



# Mass Disruption: Thirty Years on the Front Lines of a Media Revolution

*John Stackhouse*

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**Mass Disruption: Thirty Years on the Front Lines of a Media Revolution** John Stackhouse  
Drawing on his thirty years in newspapers, the former editor-in-chief of *The Globe and Mail* examines the crisis of serious journalism in the digital era, and searches for ways the invaluable tradition can thrive in a radically changed future.

John Stackhouse entered the newspaper business in a golden age: 1980s circulations were huge and wealthy companies lined up for the privilege of advertising in every city's best-read pages. Television and radio could never rival newspapers for hard news, analysis and opinion, and the papers' brand of serious journalism was considered a crucial part of life in a democratic country. Then came the Internet...

After decades as a *Globe* journalist, foreign bureau chief and then editor of its *Report on Business* (not to mention former Scarborough delivery boy), he assumed one of the biggest jobs in Canadian journalism: *The Globe and Mail's* editor-in-chief. Beginning in 2009, he faced the unthinkable: the possible end of not just Canada's "national" newspaper, but the steep and steady financial decline of newspapers everywhere. A non-stop torrent of free digital content stole advertisers and devalued advertising space so quickly that newspapers struggled to finance the serious journalism that distinguished them in a world of *Buzzfeed*, *Huffington Post*, *Yahoo* and innumerable bloggers and citizen journalists. Meanwhile, ambitious online media aspired to the credibility of newspapers. The solution was clear, if the path to arriving at it was less so: the new school needed to meet the old school, and the future lay in undiscovered ground between them.

Having led the *Globe* during this period of sudden and radical change, Stackhouse continues to champion the vital role of great reporting and analysis. Filled with stories from his three decades in the business, *Mass Disruption* tracks decisions good and bad, examines how some of the world's major newspapers--the *Guardian*, *New York Times*--are learning to cope, and lays out strategies for the future, of both newspapers and serious journalism, wherever it may live.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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