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Best American Journalism of the 20th Century

The following works were chosen as the 20th century's best American journalism by a panel of experts assembled by New York University's journalism department.

1. **John Hersey:** "Hiroshima," *The New Yorker*, 1946
2. **Rachel Carson:** *Silent Spring*, book, 1962
3. **Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein:** Investigation of the Watergate break-in, *The Washington Post*, 1972
4. **Edward R. Murrow:** *Battle of Britain*, CBS radio, 1940
5. **Ida Tarbell:** "The History of the Standard Oil Company," *McClure's*, 1902–1904
6. **Lincoln Steffens:** "The Shame of the Cities," *McClure's*, 1902–1904
7. **John Reed:** *Ten Days That Shook the World*, book, 1919
8. **H. L. Mencken:** Scopes "Monkey" trial, *The Sun* of Baltimore, 1925
9. **Ernie Pyle:** Reports from Europe and the Pacific during World War II, Scripps-Howard newspapers, 1940–1945
10. **Edward R. Murrow and Fred Friendly:** Investigation of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, CBS, 1954
11. **Edward R. Murrow, David Lowe, and Fred Friendly:** "Harvest of Shame," documentary, CBS television, 1960
12. **Seymour Hersh:** Investigation of massacre by American soldiers at My Lai in Vietnam, Dispatch News Service, 1969
13. **The New York Times:** Publication of the Pentagon Papers, 1971
14. **James Agee and Walker Evans:** *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, book, 1941
15. **W.E.B. Du Bois:** *The Souls of Black Folk*, collected articles, 1903
16. **I. F. Stone:** *I. F. Stone's Weekly*, 1953–1967
17. **Henry Hampton:** "Eyes on the Prize," documentary, 1987
18. **Tom Wolfe:** *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, book, 1968
19. **Norman Mailer:** *The Armies of the Night*, book, 1968
20. **Hannah Arendt:** *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*, collected articles, 1963
21. **William Shirer:** *Berlin Diary: The Journal of a Foreign Correspondent, 1939–1941*, collected articles, 1941
22. **Truman Capote:** *In Cold Blood*, book, 1965
23. **Joan Didion:** *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, collected articles, 1968
24. **Tom Wolfe:** *The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby*, collected

- articles, 1965
25. **Michael Herr:** *Dispatches*, book, 1977
 26. **Theodore White:** *The Making of the President: 1960*, book, 1961
 27. **Robert Capa:** Ten photographs from D-Day, 1944
 28. **J. Anthony Lukas:** *Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families*, book, 1985
 29. **Richard Harding Davis:** Coverage of German march into Belgium, Wheeler Syndicate and magazines, 1914
 30. **Dorothy Thompson:** Reports on the rise of Hitler, *Cosmopolitan* and *Saturday Evening Post*, 1931–1934
 31. **John Steinbeck:** Reports on Okie migrant camp life, *The San Francisco News*, 1936
 32. **A. J. Liebling:** *The Road Back to Paris*, collected articles, 1944
 33. **Ernest Hemingway:** Reports on the Spanish Civil War, *The New Republic*, 1937–1938
 34. **Martha Gellhorn:** *The Face of War*, collected articles, 1959
 35. **James Baldwin:** *The Fire Next Time*, book, 1963
 36. **Joseph Mitchell:** *Up in the Old Hotel and Other Stories*, collection of much older articles, 1992
 37. **Betty Friedan:** *The Feminine Mystique*, book, 1963
 38. **Ralph Nader:** *Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile*, book, 1965
 39. **Herblock (Herbert Block):** Cartoons on McCarthyism, *The Washington Post*, 1950
 40. **James Baldwin:** "Letter from the South: Nobody Knows My Name," *The Partisan Review*, 1959
 41. **Nick Ut:** Photograph of a burning girl running from a napalm attack, The Associated Press, 1972
 42. **Pauline Kael:** "Trash, Art, and the Movies," *Harper's*, 1969
 43. **Gay Talese:** *Fame and Obscurity: Portraits by Gay Talese*, collected articles, 1970
 44. **Randy Shilts:** Reports on AIDS, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 1981–1985
 45. **Janet Flanner (Genet):** *Paris Journals* chronicling Paris's emergence from the Occupation, *The New Yorker*, 1944–1945
 46. **Neil Sheehan:** *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*, book, 1988
 47. **A. J. Liebling:** *The Wayward Pressman*, collected articles, 1947
 48. **Tom Wolfe:** *The Right Stuff*, book, 1979
 49. **Murray Kempton:** *America Comes of Middle Age: Columns 1950–1962*, collected articles, 1963
 50. **Murray Kempton:** *Part of Our Time: Some Ruins and Monuments of the Thirties*, book, 1955
 51. **Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele:** "America: What Went Wrong?," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1991
 52. **Taylor Branch:** *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954–1963*,

- book, 1988
53. **Harrison Salisbury:** Reporting from the Soviet Union, *The New York Times*, 1949–1954
 54. **John McPhee:** *The John McPhee Reader*, collected articles, 1976
 55. **ABC:** Live television broadcast of Army-McCarthy hearings, 1954
 56. **Frederick Wiseman:** *Titicut Follies*, documentary, 1967
 57. **David Remnick:** *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*, book, 1993
 58. **Richard Ben Cramer:** *What It Takes: The Way to the White House*, book, 1992
 59. **Jonathan Schell:** *The Fate of the Earth*, book, 1982
 60. **Russell Baker:** "Francs and Beans," *The New York Times*, 1975
 61. **Homer Bigart:** Account of being over Japan in a bomber when World War II came to an end, *The New York Herald-Tribune*, 1945
 62. **Ben Hecht:** *1,001 Afternoons in Chicago*, collected articles, 1922
 63. **Walter Cronkite:** Documentary on Vietnam, CBS television, 1968
 64. **Walter Lippmann:** Early essays, *The New Republic*, 1914
 65. **Margaret Bourke-White:** Photographs following the defeat of Germany, *Life* magazine, 1945
 66. **Lillian Ross:** *Reporting*, collected articles, 1964
 67. **Nicholas Lemann:** *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America*, book, 1991
 68. **Joe Rosenthal:** Photograph of Marines raising an American flag on Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima, The Associated Press, 1945
 69. **Hodding Carter Jr.:** "Go for Broke," editorial, *Carter's Delta Democrat-Times* (Greenville, Miss.), 1945
 70. **The New Yorker:** *The New Yorker Book of War Pieces*, collected articles, 1947
 71. **Meyer Berger:** Report on the murderer Howard Unruh, *The New York Times*, 1949
 72. **Norman Mailer:** *The Executioner's Song*, book, 1979
 73. **Robert Capa:** Spanish Civil War photos, *Life* magazine, 1936
 74. **Susan Sontag:** "Notes on 'Camp,'" *The Partisan Review*, 1964
 75. **Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein:** *All the President's Men*, book, 1974
 76. **John Hersey:** *Here to Stay*, collected articles, 1963
 77. **A. J. Liebling:** *The Earl of Louisiana*, book, 1961
 78. **Mike Davis:** *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*, book, 1990
 79. **Melissa Fay Greene:** *Praying for Sheetrock*, book, 1991
 80. **J. Anthony Lukas:** "The Two Worlds of Linda Fitzpatrick," *The New York Times*, 1967
 81. **Herbert Bayard Swope:** "Klan Exposed," *The New York World*, 1921
 82. **William Allen White:** "To an Anxious Friend," *The Emporia (Kan.) Gazette*, 1922
 83. **Edward R. Murrow:** Report of the liberation of Buchenwald, CBS radio, 1945
 84. **Joseph Mitchell:** *McSorley's Wonderful Saloon*, collected articles, 1943
 85. **Lillian Ross:** *Picture*, book, 1952
 86. **Earl Brown:** Series of articles on race, *Harper's* and *Life* magazines, 1942–1944
 87. **Greil Marcus:** *Mystery Train: Images of America in Rock 'n' Roll Music*, book,

- 1975
88. **Morley Safer:** Atrocities committed by American soldiers on the hamlet of Cam Ne in Vietnam, CBS television, 1965
 89. **Ted Poston:** Coverage of the "Little Scottsboro" trial, *The New York Post*, 1949
 90. **Leon Dash:** "Rosa Lee's Story," *The Washington Post*, 1994
 91. **Jane Kramer:** *Europeans*, collected articles, 1988
 92. **Eddie Adams and Vo Suu:** Associated Press photograph and NBC television footage of a Saigon execution, 1968
 93. **Grantland Rice:** "Notre Dame's 'Four Horsemen,'" *The New York Herald-Tribune*, 1924
 94. **Jane Kramer:** *The Politics of Memory: Looking for Germany in the New Germany*, collected articles, 1996
 95. **Frank McCourt:** *Angela's Ashes*, book, 1996
 96. **Vincent Sheean:** *Personal History*, book, 1935
 97. **W.E.B. Du Bois:** Columns on race during his tenure as editor of *The Crisis*, 1910–1934
 98. **Damon Runyon:** Crime reporting, *The New York American*, 1926
 99. **Joe McGinniss:** *The Selling of the President 1968*, book, 1969
 100. **Hunter S. Thompson:** *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail*, book, 1973

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