

My dissertation "Focused on Africa: the Czech TV news coverage" tries to describe how the Czech TV news programs reflect the African events. Contents of the current international news coverage are influenced by many factors: the application of news values, impact of globalization processes, the countries' position in the global state hierarchy as well as the contextual factors of the mentioned countries. As early as 1922, Walter Lippmann said that the news media are windows into a wide world lying beyond our immediate experience. These particular windows define our cognitive world map. His words still apply - even almost a hundred years later. News media help their recipients to make their own view of places they do not know personally. Africa has traditionally been perceived as a continent stigmatized by famine, AIDS, civil wars, humanitarian crises or economic problems. That's why I'm trying to capture the way in which Czech TV news programs inform about African events – which topics they prefer and which African countries they are focusing on in their news programs. I'm trying to find an answer whether Czech news media contribute to the above mentioned perceiving of the African continent.