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## The German Debate Regarding the Public Media

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The German federal system plays a very significant role in the German media. The country's press is well-nurtured, with a number of newspapers at the federal level, a myriad of regional papers, and even a strong showing at the local level. The author asserts that the director of a public radio or television network in a federally-run country does not change in keeping with the changes in political power, but he does believe that the conservative power base in Bonn is trying to force the demise of Germany's no. 1 public television network, the ARD (coincidentally, also the most critical of existing networks) in favour of the second-ranking T.V.network, the ZDF, and above all of private television networks.

At any rate, the author esteems that it will not be easy to muzzle the ARD team, since Germany is not constituted by a Federal State, but rather by Federated States (Länder), which have the last word regarding public radio and television broadcasting.