The INDEPENDENT

Digital Archive 1986-2012

About The Independent

The Independent is a major British daily national newspaper, launched in 1986 as an antidote to its often overtly politicised rivals. Its evolution over a quarter of a century has been considerable but it has throughout that period retained a unique position in British journalism.

Over the last 30 years *The Independent* has taken strong campaigning positions on issues such as the legalisation of drugs, the War on Terror and the environment. It received the "Newspaper of the Year" award in 1987, its first full year of publication, and by the end of 1988 its circulation had risen to more than 400,000. This success led to the launch of the *Independent on Sunday* in January 1990.

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About The Independent Digital Archive, 1986-2012

The Independent Digital Archive, 1986-2012 is a digital collection that covers the full run of the newspaper from its very first issue until the end of 2012. Through an intuitive interface and multiple search paths, users can search, retrieve and browse every article, page and edition of the newspaper, gaining insight into this crucial period of 20th/21st century culture and society and how the media represented it.

Featuring journalists and columnists from across the political spectrum, the paper is generally regarded as centrist, taking idiosyncratic views on the free market, social issues and culture. As part of the *Gale NewsVault* programme, *The Independent Digital Archive* brings a major alternative perspective to the news of the day presented in other *Gale NewsVault* archives, particularly the more conservative and establishment-supporting views contained in *The Times Digital Archive* and the *Daily Mail Historical Archive*.

The archive includes *The Independent on Sunday* (1990-onwards) and editions from 2005 are available in full colour.

NewsVault

Search. Explore. Discover.

The Independent Digital Archive, 1986-2012 is part of the Gale NewsVault programme. Gale NewsVault delivers the definitive crosssearching experience for exploring Gale's range of historical newspaper collections, including The Times Digital Archive, Picture Post and The Listener. Providing access to over 11 million digitised facsimile pages, and more than 400 years of content, Gale NewsVault provides an unparalleled window to the past.

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Why is The Independent a useful source?

- A major UK national newspaper.
- The Independent Digital Archive provides political balance to other newspapers in Gale NewsVault such as the Times Digital Archive.
- Multiple newspaper archives help provide a diversity of perspectives on the past.
- Innovative and radical design has been a key feature throughout its existence. Media and journalism courses will benefit from studying the evolution of its mould-breaking layouts and presentation of the news.
- Consistently attracts high-quality journalists and writers, such as Robert Fisk (seven-times 'International Journalist of the Year'), William Rees-Mogg (former editor of *The Times*) and Rosie Boycott (feminist journalist and founder of *Spare Rib* magazine). Helen Fielding's comic creation *Bridget Jones's Diary* also started life as a column in *The Independent*.

Notable Contributors to The Independent

Andrew Marr – A well-known political journalist and commentator who hosts a number of influential programmes on the subject on the BBC. He edited *The Independent* for a brief period in the 1990s, as well as writing political comments.

William Rees-Mogg – An extremely influential journalist, former editor of *The Times*, and Member of the House of Lords, he was a columnist for *The Independent* from its founding in 1986 until 1992.

Dominic Lawson – A British journalist and former editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* who wrote columns for *The Independent* from 2006 to 2013.

Robert Fisk – The Middle East correspondent for *The Independent* for more than two decades who has been 'International Journalist of the Year' seven times.

Francis Wheen – Author and broadcaster who has written for *Private Eye*, and who authored a book on Karl Marx, as well as broadcasting on shows such as *The News Quiz* and *Have I Got News For You*. Andreas Whittam Smith – A financial expert who was the founder and first editor of *The Independent*, a position he held from 1986-1993.

Jonathan Fenby – A journalist and expert on modern China who was Home Editor of *The Independent* from its launch until 1988.

Janet Street-Porter – Well-known and often controversial journalist and broadcaster who edited the *Independent* on Sunday from 1999.

Rosie Boycott – British journalist who founded the feminist magazine Spare Rib in 1971, and later founded Virago Press, dedicated to women's writing. She edited The Independent and the Independent on Sunday from 1996-1998.

Tracey Emin – Controversial British artist who has written articles on her works in *The Independent*.

XTHE INDEPENDENT





Helen Fielding – British writer famous for her iconic comic creation Bridget Jones, whose famous 'Diary' started life as a column in *The Independent*.

Sebastian Faulks – British author famous for the World War I novel *Birdsong*, among others, and for his appearances on TV and radio. He was literary editor for *The Independent* from its inception in 1986, and became deputy editor of the *Independent on Sunday* in 1989.

Howard Jacobson – A prize-winning Jewish novelist and journalist who has written a number of opinion articles for *The Independent*, of which those attacking Zionism have been particularly influential.

Bill Bryson – American writer and British resident, famous for his travel books and latterly his explorations of travel and language, he was business section editor for *The Independent* in 1986 and 1987.

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