The Future of News

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American journalism has historically played an important democratic role mediating between citizens and their political leaders. Political leaders communicated with citizens through the news media, debated each other in the news media, and had their activities monitored by the press. Yet the economic base of the commercial news business is rapidly eroding. Moreover, today, citizens seek political information from dozens of types of sources, and politicians use a wide variety of communication technologies and techniques to reach them. How does journalism seek to remain culturally authoritative and socially relevant in the face of these changes? How is its social role changing? And how might the changes in our "marketplace of ideas" change the way we talk politics?