

Prince Harry Is Right, and It's Not Just a Matter of Royal Gossip

Based on an article by **Zeynep Tufekci**, 25/01/2023, **New York Times**

Any close follower of the British media should not have been surprised that after Prince Harry fell in love with Meghan Markle, the biracial American actress, years of **vitriolic**, even racist coverage followed.

Whipping hatred and **spreading** lies — including on issues far more consequential than a royal romance — is a specialty of Britain's atrocious but politically **influential** tabloids.

People like me, uninterested in celebrities, shouldn't dismiss the **brouhaha** around Harry's memoir as mere celebrity **tittle-tattle**. He has made credible, even documented claims that his own family refused to stand up against their ugly, sustained attacks against Meghan. In other words, it appears that Britain's most revered institution, funded by **tens of millions** in taxpayer funds annually, plays **ball** with one of its most revolting institutions.

At the very **least**, it seems clear by now where some senior members of the royal family position themselves in all this.

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Harry has said that he pleaded with his family to publicly condemn this ugly campaign. But instead, Harry says in his book, "Spare," the couple were ordered to remain silent, even against **outright** lies. "Never **complain**, never **explain**," was the royal motto.

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Harry has claimed that while the royal family stayed silent about the media's abuse of his wife, behind the scenes it **leaked**, **planted** or **influenced** stories with the worst elements of the Royal Rota — representatives of news organizations that cover the palace in a preferential press pool — in return for favorable coverage for themselves or distractions from their own brewing scandals.

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The British journalist Andrew Marr, a confessed fan of Queen Elizabeth II, says Harry's claims are important. After all, Marr said it well: "Either well-known journalists are making a lot of stuff **up**, just sitting at their laptops at the kitchen table inventing the detail of **feuds** and private confrontations, or a particularly confidence-rotting form of anonymous **briefing** has been taking place."

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My impression from his memoir is that Harry wants to make a **crusade** of applying **sunlight** to corrupt media practices and his family's participation in them. If he succeeds in fighting the **vile** forces that he feels contributed to his mother's death and imperiled his newfound love, he might bring a greater sense of **decency** in Britain, and maybe even **curtail** the power of the worst practices in media. Good luck to him.