

Shifting Biases, Shifting Decisions: U.S Media Coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict from 2005-2010



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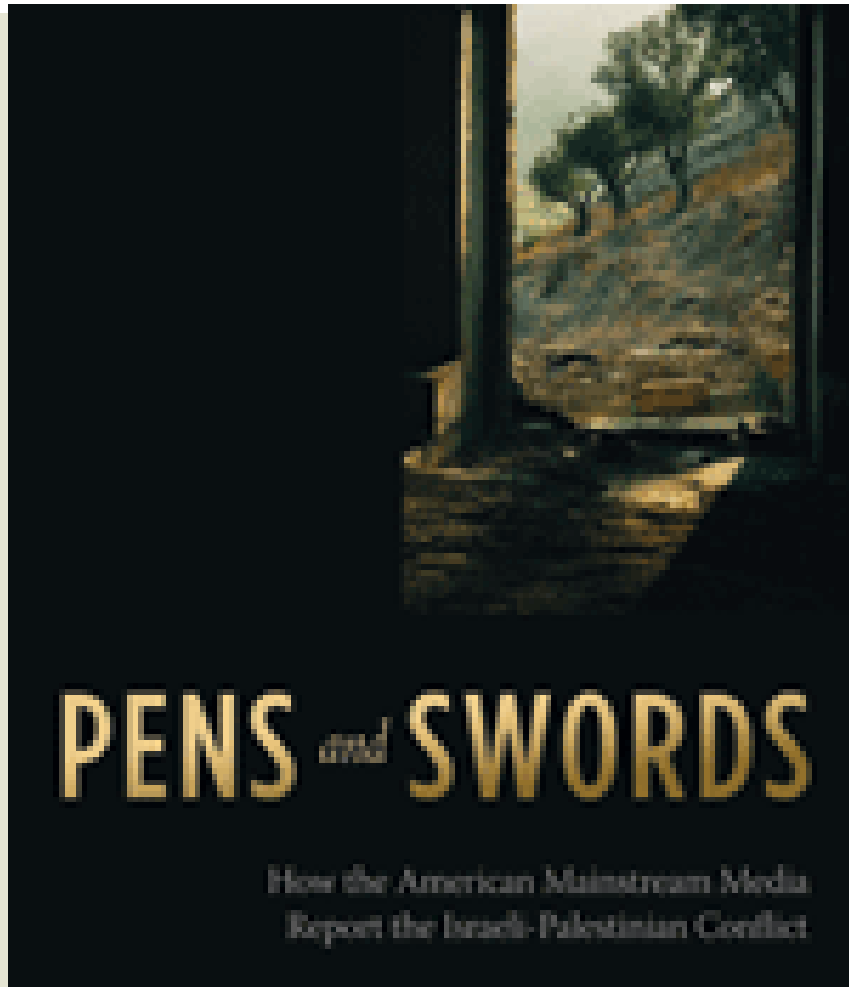
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Research Question



To what extent does a shift in U.S. newspaper rhetoric from 2005-2010 correspond to a shift in political rhetoric?

Conventional Wisdom vs. My Argument



- Previous scholars say:
U.S. media always biased towards the Israeli side.
- I say:
 - Past scholarly analysis is insufficient and incomplete for 2009-2010.
 - Change in U.S. media discourse after Barack Obama.

Theoretical Framework



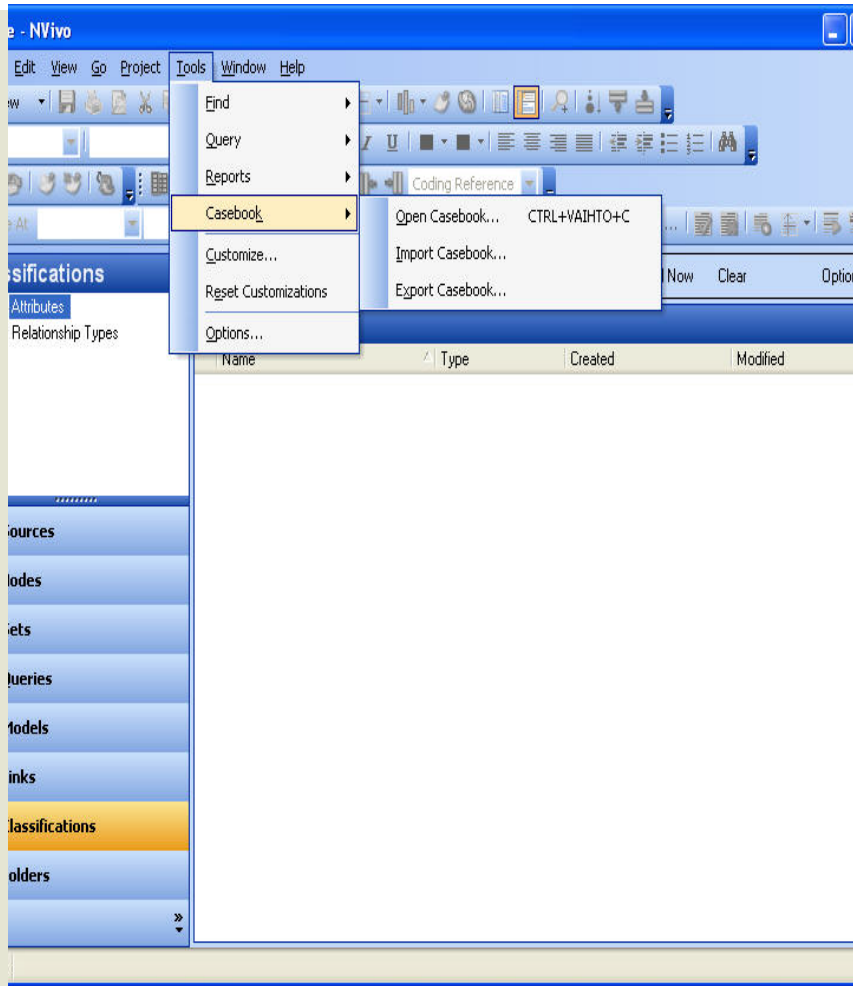
Media Framing Theory



Securitization Theory

Securitization as a
Media Framing
Effect
(Hybrid Theory)

Research Design



- **Step 1: Content Analysis of newspaper articles regarding the Israeli-Palestinian settlement conflict from 2005-2010.**
- **Step 2: Discourse Analysis of newspaper articles**
- **Step 3: Content and discourse analysis of George W. Bush and Barack Obama's political speeches.**

Key Words for Coding and Analyzing Newspaper Discourse

Word(s)	Violence (terrorism, kill, shot, suicide bombing, slay)	Positive Names of Players (victims, resisters, soldiers)	Negative Names of Players (militant, guerrillas, terrorist, Islamist, fundamentalist, suicide bomber, bad guys)	Peace (compromise, collaborate)
Frequency (number of occurrences in both the NYT and the WSJ)	2005-2008: 323 2009-2010: 51	2005-2008: 75 2009-2010: 35	2005-2008: 334 2009-2010: 50	2005-2008: 40 2009-2010: 24
Word(s)	Positive Situation in the West Bank and Gaza (Judea and Samaria, disputed territories, scattered territories, administered territories)	Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip (occupied, territories, occupation, colonization, settlements)	The Wall as a Positive Signifier (security barrier, security fence)	The Wall as a Negative Signifier (separation barrier, separation fence, barrier, West Bank barrier, Apartheid wall, perimeter)
Frequency (number of occurrences in both the NYT and the WSJ)	2005-2008: 4 2009-2010: 5	2005-2008: 215 2009-2010: 121	2005-2008: 18 2009-2010: 3	2005-2008: 81 2009-2010: 10

Findings



1. Since 2009, the U.S. media has begun to frame the Palestinian narrative in the conflict differently.
2. No shift in rhetoric regarding settlements and the Palestinian Territories. U.S. media has not shifted its bias regarding the Israeli side.
3. Overlap between political speeches and the U.S. media.

Implications



Theoretical

- Media influence political outcomes via framing.
- Conflict resolution and the securitized media frame

Practical

- Change in rhetoric to cause policy shifts over time.
- Changing perceptions of the U.S. in the Arab world.