

Conflicting voices battle for control of America's World Service

(4:35 mins)

World and Press • 1st August issue 2020 • page 12

page 1 of 3



Vocabulary preparation

- **administration** Regierung • **bedrock** Fundament • **to exceed** übersteigen
- **confirmation** Bestätigung • **to found** gründen • **independence** Unabhängigkeit
- **funds** Geldmittel • **to verify** bestätigen • **to amplify** ausführlicher erläutern
- **to counteract s.th.** etw. entgegenwirken • **death toll** Zahl der Todesopfer • **tally** Anzahl

Listening Comprehension Test

This report by David Charter is about America's World Service news and broadcast organisation. Both the report and the test are in **British English**.

You have two minutes to read through the questions. You will then hear the recording. Mark (✓) the correct box or write the answer in the blank space. After you have heard the text once, there will be a pause of one minute before you hear the text again. You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

1. What does the abbreviation VOA stand for?

2. The mission of the VOA is to produce reports _____. (choose one answer)

- about foreign propaganda
- that Americans will read
- for global audiences
- that the BBC will use

3. President Trump has said that the VOA is _____. (choose one answer)

- fake news
- disgusting
- suspicious
- the finest American journalism

4. Fill in the gaps.

The VOA is funded by the government and was founded in _____ to fight _____ propaganda. It has a weekly audience of approximately _____.

5. Who is Michael Pack? (choose one answer)

- the head of the US Agency for Global Media
- a good friend of Steven Bannon
- co-founder of Breitbart News
- conservative filmmaker

6. Democrats are worried that Pack will make the VOA ... (choose one answer)

- criticise the Democratic Party more.
- make documentaries about Clarence Thomas.
- publish one-sided reports.
- accept funds from private companies.

7. Which other US president did Pack work for? _____

8. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Mark (✓) the correct box.

Statement	T	F
a) Pack's 2018 nomination was accepted immediately by both Republican and Democratic senators.		
b) At the nomination hearing, Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, questioned Pack.		
c) Pack said that the independence of VOA journalists is the foundation of the institution.		
d) Trump has said that during the pandemic, the VOA has been promoting foreign propaganda.		
e) According to Trump, the VOA spends approximately \$200 billion each year.		

9. Fill in the gaps.

- a) The White House criticised **two VOA reports** for amplifying Beijing's propaganda. The **first report**, showing celebrations in Wuhan, was criticised for saying that Wuhan is a _____ for the world. The **second report** showed that the number of _____ in the US was higher than China's _____ tally. The White House said that the accuracy of China's numbers cannot be _____.
- b) President Trump repeatedly called VOA's reporting _____.
- c) Amanda Bennett is currently the _____ of the VOA. She was appointed by President _____.
- d) Bennett said that the reports on China were part of the network's news on China's _____ about the virus, which included under-_____ of deaths in Wuhan.
- e) It was expected that Bennett would be fired after Pack's _____.
- f) A hearing on Michael Pack's nomination was postponed because he was accused of misusing _____.

Answer key

1. Voice of America (subhead, para. 1)
2. for global audiences (para. 1)
3. disgusting (para. 1)
4. 1942 • Nazi • 280 million (para. 2)
5. conservative filmmaker (para. 3)
6. publish one-sided reports. (para.3)
7. George W Bush (para.4)
- 8.

Statement	T	F
a) Pack's 2018 nomination was accepted immediately by both Republican and Democratic senators.		✓ (§5)
b) At the nomination hearing, Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, questioned Pack.	✓ (§5)	
c) Pack said that the independence of VOA journalists is the foundation of the institution.	✓ (§5)	
d) Trump has said that during the pandemic, the VOA has been promoting foreign propaganda.	✓ (§6)	
e) According to Trump, the VOA spends approximately \$200 billion each year.		✓ (§6)

9.
 - a) model • deaths • official • verified (para. 7)
 - b) disgusting (para. 8) • c) director • Obama (para. 9) • d) disinformation • -reporting (para. 9)
 - e) confirmation (para. 10) • f) funds (para. 10)



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