

# Commodification of Conflict News: Political Economy of Syrian Conflict in Online News Media

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## Abstract

In the context of conflict, the responsibility to educate the public is not only in the hands of the government but also in the media institutions. Quality and objective media reports significantly contribute to increasing public literacy and knowledge. The problem is that news about conflict in online news media often emphasizes conflict controversy and the sadness of victims, but is incomplete and too short in explaining the conflict events that occurred. This research aims to reveal how the commodification of reporting on the Syrian conflict emerged and developed in online news media. This research data comes from online news published by [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) as online news media. Data analysis was carried out using thematic analysis within the framework of a media political economy study which looks at the relationship between new media and conflict, the characteristics of news in online news media, as well as the tendency for the commodification of conflict news which can give negative impact on society in the long term. The results of the study show that in reporting on the Syrian conflict, economic interests are more prominent than the application of journalism principles which should be complete, this can be seen from the shortness of the news presented and the conflict that occurred is not presented holistically.

## 1. Introduction

Why do conflict events in Syria attract the attention of online news media to report this conflict intensively? One of the answers is that conflict is a news value [1]. Therefore, news about conflict always attracts the attention of the news media to make it the main news. Conflict as a news value is as important as other news values such as novelty, immediacy, prominence, magnitudes, and human interest [2]. On the other hand, for media companies, reporting on conflict events is also economically profitable, because conflict news has news metaphors that are interesting to read [3]. Hence news framing can activate readers' knowledge [4]. This can be seen from the large number of people who actively read conflict news in online news media. When a conflict occurs, the public as readers always waits for the latest news updates on the conflict occurring in the field.

For media companies, the large number of news readers is also profitable. Interesting facts, hard-hitting points, and even dramatic conflict news tend to be seen more by readers and gain many viewers. When conflict news is widely read, news traffic in the media automatically becomes very crowded, therefore the popularity of media companies in society increases. When the number of media users increases, more advertisements will come in and automatically the company will gain more money or capital. However, this condition is a dilemma [5], because the impact of conflict reporting has a big risk, namely that it could become a partisan factor that increases the escalation of the conflict [6]. In this case, the social impact arising from the Syrian conflict is also huge. Since the Arab Spring in 2011, the Syrian conflict has become an armed conflict involving several international countries. From spring 2011 to spring 2016, an estimated 400,000 people were killed due to direct violence, and 70.000 people died from hunger, health problems, and various other causes [7]. With this many casualties, this major conflict has been covered by many news media on an international scale.

That is a brief overview of relations between news media and the conflict in Syria. This relationship substantially illustrates that when a conflict occurs, various online news media actively report the conflict in a form that most attract readers' attention. This phenomenon also shows that media companies are not always neutral and influenced by economic and political forces [8]. What needs to be considered is that the intensity of conflict reporting in the media also influences government policies and the parties involved in the conflict. This means that if the news is wrong in conveying conflict events, then the policies taken by the government or parties involved could also be a mistake [9]. At this point, the ability of journalists to convey conflict news correctly becomes important.

Furthermore, to clarify the problem of political economy studies regarding the reporting of the Syrian conflict in online news media, several main keywords need to be explained in more detail. First, conflict news. Second, the information age. Third, the political economy of communication. Fourth, the Syrian conflict, and fifth, *hurriyet.com.tr* as an online news media.

First, conflict news. In essence, the news is facts [10]. In a broader context, news is a puzzle consisting of several parts [11], and also one phase of the democratization process [12]. When asked about the definition of news, some people will say something that happens, something new, something unknown before, something that affects their lives, something they are interested in [13]. This means that news is information that has an impact on society, but this information must be based on facts not opinions.

Moreover, when reporting on a conflict, the news must be made fairly and accurately [10]. All parties involved in the conflict are given the same place to voice their aspirations. In other words, the news is the result of the construction [14], related to issues, hot debates [15], or factual events in society that are covered by journalists and then written using journalistic techniques and certain parameters [16], therefore it becomes interesting news and can be verified as true [17].

As the main media content, news has an important role in the existence and development of a media. A media can't exist in society without presenting news. Therefore, it can be said that the most important content in media is news. Seeing this important news position, media companies should pay great attention to the quality of news. The purpose of conflict news in this study is factual news about a conflict conveyed by online news media. In the modern era, the role of media companies is very central to developing democratic life [18].

During the rapid development of information and communication technology, the emergence of conflict news quickly and interactively can have a significant influence. For people who actively access the internet to understand current events through new media, it is of course easy to get the latest news in new media which can be in the form of text, images, animation, audio, video, real-time delivery, on-demand access, interactive, user control, and customization [19]. In reality, media technology devices such as smartphones, notebooks, or computers are no longer luxury items and are easy to obtain. The cost of accessing the internet is also getting cheaper. This condition makes online news, including conflict news mediated online on the internet tend to be powerful in modern society.

Second, the information age. The information age in this study is an era when the information society developed. Specifically, the developments after 2000 were marked by the convergence of the Internet and wireless communication [20]. In this context, Stuart Hall explains that information society is often equated with several other terms, namely post-industrial society, post-Fordism society, or post-modern society [21]. In the information society, a situation has also developed that is completely different from what happened in traditional society. In an information society, people rely on information, research results, and intellectual thinking. When people become more educated, they can elaborate and interpret existing information as a basis for making decisions or policies [22].

Apart from that, the characteristic of society in this information age is the development of capitalism which is based on an individual's intellectual knowledge, especially on the ability of individuals who are creative and familiar with technology. Based on this point, the information society phenomena

develop: more flexible work specialization, there is a decentralization of communication power, and there is a shift from old manufacturing which relies on natural resources towards increasingly dominant information and computer technology [21]. The tendency for technological determinism is increasingly influenced by technology visibility when communication technology devices become very close and cannot be separated from society, for example when they are used to access news in online news media.

Third, political economy studies. In essence, political economy is the study of social relations, especially power relations which shape the production, distribution, and consumption of resources, including communication resources [23]. Based on this understanding, the topic of political economy is concerned with a broad area, because it is a phenomenon of social relations in society related to competition for power over limited resources. However, in simpler terms, several basic concepts are considered to develop political economy studies, namely production, distribution, consumption, and resource issues.

In a more basic sense, production is an action of producing goods and services to meet needs. This means that what is considered is how a product is developed by a person or institution, including media products [23]. The meaning of the distribution problem is the process of disseminating goods and services in the market to reach users. Generally, when a product has appeared, the next stage is the distribution process from producers to consumers. It is the process of using goods and services by users, including the public as media consumers who regularly read news from the media company. In practice, the issues of production, distribution, and consumption are closely related, because when discussing distribution issues also involve issues of production and consumption.

Hence, what is also important in political economic analysis is the issue of resources, namely: everything that can be converted into exchange value, such as capital, energy, nature, and machines. In the context of the political economy of communication, what is referred to as basic resources, for example, are newspapers, books, videos, films, and audiences [23]. In reality, currently, many things in society that have noble values are being transformed into useful values, of course, there is a motive for capitalism that is moving to encourage them. For example, in many cases of conflict that occur in society, it turns out that many media commodify conflict events to attract readers' attention. In the context of conflict, several things related to political economy in the media need to be controlled properly, because if there is no control in reporting then the media can increase the escalation of the conflict that occurs [24].

Fourth, the Syrian conflict. Since 2011, the Syrian conflict has been a civil war conflict involving many groups and international intervention in Syrian territory. This conflict is related to the Arab Spring phenomenon which has had a huge influence on the Arab world. As a result of the Syrian conflict, currently, there are more than 4.8 million refugees and this is the largest refugee crisis since World War two [7] which has grown since the Arab Spring in 2011.

The civil war conflict in Syria is also referred to as a proxy war involving major regional and world countries. International organizations like the ISIS, and other opposition forces have committed serious human rights violations, with massacres taking place. The conflict has caused thousands of residents to escape from this country. Since the beginning of the conflict, the Syrian conflict has attracted the attention of the news media to report it [7]. One of the news media that reports on the Syrian conflict is [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) an online news media.

Fifth, [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) is an online news media. In the media structure in Türkiye, Hürriyet is one of the main media widely accessed by the public. This news media company has also been around for a long time and has quite a long history. Hürriyet was founded in 1948. In the early 1950s, this newspaper sold 150 thousand copies and continued to experience rapid growth, until in the mid-1960s, Hürriyet was the first newspaper in Türkiye to reach a circulation of more than 1 million [25]. Media development in Türkiye has developed dynamically and experienced several developments in business structure models. In particular, the media business model from a family company then changed to a commercial media company, until then the media structure model developed again in the form of a closer relationship with the world of politics.

According to Turkan's notes [25], the press media in Türkiye experienced a period of freedom between 1960-1980. In the early 1980s, the traditional newspaper business model based on family companies changed into a commercial media company that was very active in the economic sector. Then in the mid-1990s the relationship between media and politics increasingly developed in people's lives. The relationship between media owners and politicians is increasingly widespread and shows dependence between these two parties [25]. Thus, when the relationship between politics and the media is very close, media companies become a political communication channel for politicians.

At the same time, from 1990-2000 the media in Türkiye entered the era of business media companies. Based on the logic of the development of information and communication technology, the readers of Hürriyet.com.tr media are the educated middle class. The information or news combines the comprehensive values of news and entertainment. Hürriyet news media has many journalists in Türkiye and abroad. This news media also has several journalists who are skilled at news writing. This news media company is affiliated with the Doğan News Agency which generally develops newspapers and television channels under the management of the Doğan media group. As of 2009, Doğan Media controlled over 50 percent of all print, audio-visual, and new media in Türkiye. Doğan Media is a big company of the daily newspaper Hürriyet, as well as Türkiye Kanal D and CNN TV channels [26].

The online news media hürriyet.com.tr is the online version of the Hürriyet newspaper. The development of this online media version can be understood because, in the internet era like now, every media has its online version. Nowadays, media companies cannot develop without news published online. In other words, the online news media hürriyet.com.tr is the online version of the Hürriyet newspaper which is one of the largest media in Türkiye, this media also pays attention to the conflict in Syria.

As mentioned previously, this study aims to conduct a political economy analysis of the reporting of the Syrian conflict on hürriyet.com.tr as an online news media. The emergence of this study was driven by the need to study the reporting of the conflict in Syria which is mediated by digital media. Intensive media coverage in the context of a conflict requires attention from a political economy perspective. In the context of media and conflict study, the media company can behave as an intensifier of the conflict, the diminisher, or become a neutral or third party [27]. Therefore, to find out the answer, specific studies need to be completed. For this reason, this study focuses on the relationship between new media and conflict, the characteristics of online news in new media as well, and the tendency for the commodification of conflict news which harms society.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

As previously explained, to discuss the topic of political economy in reporting on the Syrian conflict, the theoretical framework developed in this study is the concept of the political economy of communication and the characteristics of news in online news media.

### *The Concept of Political Economy of Communication*

The political economy of communication is the study of social relations, especially power relations which together shape the processes of production, distribution, and consumption of resources, including communication resources [23]. In this study, the main focus is on the issues of production, distribution, consumption, and resources for reporting on the Syrian conflict on hürriyet.com.tr. This means that the issue of competition and developing news to attract readers' interest is one of the main issues because when interesting news can be produced, the probability that readers will be interested in reading the news increases.

At the same time, the economic problems in the media are the main concern, which is not surprising, because basically, political economy studies are studies that emphasize media, economy, and power problems that are related to market mechanisms in news media [28]. Therefore, the study also emphasizes how news is produced, disseminated, and reaches the public effectively.

In the analysis, there are several main dimensions in political economy, namely the production dimension or the process of producing goods and services to meet needs. Then the distribution dimension, namely the process of disseminating goods and services in the market to reach users, the consumption dimension, namely the process of using goods and services by users, and the resource dimension, namely everything that can be converted from use value into exchange value, such as capital, power, nature, and machine.

These several dimensions are developed in this study to analyze the reporting of the Syrian conflict on [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) as an online news media. In analyzing phenomena that appear in new media, the analysis process also requires contextualization, because there are fundamental differences in character between news that appears in traditional media and the character of news that appears online.

#### *Characteristics of News in Online News Media*

Discussing news published in online news media is closely related to media developments in the increasingly contextual modern era. From 1955 to 2003 there was a development of contextual media and journalism by not only displaying news texts but also photos and promotions [29]. In this kind of context, news that appears in online news media has several very distinctive characteristics, namely breadth communication modality, hypermedia, heightened audience involvement, dynamic content, and customization [19]. Some of these characteristics are very different from news in traditional media such as newspapers, tabloids, or magazines. A more complete explanation of these characteristics is provided below.

First, breadth communication modality. Pavlik [19], explains that news that appears in new media has the advantage of being supported by wide communication capital. This means that information in online news media can be varied in the text, audio, video, graphics, and animation that can be displayed simultaneously. With this capital, journalists can uniquely present the news.

Second, hypermedia. In this dimension, news that is mediated online can create easy and integrative relationships compared to other media. For example, the advantage of news in online news media is that it has a "hyperlink" or news information content that connects to other news. This is very helpful for readers who want to find information about the development of events that occur, they can directly access the "hyperlinks" in the news.

Third, heightened audience involvement. This dimension is one of the unique and specific advantages of online media. When news appears, the audience as readers of online news media can comment, make suggestions, or even criticize the news that emerges. This makes online news busy and more than that news can go viral. The dimension of the audience that can be involved also differentiates online news media from traditional media because online news media allows interactive communication between news makers and news readers.

Fourth, dynamic content. In the online environment, news content represents activities in society. The dynamics of online news have the characteristics of being fast and immediate. For example, when an event occurs, the news will immediately appear in the media. This also suits the tastes of new media readers who want news quickly. The problem is that in conflict, news can create new meanings for readers [3]. Therefore, readers should remain careful when reading online news that appears on the internet.

Fifth, is customization. This dimension shows that news that appears online can be arranged according to the needs and creativity of the owner. In the internet world, personal expression can be displayed uniquely and interestingly in the media. This can be done by combining colors and using tables, graphics, or photographs to complement reporting on conflicts that arise. This customization characteristic also makes conflict news that appears in online news media have a great appeal to readers.

More broadly than the characteristics of online news above, the development of information and communication technology globally also greatly supports the development of online news media. Digital technology introduced in various formats such as podcasts, entertainment content, virtual reality, conversational interfaces, and attractive data visualizations, has brought news media closer to their readers [30]. Media in the modern era has become closer, more personal, easier to use, and more interactive.

### 3. Methodology

This study uses thematic analysis within the framework of media political economy studies to analyze news stories about the conflict in Syria. The data source in this study comes from reporting from [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) an online news media. This research instrument in this study uses a media political economy analysis framework to look at the relationship between online news media and the conflict, the characteristics of online news in new media, and the tendency for commodification of conflict news which harms society in the long term.

The study was initiated by developing a theoretical framework for a media political economy study regarding reporting on the Syrian conflict, then collecting news manually on [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) as online news media. This news collection process was carried out in 2021. Furthermore, after the news is obtained and the theoretical framework is considered adequate, subsequent analysis, discussion, and conclusions are carried out on the data that has been collected.

### 4. Results and discussions

There are two pieces of news about the Syrian conflict that are discussed in this study. These news items appeared on the same day, namely Tuesday 24 September 2020. These two news stories have the same topic, namely about the car bomb explosion in Syria, which has caused the death of several people, and many people were injured due to being hit by the bomb explosion. The first news is as follows:

#### ***Son dakika... El Bab'da bomba yüklü araç patladı***

*Suriye'nin kuzeyindeki Bab ilçesinde araca yerleştirilen bombanın infilak etmesi sonucu 5 sivil yaşamını yitirdi, 18 sivil yaralandı.*

*Fırat Kalkanı Harekatı ile terörden arındırılan Bab ilçe merkezinde araca yerleştirilen bomba infilak ettirildi.*

*Bombalı terör saldırısında 5 sivil hayatını kaybetti, 18 sivil yaralandı.*

*Olay yerine intikal eden itfaiye ekipleri yangına müdahale ederken yaralıları, Bab'daki hastanelere nakledildi.*

*Ölü sayısının artmasından endişe ediliyor.*

*Patlamanın ardından çevrede hasar gerçekleşti, çok sayıda araç kullanılamaz hale geldi.*

*Olay yerinde incelemeler yapan yerel güvenlik güçleri, saldırının terör örgütü YPG/PKK tarafından düzenlendiği ihtimali üzerinde duruyor.*

*Tel Rıfat ve Münbiç bölgelerinde işgalini sürdüren terör örgütü YPG/PKK, sık sık Bab, Azez, Cerablus ve Afrin bölgelerini hedef alarak terör eylemleri düzenliyor.*

This news conveys information about an explosion from a car bomb in the city of Al-Bab, Syria. In this bloody incident, 5 civilians were killed and 18 civilians were injured when the car bomb exploded. This explosion also shows that the number of victims could increase. Apart from that, environmental damage also occurs. In simple terms, this conflict also illustrates the impact of the damage caused by the conflict which has been going on for several years.

From the aspect of political economy analysis of media reporting on this conflict, several things that emerge are as follows. From the production aspect, it can be seen that the online news media [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) has attempted to provide concise conflict news for new media users. It can also be said, that [hurriyet.com.tr](http://hurriyet.com.tr) has tried to convey the situation in the conflict that occurred in Syria. The emergence of this news means that the media needs to continue to find out new things about the conflict that happened. Considering that in a major conflict event, of course, many groups are involved and interested

in following developments whatever happens, so online news readers are eagerly awaiting developments in this conflict news.

From a distribution aspect, this news shows that the internet has become a fast medium for distributing news of conflict events to the wider community. Not only local readers but also national and international readers. In just a matter of minutes, the events in Syria were known to the community.

From the consumption process aspect, it can be seen that information and communication technology develop rapidly. News about the Syrian conflict is consumed widely by those interested in news about conflict wherever they are. The readers of conflict news not only in Türkiye but also in many other countries that follow the latest developments regarding the Syrian conflict.

Meanwhile, the discussion of the communication resources aspect shows that hürriyet.com.tr is also trying to use information about the car bomb explosion. This media displays text and photos related to the conflict. Even though the text is short, the presence of photos certainly adds to the appeal of the news for readers, so they continue to follow developments in information regarding the conflict occurring.



**Fig 1.** The car was destroyed by the bomb explosion

The description of the photo shown above shows the severity of the conflict in Syria. In the picture above, you can see destroyed cars, damaged buildings, and stones scattered on the road. This means that there are very many losses. The loss of life and damage to many public properties indicate that the conflict has been going on for a long time and caused damage. The emergence of this online news does not rule out the possibility of generating empathy and sympathy from netizens towards this conflict event so that it can be resolved well.

Then the second news also had the same topic, also about a bomb explosion which caused the death of several people and the injury of several people. This news appeared on the same day, after several hours from the appearance of the first news. This shows the dynamic news that appears in new media, when a news item appears it will immediately be followed by the next news item. In this context, the second news is as follows.

***Suriye’de bir patlama daha! Çok sayıda ölü ve yaralı var***

*Hatay Valiliği, Suriye’de Afrin merkezdeki Azez yolunda bombalı aracın patlatılması sonucu 2 kişinin hayatını kaybettiğini, 17 kişinin de yaralandığını açıkladı. Bugün Suriye’nin El Bab kentinde de bir patlama yaşanmıştı.*

*Hatay Valiliği’nden yapılan yazılı açıklamada, “24.11.2020 günü saat 16.35 sıralarında Afrin Merkez Azez yolu üzerinde meydana gelen bombalı aracın patlaması neticesinde; 2 şahsın hayatını kaybettiği, 17 şahsın çeşitli yerlerinde yaralandığı ve çevre hastanelerde tedavi altına alındığı belirlenmiştir. Valiliğimiz koordinasyonunda danışmanlık hizmeti veren yerel kolluk birimlerince adli makamlarla gerekli koordinasyon sağlanarak olaya ilişkin tahkikata başlanılmıştır.” denildi.*

Similar to the first news, this second news generally describes another bomb explosion in Syria. The facts presented in this news show that several people died and were injured. 2 people died and 17 people were injured. In substance, this second news is also related to the first news. Several things also show that the conflict in Syria still has the potential to occur again.

The political economy analysis of this news in the production aspect shows that *hurriyet.com.tr* is a media interested in publishing news originating from the governor of Hatay, to give readers information regarding developments in Syria. The distribution aspect shows that the internet as a medium for conveying information about the car bomb explosion means that information spreads quickly and is known by many people in various areas and from many corners of the world.

The analysis of the consumption aspect depicts the development of increasingly sophisticated technology. The news about the Syrian conflict can be consumed personally by new media users from various professions and different people. Then, in the resource aspect, it appears that the online news media *hurriyet.com.tr* attempts to commodify the conflict that occurred, through news text and photo text to increase the appeal for news readers. The photos in this news are as follows.



**Fig 2.** Smoke appears due to a bomb explosion

This combination of text and photos has at least attracted the attention of new media users to continue to follow developments in news about the current Syrian conflict. However, if we look at the principles of journalism which require completeness of information and data, the news about this conflict is not optimal because it is too short. The sources featured in the news are also not convincing. When news follows existing journalism standards, the news must be complete and educate the public or give important information. In other words, when viewed from a standard journalism perspective, the publication of incomplete conflict news can bring problems, because political and economic motives become more prominent and heat the conflict situation. However, if managed optimally, media reporting in a conflict arena can protect human rights [31]. Furthermore, the depiction of the two news stories above illustrates several specific patterns.

At the production level, we look at how news media companies produce news. The news production process, ideally, consists of several processes, starting from journalists looking for news in the field, then edited by editors in the newsroom, and then there is an editorial meeting so that it can then be assessed whether a news item is suitable for publication.

Meanwhile, from the existing scrutiny, several things can be seen that the news is short, even in the first news story there is no source, just like a normal written description. In the second news, apart from the news being very short, the organization of the news was also unclear from one paragraph to another.

The analysis at the distribution level shows that the spread of news about the Syrian conflict on the internet is ongoing and can be accessed by the public from various countries. Even news published in 2020 can still be accessed in 2024. This means that, from the distribution level, it can be seen that news

about the emerging Syrian conflict has become very dynamic because it is now present at the same time as other conflicts such as the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the Russian and Ukrainian conflict, the heating up of relations between Iran and Pakistan, as well as conflict between the Houthi group and America and Britain in the Red Sea.

At the consumption level, news about the Syrian conflict can be read using various technological devices such as smartphones, laptops, or desktops according to the situation and condition of the audience. The condition that seems clear is that the audience can read the news because the news is short. Normally, the news can be read within 5 minutes, Hurriyet.com.tr even states that the conflicting news can be read within 1 minute.

From a resource level, the information about incidents in the Syrian conflict has been systematically commodified into conflict news that is interesting to read. In other words, information about conflict victims, damaged buildings, destroyed walls, damaged roads, and injured people, has become a commodity for media companies in the form of news, only the problem that arises is that the news is not presented in full so that it has the potential to increase serious conflict that occurred.

### **Relations Between Online News Media and Conflict**

When news media companies report on events in the Syrian conflict, there are several positions that news media can take in presenting conflict events. This position can be as a party that intensifies conflict, diminish the conflict, or as a third party or neutral group. These three positions have their characteristics.

The news media appears as the party that intensifies the conflict with sharp characteristics, highlighting the conflict, and presenting the most interesting picture of the conflict to attract readers' attention. The news media appears as the party that diminishes the conflict by not reporting the conflict. The assumption is that when a conflict is not published in the media, the conflict will subside by itself. Meanwhile, the position as a neutral or third party can be seen from the news media which displays the conflict in a proportional, impartial, and complete manner. In the context of this study, the news displayed tends to sharpen the conflict that occurred.

### **Characteristics of Online News in the Conflict**

In terms of the characteristics of online news that appears in the Syrian conflict, the news is displayed dynamically. As in the case of the Syrian conflict, even though news about the conflict quite a long time ago, in 2020, it turns out that until 2024 it can still be accessed, along with the presence of news about other conflicts, such as the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, including the conflict that happened in the Red Sea.

### **The Tendency of Commodification Practices in Conflict News**

As stated previously, information about the conflict in Syria tends to be commodified in the form of online news that is short but can attract readers' attention. Even though at first glance it looks like information that can increase the reader's knowledge there are several deficiencies or incompleteness that still need to be corrected. Among these things are the news that appears is too short, there are minimal sources, even without a source, and the news that appears is mixed with advertisements that appear around the news.

The problem is Syrian conflict has been going on for a long time, news about the Syrian conflict appears at the same time as current conflict events, such as the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the Russian and Ukrainian conflict, conflicts involving Iran, China, Taiwan, North Korea, and the tension that occurred in the Red Sea. This means that if the reporting of this conflict is not controlled, it could worsen the conflict and encourage a much bigger conflict, namely the Third World War.

This pathological condition is very worrying for humankind in the world. There is still a tendency for media with profit motives to dominate media activities rather than implementing ideal journalism principles. This means that if this kind of phenomenon dominates the media structure, society will be

harmful because even though the media earns high profits, society will suffer because the information is too short and incomplete, and there is still a possibility that conflict will happen again.

## 5. Conclusion

The study shows that in reporting on the Syrian conflict, the economic interests are more prominent than the journalism principles which should be complete. Economically, this can be profitable for media companies but not good for the public, because the information is incomplete. This can be seen from the shortness of the news presented in the media not being delivered holistically. Therefore, to develop public literacy related to the conflict, so the news about the Syrian conflict must be clear, complete in news sources, and be more holistic in spreading the news about conflict in the field.

This study has limitations of conflict news texts in the Syrian Conflict that appear in online news media. Therefore, the perspective in this study is still limited according to the media perspective in viewing a violent conflict. This means that further research is still needed to examine the Syrian conflict from another perspective. For example, the perspective of conflict victims or humanitarian agencies that handle some victims of this conflict. In other words, this study recommends both qualitative and quantitative research that examines the Syrian conflict more empirically. It is hoped that the research results will complement the research findings that have been carried out in this study.

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