilty of avoiding the presentation of important Iranian perspective reports.

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