

Abstract

This thesis analyses media coverage of the My Lai Massacre and the Abu Ghraib torture and prisoner abuse scandal in American daily newspapers The New York Times and The Washington Post published in the period from November 12, 1969 to December 12, 1969 as for the My Lai Massacre, and from April 28, 2004 to May 28, 2004 as for the Abu Ghraib Scandal. The methodology of the thesis is derived from the principles of content media analysis. The thesis uses the method of comparison of the above mentioned incidents from the Vietnam and Iraq War, respectively, to examine the impacts of the transformation of the US policy towards media on the quality of the reported information. This thesis verifies the hypothesis that the goals of the restrictive measures taken by the US government against media during and before the Iraq War, have not been met in every aspect and that some controversies which were to be kept classified came public in consequence.