Disaster Pornography and Manufactured Consent
Disaster Pornography

• Demands for visual can lead to unbalanced reporting of world events and since visuals make good news some critics see a trend towards exploiting disasters which provides an unrealistic notion of certain places, especially less developed countries

• less dramatic stories with less visual interests are cut or buried
Visuals exploit situation
The PHOTO in the mail is the "Pulitzer prize" winning photo taken in 1994 during the Sudan famine. The picture depicts a famine stricken child crawling towards an United Nations food camp, located a kilometer away.

> The vulture is waiting for the child to die so that it can eat it. This picture shocked the whole world. No one knows what happened to the child, including the photographer Kevin Carter who left the place as soon as the photograph was taken.

> Three months later he committed suicide due to depression.
Manufacturing Consent

- Manufacturing Consent is a theory by famous linguist and noted critic of American policy, Noam Chomsky.
- His belief is that a key function of mass media is to mobilize public support for the special interests that dominate the government and private sector, a propaganda model to convince people to live a certain way.
- The purpose of this is to alter public opinion, promote image and direct people's actions.
Manufacturing Consent

• Demonize: to describe a person or group as completely evil, deserving of no sympathy or understanding

• Lies or Disinformation: false information deliberately spread in order to influence public opinion
Selected Images: simple selection or rejection of images
• Propaganda: ideas, information, or rumours spread deliberately to help a cause or to damage an opposing cause

• Censorship: the practice of removing from publications and broadcasts information that may be considered harmful to the interests of those in power

• Omission
  • “Hussein has threatened to destroy the Coalition army.”
  • “...., if the U.S. crosses the Iraqi border”