



# Emergence of a Free Press

*Leonard W. Levy*

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## **Emergence of a Free Press** Leonard W. Levy

What did "freedom of the press" really mean to the framers of the First Amendment and their contemporaries? This masterful book by a Pulitzer Prize-winning constitutional historian answers that question. In *Emergence of a Free Press* (a greatly revised and enlarged edition of his landmark *Legacy of Suppression*), Leonard W. Levy argues that the First Amendment was not designed to be the bulwark of a free press that many thought, nor had the amendment's framers intended to overturn the common law of seditious libel that was the principal means of stifling political dissent. Yet he notes how robust and rambunctious the early press was, and he takes that paradox into account in tracing the succession of cases and reforms that figured in the genesis of a free press. Mr. Levy's brilliant account offers a new generation of readers a penetrating look into the origins of one of America's most cherished freedoms.

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