



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on February 22, 2020

Ratings Failure: Is CNN the “Collapsing News Network”?

Perhaps it's the competition from the *Babylon Bee*. But you'd think left-wing network CNN would see a ratings shift during the interest-piquing Democrat primary season, and it has.

Its ratings have actually dropped — while rival network Fox News's numbers have risen.

In fact, CNN couldn't even manage one million viewers during New Hampshire primary week; this is despite being available in approximately *85 million homes*.

Moreover, Fox more than tripled CNN's viewership during the same period, the week of February 10. The even worse news for CNN is that it also trailed MSNBC that week, as *Breitbart* colorfully [relates](#) with the following primetime statistics:

Fox: 3.2 million

MSNBC: 1.677 million

CNNLOL: 969,000

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Amazingly, “during the first presidential primary in four years (Iowa is a caucus), CNNLOL belly-flopped into *ninth* place, losing to HGTV, TLC, the History Channel, and only barely beating the Hallmark Channel,” *Breitbart* informs.

Yet it gets still worse for CNN (and better for the country). As *Breitbart* relates about the Feb. 10th-week day viewership:

Fox: 1.743 million

MSNBC: 920,000

CNNLOL: 630,000

As for the ratings evolution, compared “to this same week last year, Fox is up 27 percent in total primetime viewers and 18 percent in total day viewers,” *Breitbart* also tells us.

“Compared to this same week last year, CNNLOL is down five percent in primetime viewers and nine percent in total day,” the site continues. “The only good news for CNN is that it lost a lower percentage of viewers than MSNBC, which was down 14 percent in prime time and 15 percent in total day.”

But Fox enjoys the really good news, AdWeek.com [points out](#), writing that “presentations of Hannity, Tucker Carlson Tonight, The Ingraham Angle and The Five comprised 13 of the top 15 telecasts in all of cable.”

So perhaps it's no wonder that CNN is “obsessed with Fox,” as *Breitbart* puts it, smearing the network





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“as dishonest, hysterical, and even ‘dangerous.’” The outbursts are no doubt partially driven by jealousy, too, perhaps a bit like loser-brother “Fredo’s” “I’m smart!” [protestations](#) in *The Godfather Part II*. (Ironically, the Fredo label was applied to CNN host Chris Cuomo, and he — a nerve obviously having been hit — [reacted almost as irrationally](#) as the film character.)

CNN’s slide is striking. A news network losing viewers during the season’s very first presidential primary is like the Golf Channel losing viewers during Masters week. Then again, this wouldn’t be surprising if the Golf Channel were claiming that Russians somehow won the last Masters for Tiger Woods and that, you just wait, he’ll soon be stripped of his title and Green Jacket.

CNN went all in pushing the Trump/Russia/collusion hoax, building up its left-wing viewership’s expectation that the president would be proven Putin’s puppet and ousted from office. But then Special Counsel Robert Mueller — on whom the Left had pinned its hopes — released his report showing no evidence of collusion. It was a bust.

Over-promising and under-delivering are devastating for any business, and, sure enough, CNN’s ratings [dropped 26 percent](#) in April, 2019, the month coinciding with the Mueller report’s conclusion and release (March-April).

MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow also saw a ratings drop, while Fox [experienced a viewership surge](#) at the investigation’s conclusion. Thus does it make sense that CNN would have been doing better last February, pre-Russian-hoax-collapse, than now.

Of course, CNN *could* have seen this coming. Remember that some of its employees were caught in 2017 on hidden camera [admitting](#) that they *knew the Trump/Russia story was a hoax* — but were pushing it, anyway (video below. Warning: foul language).

Now you know why the *New York Post*, playing on CNN’s motto, hilariously mocked the station as “The Most Busted Name in News” (image below).



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But CNN has done much to earn its Counterfeit News Network moniker. Breitbart [reminds us](#) that last year the station blamed Trump for a sexual assault allegation filed against CNN host Don Lemon, spread a conspiracy theory that the president was responsible for April Ryan's bodyguard allegedly accosting a journalist, and accused him of inspiring Chris Cuomo's aforementioned "Fredo" episode.



Furthermore, CNN [had to settle](#) out of court a \$275 million lawsuit earlier this year brought by Nicholas Sandmann, the Covington Catholic High School student the network had defamed in 2019 as a "racist" following an incident in which the boy was targeted by left-wing agitators.

Then there was the time, in 2017, the network [presented](#) a fake *National Inquirer* cover as real.

There's a saying, "A man capable of deceiving only others is not nearly as dangerous as a man capable of deceiving himself." CNN and the rest of the establishment media won't change because not only do they peddle lies, but they themselves believe many of the lies and can't understand why President Trump (and others) calls them "fake news." And the first step toward remedying a problem is acknowledging it.

Unfortunately, their problem is also ours because they reflect a nation in moral crisis. So just as with government, perhaps it could be said that people get the media they deserve, too.

Graphic of CNN sign: ablokhin/iStock Editorial/Getty Images Plus

Selwyn Duke (@SelwynDuke) has written for The New American for more than a decade. He has also written for The Hill, Observer, The American Conservative, WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications. In addition, he has contributed to college textbooks published by Gale-Cengage Learning, has appeared on television, and is a frequent guest on radio.



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