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Neofunctionalist Theory

The European Union's emergent role as the primary regulator of the digital world by fiat, as explored in "Is the EU overreaching with new digital regulations?" clearly exemplifies neofunctionalism both in the way it has almost accidentally fallen into the role of a digital regulator at all, let alone the world's primary actor in regulating the digital realm, and in the way it is expanding the scope of the European Commission's power in a more general sense. The Article's description of the "Brussels Effect", an exemplification of the neofunctionalist idea of "spillover", where the EU's regulatory power in one area leads it to logically progress to other related areas, has pushed the EU beyond just digital regulation for its own constituencies, but has made pushed it into a psuedo-global regulator by example. This is foundational to the neofunctionalist theory, which posits a fractal-like process of integration/regulation, where a single area of agreed-upon alignment leads to a cascade of related, logical follow-ups based on the infrastructure of the original agreement.

More than this, the European Commission's increasing power in regulating digital concerns aligns with the power flow part of neofunctionalist theory, that over time, the supranational institutions of a more integrated world will grow in power, superceding the national governments of the member states. In an attempt to make the rules for digital privacy, commerce, and regulation more

uniform across the EU, a necessarily superior power of the European Commission was needed - this centralizing power flow is directly in line with neofunctionalist theory.