

Andrew F. Neil



A Brief Chronology

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For the past three decades, Scotland-born Andrew Neil has enjoyed an illustrious and intercontinental career as a publisher, editor, writer, broadcaster, public speaker and business consultant on media matters. He has offices in London, New York, Edinburgh and France.

1971.

After earning an MA with honors in Political Economy and Political Science from the University of Glasgow (the same university where Adam Smith wrote his famous “Wealth of Nations” in the 18th Century), Andrew Neil launched his career. He served as political adviser to the Secretary of State for the Environment in Edward Heath’s Conservative Government in London. He specialized in housing policy, regularly briefing ministers and members of parliament.

1973.

Neil became a correspondent for The Economist, where his first major assignment was to cover the Ulster “Troubles” from Belfast. After returning to London, he enjoyed successive posts as the magazine’s political and lobby correspondent in the House of Commons, followed by industrial correspondent covering both unions and business in Britain and Europe.

Neil also began appearing regularly on British television and radio. He presented the first network documentary special on North Sea oil for BBC TV, a performance which led to presenting the BBC network science and technology series, “Tomorrow’s World,” the award-winning business documentary series, “Risk Business,” and a weekly ITV media program, “Look Here.” Neil also commented regularly on economic and political matters for a variety of programs, including BBC TV’s “Nationwide” and BBC Radio 4’s “Today.”

1979.

Continuing his career at The Economist, Neil crossed the Atlantic to become the magazine’s American correspondent, working out of New York and Washington. He covered the Iranian hostage crisis and the 1980 presidential election as White House correspondent and also wrote on Wall Street and US business.

While in the United States, Neil made several BBC network documentaries, including one on union busting and another on the airline industry. He also appeared regularly as a political and business commentator on U.S. and British radio and television.

1982.

Neil returned to London, this time as the UK Editor of The Economist. Under his leadership, the magazine broke more scoops than the rest of Fleet Street put together — everything from the Thatcher government’s plans for cable television to a secret cabinet report on the future of the welfare state.

As the Economist’s UK editor, Neil also began broadcasting regularly to America from London, appearing regularly on the breakfast shows of all three U.S. networks and ABC’s “Nightline.” Neil also became London correspondent for PBS’s “Inside Edition.”

1982.

That same year, Neil edited and published “The Cable Revolution,” a prophetic guide to the new multi-channel world of cable and satellite in Europe.

1983.

After a decade with The Economist, Neil joined the prestigious Sunday Times of London as editor. He remained in that post for 11 years, developing the newspaper into the undisputed 10-section market leader, building on the paper’s global reputation as one of the world’s foremost newspapers, and breaking several controversial scoops.

Under Neil’s editorship, The Sunday Times exposed the full details of Israel’s nuclear arsenal, revealed the secret link between Libya and Britain’s coal miners’ union, published Peter Wright’s Spycatcher, named the secret billionaires who were funding the Tory party and published Andrew Morton’s controversial book on Princess Diana. The newspaper became famous for its fierce anti-Establishment views, pro-market economy stance and campaigning, investigative style.

1988.

While still editing The Sunday Times, Neil presided over the successful launch of Sky Television, the new satellite service that brought multi-channel TV to Britain. Within its first year, Sky had reached one million homes. Neil served as the Executive Chairman of Sky for two years.

1991.

Neil launched his own Sunday morning talk radio show for London Broadcasting — a program that soon became the highest-rated show on LBC.

1994.

Still editing The Sunday Times, Neil became an executive editor of network news at Fox TV in New York. Shortly thereafter, he resigned from both posts to begin a new career as an independent broadcaster, writer and media consultant.

Neil immediately began anchoring the BBC TV weekly political show “Midnight Hour,” now called “Dispatch Box.”

1995.

Neil launched the “Andrew Neil Show,” a three-times-per-week interview-format program that was simulcast domestically on BBC2 and internationally to more than 100 countries on BBC World, the global cable and satellite news service.

Neil also anchored “Is This Your Life?” in 1995, a major network interview series for Channel 4.

1996.

Neil began presenting an annual series of prime-time special reports for BBC2 from all three British party political conferences. He also covered the San Diego and Chicago conventions leading up to the U.S. presidential election.

In 1996, Neil became the chief executive publisher and editor-in-chief of Press Holdings, owners of Sunday Business in London and The Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday and Evening News in Edinburgh.

As a business consultant, Neil had an advisory role in the 1996 launch of the Asian business daily, "Asia Times," as well as the magazine, "Asia Inc."

Also in 1996, "Full Disclosure" was published. This autobiography chronicling Neil's years at the Sunday Times and Sky TV sold nearly 60,000 copies and was serialized in "Vanity Fair" and Britain's "Daily Mail."

1997.

Adding to his broadcasting credits, Neil began hosting "Late Night Live," a topical talk show for ITV.

1998.

Neil began the "Andrew Neil Breakfast Show," a network Sunday morning news program for BBC Radio Five that became the station's highest-rated news show.

In 1998, Neil also presided over the launch of "Sunday Business," a broadsheet that was named "Sunday Newspaper of the Year" in 1999.

2000.

Neil re-launched "The Scotsman," Scotland's most prestigious, but declining newspaper. The Scotsman now enjoys the largest circulation in its distinguished 180-year history and outsells the Scottish editions of all the London broadsheets combined.

On U.S. election night 2000, Neil broadcast live from New York for BBC radio.

2001.

Neil covered the British general election, anchoring a daily BBC network news show and commenting on election results for CNN.

Today, Andrew Neil remains at the helm of Press Holdings. He is chairman of The Net Media Group (TNMG) and PeopleNews.com. He makes regular television appearances on both sides of the Atlantic, is a frequent consultant to NBC News, NBC's "Dateline", and CBS "60 Minutes." He is in demand worldwide as a speaker, lecturing on British, American and European politics and economics. According to Who's Who, Neil can also be spotted skiing in Aspen, dining in New York or the South of France, and occasionally dancing in a London disco.