

## Summaries of the articles

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### **Lippmann or Dewey? – Democracy, civic culture and public sphere**

Walter Lippmann's and John Dewey's exchange of ideas on public opinion and the public in the 1920's has become one of the milestones of political-communication research. It was because of the influence of James W. Carey especially that, during the 1980's and '90s, Lippmann was seen to have represented in the debate an anti-democratic and Dewey a democratic position. The purpose of the paper is to dispel this optical illusion. In the U.S. political tradition, Lippmann is a democrat of the federalist and Dewey of the anti-federalist sort. In terms of the political philosophy of antiquity, Lippmann's notion of civic culture leans on Roman and Dewey's on Greek ideals of citizenship. As to journalism and the public sphere, Lippmann and Dewey assess their role pretty much in similar terms; both emphasise the meaning of mass communication in making society visibly present. A major difference between Lippmann and Dewey is concerned with the dialogic nature of the press: contrary to Dewey, Lippmann considers it as unimportant. The paper concludes with highlighting the continuing relevance of the issues brought forth by Lippmann and Dewey by comparing them, first, with Jürgen Habermas's and Niklas Luhmann's divergent ideas, in the 1960s, on the functions of public opinion, and, second, with the three main approaches of political-communication research today.