

## On *The Times* and its Sources

### 1) *The Times* (1788-)

- \* founded as *Daily Universal Register*, 1785, under John Walter I (1739-1812)
- \* with new type-setting method, one of nine daily papers
- \* taken over by his son John Walter II (1776-1847), in 1803, remaining in family hands to 1908
- \* new independence of government, new printing technology, new editor Thomas Barnes (1817-41)
- \* strong supporter of Parliamentary Reform, leading to Reform Act of 1832

“We are staunch friends to a broad and fundamental reform; and if enemies to universal suffrage, or to the establishment of a low qualification for the great mass of electors, it is because such a principle would be, in effect, a narrowing of the representative system, by the virtual exclusion of all influence derived from property. We are haters of all monopolies, and among others of a monopoly of the elective franchise, by such a reform of Parliament, by means of universal suffrage, the mass, and with the mass the dregs, of the existing population.” (*The Times*, Editorial, 9 Dec. 1830)

- \* new young liberal editor John Thadeus Delane (1841-77), independence even of liberal govts

“To perform its duties with entire independence ... the press can enter into no close or binding alliances with the statesmen of the day, nor can it surrender its permanent interests to the convenience of the ephemeral power of any Government. ...”

“... The duty of the journalist is the same as that of the historian,– to seek out the truth, above all things, and to present to his readers, not such things as statecraft would wish them to know, but the truth, as near as he can attain to it.” (*The Times*, Editorials, 6 & 7 Feb. 1852)

- \* *The Times* as “The Thunderer”
- \* *The Times* as “journal of record”
- \* the power of *The Times* in the Victorian period representing class rather than party interests

“*The Times* is one of the greatest powers in the world - in fact, I don’t know anything which has more power, except perhaps the Mississippi.”

(Abraham Lincoln to *Times* War Correspondent William Howard Russell in 1861)

### 2) *New York Courier and Enquirer* (1829-61)

- \* commercial daily under editor James Watson Webb (1802-84)
- \* Whig Unionist, against abolition of slavery
- \* fierce rival of Horace Greeley’s *New York Tribune* (1841-), abolitionist, supporter of Kossuth
- \* absorbed into *New York World* in 1861

### 3) *China Mail* (1845-1974)

- \* longest English-language paper in Hong Kong under British rule (Crown Colony, 1842-1997)
- \* official government gazette in early decades, also serving as government printer
- \* first editor, the Scot Andrew Shortrede, founder of (Hong Kong) Royal Asiatic Society (1847-)



John Walter II



John Thadeus Delane



James Watson Webb

*China Mail*