

Book Review: Mick Hume, *There Is No Such Thing as a Free Press...and We Need One More Than Ever.* Societas Imprint Academic, 2012. ISBN: 978-1845403508 (Paperback). 187 Pages. £8.95/\$17.90.

Reviewed by Dominic Standish¹

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In our Internet age, we can sometimes make the mistake of thinking that journalism has become opened up to a plethora of opinions and free expression. This viewpoint is especially tempting in the United States due to digital advancement, the diversity of population, and, crucially, the protection of free speech enshrined in the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The First Amendment states, “Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,” (p. 71) reminds Mick Hume in his book *There's No Such Thing as a Free Press*. Although this book argues that the First Amendment is still vital for free speech in America, Hume identifies some vital trends that are currently placing considerable limits on journalists' freedom.

Hume is particularly well placed to identify these trends. He was formerly the editor of *Living Marxism* magazine, which was re-launched as *LM* magazine in the 1990s and forced to close in 2000 after being sued under British libel laws. He then became the editor of the online magazine *Spiked*, before writing as a columnist at *The Times* of London, while continuing as Editor-at-large for *Spiked*. The writing and publication of this book were partially prompted by the closure of the popular British newspaper *The News of the World* following a phone hacking scandal, which led to a British Parliamentary Inquiry overseen by Lord Justice Leveson. This Inquiry questioned the former owners of *The News of the World*, including Rupert Murdoch, who is Executive

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