

A Threat to the American Democracy

Social media's impact on politics has been for better and worse when it comes to politics. Its use has also been used to spread "fake news" in order to sabotage organizations, events, or a country. It has changed the way political communication happens in the United States. Social media has begun to take off as one of the most valuable platforms for marketing, networking, and socializing. Social Media has emerged as one of the most powerful platforms available on the planet for marketing, networking furthermore building social connections. In the recent years, it has become an important factor in campaigning for different parties. Candidates are routinely posting their views, actions, and future plans to their Facebook and Twitter. The speed at which news is being transferred increase tremendously. Poll results, rumors, achievements, and failures are all being publicized for people to gather their ideas and beliefs in what they see, hear or watch. The feeds for this information is accessible 24/7 through social media. Social media has also created new ways to directly interact with these candidates and officials. Whether it be meeting them in person through knowledge learned through social media, streaming a live speech, or participate in polls social media is a heavy influence in our political process. Social media facilitates the opportunities for political debate and engagement that were not present before. It can be an effective instrument to make changes in government policies and services if used well.

Numerous individuals and news outlets have stated that fake news may have influenced the outcome of the 2016 American Presidential Election. Nowadays, political campaigns are influenced by any little rumor whether true or not. Although I'm not positive how big or small the impact of fake news had on our last election, there was an impact. There were without a doubt some citizens that fell victim to fake news. It is getting more and more difficult to distinguish between what's actual news and what's not. Fake news arrives as a factor in the year of 2016 and later became a hot topic in 2017. Political bias is the main force, accompanied by social media when spreading conspiracies to mislead opposing individuals. Things like these are the reason why some people know not to believe everything they hear or see on the internet. For others, it may be there only source available to receive news. Lies spread faster on social media than the truth. It is said that Donald Trump took advantage of "fake news" that was created to discredit Hillary Clinton to endorse himself by calling her "Crooked Hilary." You see the same amount of slander on both sides favoring each presidential candidates. Fake new is also spread through journalism. There are a couple of accounts that post the first things seen or thought of to be the first story out. These types of people are interested in the notoriety and money that comes with the quickest story available. Nothing positive comes out of advertising dishonest news and causing conflicting actions and thoughts due to something that is isn't true.

The effect of Social media on politics will continue to increase as it becomes more popularized. Although social media has both positive and negative impacts, I believe it is more

beneficial than detrimental to politics. It is easy to be influenced by misleading information posted by a friend of that social network. But this is only due to the fact that these posts, tweets, pictures, and comments usually tend to express the same point of view you already have. In this sense, social media is reinforcing citizens' opinions and making it more difficult to entertain alternative points of view. This, in my eyes, is no different from campaigning, making a speech, or having a gathering to discuss these matters. It is effective in its purpose as being a social medium. One of the positive impacts that social media has on politics is the opportunity for voters to interact more easily with candidates and elected officials. It actually strengthens the Democracy. The benefits of a democratic government occur when political leaders are publicly pushed to be more responsive to everyday citizens and civil society organizations. It has also brought the younger Americans into political action like never before.