

"Al Arabiya" and "Al Jazeera" in German Media

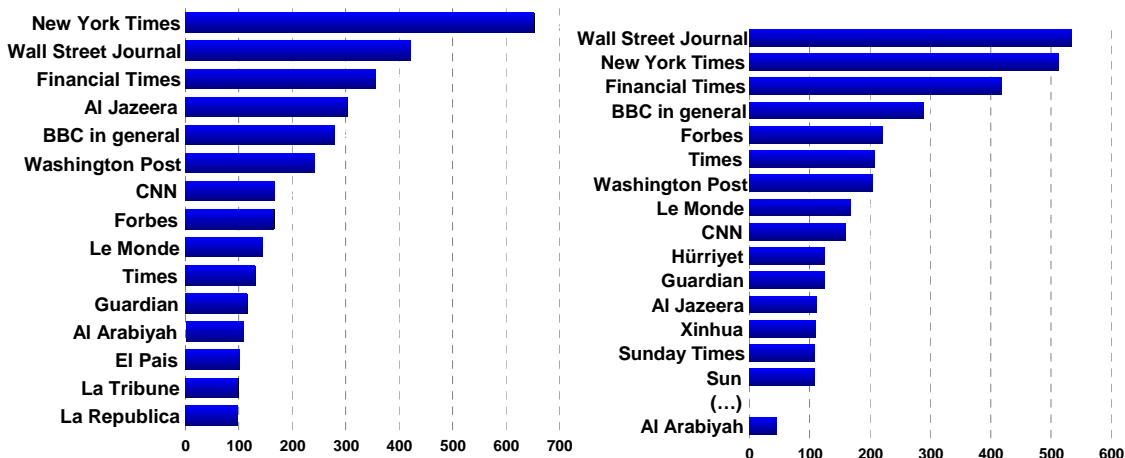
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Opinion leading German media often quote foreign press organizations to give German audiences a sense of political, economic and social life outside their country. Foreign media quotes also capture the observations of the reporters who are closest to foreign news stories. During the first nine months of 2006 and 2007, opinion leading German media quoted "The New York Times", "The Wall Street Journal" and "Financial Times" most often. "Al Jazeera" and "Al Arabiya" were the most heavily quoted Arabic media (Chart 1). In comparison to 2006 and 2007, quotations from Middle East media outlets lost presence.

Positive news was not often the focus of quoted coverage. The fate of kidnapped people from foreign countries was the main focus of quotes from "Al Arabiya" and "Al Jazeera" in German media. German media quoted Middle East outlets on little other than kidnappings, killings and conflicts. (Charts 2 and 3)

Does this coverage truly reflect life in the Middle East? How does this kind of coverage influence the view that Germans have of the Middle East? Are German media upholding their responsibility to report objective foreign coverage?

Chart 1:
Most often quoted foreign media in German media
(January – September 2006 and 2007)



Quotations of foreign media
in German media from
01/01 to 09/30/2006

Quotations of foreign media
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Basis: a total of 22,470 quotations from 01/01 to 09/30/2006 and 24,373 quotations from 01/01 to 09/30/2007 in 39 German opinion leading media

Chart 2:
Topics of "Al Arabiya" quotations
in German opinion leading media (January – September 2007)

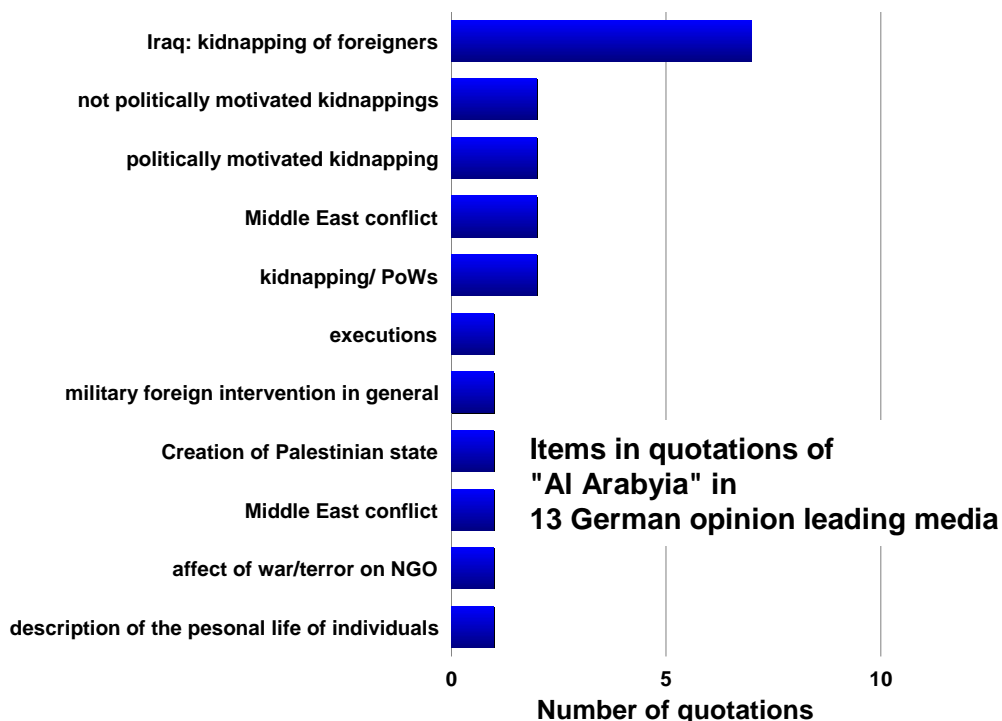


Chart 3:
Topics of "Al Jazeera" quotations
in German opinion leading media (January – September 2007)



Basis: a total of 93 quotations of "Al Arabiya" and "Al Jazeera" in 20 German