Hallin and Mancini identify four “major dimensions”, the tools by which theyallocate different countries to the appropriate ideal type. These dimensions are:

1. The state of development of a country’s mass media market;

2. The closeness of the links between political parties and the press (political parallelism);

3. The state and stage of journalistic professionalisation; and

4. The degree or level of state intervention in the media.

**Polarised Pluralist**

Countries falling into the Polarised Pluralist clustergenerally do not have mass circulation newspapers, have a high degree of political parallelism, have relatively low levels of journalistic professionalism and the state has historically played a central, interventionist role in the media.

(France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain) Democratic Corporatist

**Democratic Corporatist**

The countries of the Democratic Corporatist model also have a high degree of political parallelism but have a strongly developed mass circulation press. They also enjoy a high level of journalistic professionalism and strong limits on the extent to which the state is permitted to intervene in the media.

(Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland)

**Liberal Model**

The countries of the Liberal Model have high levels of journalistic professionalism, a limited state role in regulating the media, highly developed mass circulation newspapers and varying attitudes on political parallelism.

(Britain, the US, Canada and Ireland)

#### The Three Models: Media System Characteristics

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Dimensions*** | **Mediterranean or Polarized Pluralist Model France, Greece, Italy, Por-tugal, Spain** | **North/Central Europe or Democratic Corporatist Model Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland** | **North Atlantic or Liberal Model Britain, United States, Canada, Ireland** |
| ***Newspaper Industry*** | low newspaper circulation; elite politically oriented press | high newspaper circulation; early development of mass-circulation press | medium newspaper circulation; early development of mass-circulation commercial press |
| [***Political Parallelism***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_parallelism) | high political parallelism; external pluralism, commentary-oriented journalism; parliamentary[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-34) or government[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-35) model of broadcast governance; politics-over-broadcasting systems[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-36) | external pluralism especially in national press; historically strong party press; shift toward neutral commercial press; politics-in-broadcasting system[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-37)with substantial autonomy | neutral commercial press; information-oriented journalism; internal pluralism (but external pluralism in Britain); professional[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-38) model of broadcast governance; formally autonomous system[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-39) |
| ***Professionalization*** | weaker professionalization; instrumentalization | strong professionalization; institutionalized self-regulation | strong professionalization; non-institutionalized self-regulation |
| ***Role of the State in Media System*** | strong state intervention; press subsidies in France and Italy; periods of censorship; “savage deregulation”[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-40)(except France) | strong state intervention but with protection for press freedom; press subsidies, particularly strong in Scandinavia; strong public-service broadcasting | market dominated (except strong public broadcasting in Britain and Ireland) |

**The Three Models: Political System Characteristics**[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics#cite_note-41)[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Comparing_Media_Systems:_Three_Models_of_Media_and_Politics&action=edit&section=14)]

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| ***Political History; Patterns of Conflict and Consensus*** | late democratization; polarized pluralism | early democratization; moderate pluralism (except Germany, Austria pre-1945) | early democratization; moderate pluralism |
| ***Consensus or Majoritarian Government*** | both | predominantly consensus | predominantly majoritarian |
| ***Individual vs. Organized Pluralism*** | organized pluralism; strong role of political parties | organized pluralism; history of segmented pluralism; democratic corporatism | individualized representation rather than organized pluralism (especially United States) |
| ***Role of the State*** | dirigisme, strong involvement of state and parties in economy; periods of authoritarianism, strong welfare state in France and Italy | strong welfare state; significant involvement of state in economy | liberalism; weaker welfare state particularly in United States |
| ***Rational-Legal Authority*** | weaker development of rational-legal authority (except France); clientelism | strong development of rational-legal authority | strong development of rational-legal authority |

