

# The Fourth Power today

How has the Fourth Power changed in the last few years?

## A

### From paper to screen



- 1 What does the cartoon highlight?
- 2 Read the article. What are the economic and social consequences of the development of the digital press?
- 3 Do you prefer to read the news in newspapers or online? Why?

**A**T LEAST 120 NEWSPAPERS IN THE U.S. have shut down since January 2008, according to Paper Cuts, a website tracking the newspaper industry. More than 21,000 jobs at 67 newspapers have vaporized in that time, according to the site. Newspapers are losing their relevance<sup>1</sup> in the lives of a majority of Americans, particularly younger readers. Many industry analysts agree many more papers will soon become extinct. Daily subscriptions per household began a steady decline in the 1920s, yet the newspaper industry adapted and thrived<sup>2</sup> despite competition from radio and television. But easily accessible, high-speed Internet connections and smartphones have dramatically shifted the way people get their news.



CNN (March 19th 2009)

1. importance 2. prospérer

## B

### The rise of the free press



- 1 Read the text once. What is the key idea?
- 2 After reading the text, answer the following questions, using your own arguments:
  - a. What economic and social consequences could the rise of the free press have?
  - b. Why is the free press so popular in modern society?



**A**NYONE RIDING THE LONDON UNDERGROUND, a Dutch commuter train or the Seoul metro in rush hour will see people reading newspapers. Not the regular traditional broadsheet<sup>1</sup> paid-for newspapers but mostly free tabloids. There are now free newspapers in 56 countries. Market leader *Metro* distributes more than 8 million copies daily, while other companies publish more than 35 million copies. These copies are read by at least 80 million people daily. In four European countries (Iceland, Denmark, Spain and Portugal) more free than paid papers are distributed (Monday to Friday) while in more than a dozen European countries the newspaper with the highest circulation is a free paper.

1. journal de qualité