

**Subject: Process Stories (Belarus Segment)**

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What struck me in this episode of OTM, was yet another (albeit uniquely phrased) question about the focus of media coverage. The host says that press is not attracted to long drawn out process stories, because "you can't take pictures of a process, you can only take pictures of an event." My question is this: Is this actually the case? The media has a lot of faults, but is this a fair indictment of media coverage as a whole?

The reason I ask, is that several "process" stories immediately come to mind... from the fall of the Soviet state, to the ever dull and arcane Iran-Contra affair, to South Africa, Rwanda and Darfur. Were this indictment pointed at politicians, I would say that it was a slam-dunk... but at the media I am not so sure. There are always going to be examples to the contrary (dropping the ball on Hurricanes and Tsunami recovery come to mind) but those seem to me to be "after the event" stories, not the "waiting for the climax" stories the host was insinuating. I think someone could make an argument that the press actually pushes some process stories artificially TOWARDS the climax, as opposed to only being in it for the photo op.

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