

Period surveyed July 31, 2020 – August 1st, 2021

UNITED STATESStrengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats Analysis

STRENGTHS	Freedom of speech and the press is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, and there are decades of precedents and laws that protect this right. The State exerts little influence on the direction of the media, which are independent to work freely without fear of reprisals or punishment from the government.
WEAKNESSES	The past three years have shown that extreme political tendencies, mainly right-wing, have managed to gain traction in the U.S. political landscape. For example, some state legislatures are passing laws that hinder the voting process and voter registration, weakening a fundamental part of the democratic system. If the trend continues, it is possible that these legislatures will try to pass laws that hinder the free information flow and allow the detention of journalists and confiscation of information materials. The strength and penetration of social media and its critical role in distributing disinformation remains a real threat in the United States, and the world. There are still no clear strategies to limit the distribution of this type of false information, something that weakens the veracity of the information consumed by the American audience.
OPPORTUNITIES	Organizations such as the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker and Reporters Without Borders do an excellent job of preserving freedom of the press and expression. It is important to support these organizations and continue to create opportunities for such institutions to emerge to protect the right to the free information flow.
THREATS	The increase in rhetoric against journalists and media outlets that come from political personalities makes the environment for the practice of journalism more difficult. Increasingly, journalists are exposed to attacks, not only from police officers but also from civilians and political groups.

