

Truman Garcia Capote (1924 - 1984) and Norman Kingsley Mailer (born 1923) were renown in the 1960s as both novelists and journalists. In two of their best-known and often most valued works, *In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences* (1965) and *The Armies of the Night: History as a Novel- The Novel as History* (1968), they attempted to combine their novelistic and journalistic skills to a yet unprecedented degree and create what Capote himself termed a "nonfiction novel". They wrote book-long texts which 'read like novels', but were simultaneously well-researched and highly accurate journalistic reportages on real events. Originally started as magazine assignments, they both established themselves as landmarks of the 1960s American novel and as central works of the American new journalism, a literary and journalistic movement and genre attempting to blend literary writing techniques with journalistic factuality and accuracy.

Despite their common aim and status as "nonfiction novels", however, *In Cold Blood* and *The Armies of the Night* represent radically different, even antithetic types of both novel and reportage. A more detailed analysis and critical assessment of their differences and their relationship to other similar works, which I will attempt in this MA thesis, should enhance our understanding of the whole phenomenon of American new journalism and the nonfiction novel in the 1960s and 1970s. It will also elucidate some commonly misused terms such as "fact" and "fiction", "truth" and "falsehood", "reality" and "fable", as well as reveal some intriguing relationships between these frequently misunderstood concepts in the largely altered, mediaconstructed postmodern world of the 1960s and beyond.