

CIA OFFICER'S TOP 5 MOST TRUSTED NEWS SOURCES IN 2020

Greetings Everyday Spy,

Finding reliable news gets harder every year.

The constant demand for news makes it harder for genuine news sources to publish professional stories and easier for bad news sources to publish incorrect/false stories. The general public has shifted away from wanting paid news content (newspapers, weekly journals, etc.) to preferring free news content (websites, blogs, online videos). The result is that reliable, vetted, factual information gets lost in a sea of half-baked, incomplete, and repetitive speculation.

At CIA, you don't have to go far before you find a TV, tabletop, or old-school FM radio (receive-only, non-digital) focused on current events.

Agency field officers, analysts, tech specialists and linguists constantly consume news from all over the world. We closely follow world news not only to hear what the world - and our enemies - are hearing, but also to find small pieces of data that help us uncover larger intelligence secrets (known as OSINT: Open Source Intelligence).

Working at Langley spoils us for factual reporting because we have access to the most sensitive secrets around the world. If we want to know what a dictator, general, or drug dealer is really doing, we have human assets and technical devices that uncover the truth quickly.

But when I left the shining halls of CIA, I discovered just how hard it was to find impactful, meaningful news in the everyday world.

I left a life serving in the shadows to start a life serving in the light. [Now I train everyday people to use the spy skills and tactics](#) I use to solve everyday problems...

Like finding trustworthy news sources in an age of fake news.

In 2020, these are the news sources I rely on the most to give me factual reporting.

I have no business partnership with any of the outlets and nothing to gain from your using them or ignoring them. I give my honest thoughts about their bias, their limitations, and their effectiveness as openly as I share their value to me.

I hope they can serve you in your mission to find the facts that matter most to you.

AP ASSOCIATED PRESS

Associated Press - apnews.com

Associated Press (AP) is an American not-for-profit news agency headquartered in New York City. I like AP because its non-profit model encourages quality of reporting over quantity of reporting, reducing the number of shallow/false stories.

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While it has a mild left-leaning political editorial theme, the actual reporting is some of the most fair and balanced in the world. I use AP to stay updated on daily US national news, international developments, breaking news, and when I'm looking to fact check a story I suspect could be fake.



Reuters - [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com)

Reuters is a news and media division of Thomson Reuters Corporation, headquartered in London, England. A for-profit news source by all definitions, Reuters is on my list because they hinge their financial success on being a source of journalistic excellence. Their journalists follow a structured guidebook to meet vetting and publication requirements and the company has policies that prevent alarmist language and content.

My CIA career taught me that facts are more valuable than fear, and so far Reuters thinks the same way. I use Reuters for international news updates, domestic US headlines, and global economic reporting.



National Public Radio (NPR) - [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

NPR is an American not-for-profit organization based in Washington DC with a consistent left-leaning bias. I do not mind biased news sources as long as the bias is consistent and predictable. That is the case with NPR.

I like NPR because they use multiple media forms to communicate current events - from talk radio to personality podcasts, cultural programs to classic headlines. Their news reporting is professionally vetted and sourced, making it factual and reliable.

The challenge with NPR comes from what and how they choose to present their news. They have a clear progressive bias and lean on emotional stories to influence their audience which is a (workable, but unfortunate) red-flag to any information professional.

I use NPR for cultural and international news updates. I cannot utilize their domestic US reporting because it has gone quite far from equal/balanced reporting since 2016.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR®

Christian Science Monitor - csmonitor.com

This little-known international news organization is a hidden gem in the intelligence world. An American-based not-for-profit, Christian Science Monitor does an excellent job of publishing stories that are balanced, fair, and rooted in journalistic best-practice.

The biggest downside to this news source is simply their size and scale. With tens-of-thousands of dedicated readers (but not tens of millions, like the others on this list), the frequency and variety of reporting is very limited.

I use the Christian Science Monitor for straight-forward, simple domestic and international reporting that covers mainstream topics from a neutral angle.



British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News - bbc.com/news

The BBC is one of the biggest names in international news and continues to prove its value in a digital era. The operational business division of the British Broadcasting Corporation headquartered in London, England, BBC is a media giant. They publish news in as many different formats as NPR but with a greater focus on balance and equal coverage.

BBC reporting is one of the best for finding both conservative and liberal content in a single news source. They also include editorial and opinion pieces that attack and defend both sides, showing their commitment to balance. They may be the last of the 5 sources I list here, but not because of their quality or their value.

I use BBC for international headlines and breaking news. While they have strong US coverage, it often includes either a left or a right-leaning bias. Their sourcing is excellent and their dedication to professional journalism is sound.

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IN
2020

The Economist

BONUS:

The Economist - *economist.com*

The Economist is a smoky CIA backroom favorite! It is a weekly newspaper owned by The Economist Group headquartered in London, England. Reporting is in-depth and wide-ranging, covering the entire world, business, economics, and culture.

The Economist has excellent reporting, rigorous fact checking, and strict copy editing. It also avoids most loaded language and emotional bias. That said, it has become increasingly biased with left-leaning editorial pieces and aggressive attacks on nationalistic world leaders.

In a world that is changing, the Economist seems to be digging in. Whether that makes them more or less trusted in years to come is really up to them.

These are the news sources I rely on the most in 2020 to give me factual reporting.

They are the foundation for the [analysis and content I provide at EverydaySpy.com](#) and for the everyday decisions I make to keep myself and my family safe. I hope they serve you well for the rest of the year!

Godspeed, #EverydaySpy



About the Author

Andrew Bustamante, Founder of [EverydaySpy.com](#). Andrew is a former covert CIA Intelligence officer, decorated US Air Force Combat Veteran, and respected Fortune 500 senior advisor. Learn more from Andrew on his Podcast (The Everyday Espionage Podcast) and by following @EverydaySpy on your favorite social media platform.