

8.18 Describe the impact of the John Peter Zenger trial on the development of the principle of a free press

John Peter Zenger Trial

- John Peter Zenger created his own newspaper in New York colony. He published articles that criticized the new governor of the colony.
- The governor did not like this. He had all of Zenger's newspapers burned in the town square.
- A warrant for Zenger's arrest was posted. He was charged with libel.
- At his trial, Zenger's attorney agreed that he published libel articles, but the act of libel should NOT be against the law.
- Zenger won his case and did not have to serve time in prison.
- When the Founding Fathers were creating the country, freedom of press was one of the most important pieces of the new government.

8.18 Freedom of Press in action

Look at the tweet from President Trump.



He claims here that news outlets (New York Times, NBC News, ABC News, CBS News, and CNN) publish fake news and are the enemy of the American people.

In your notebooks on page 7, explain to President Trump (in kind words) how freedom of press works.