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Technology: Political Effects and Impact

Technology and Politics are immensely entwined within each other. They impact each other and place major influences in the direction and shape that each will take on. Technology has become increasingly dynamic in the way that political systems are being implemented and utilized. The technology that people have access to today is leading to new forms of political influence and participation within society, like education. Politics are also influencing technology to take on new capabilities and shape to meet political necessities.

With the growth in the use of technology in people's daily lives, the growth of political use of these technologies has increased. One interesting impacting theory is that concerning information technology and its effects on the global political environment. The claim being that information technologies, rather than philosophers, can and will broaden the public sphere of opinions which generates diversity (Singh, 2013). It has the power to change perspectives and causes interactions that are capable of changing identities and interest in global politics (Singh, 2013). Information technologies make it qualitatively easier and possible for people to communicate ideas and ideals in a relatively short amount of time (Singh, 2013). These technologies have brought about a sense of decentralization and has continued to do so as these technologies are readily more available (Singh, 2013). With the amounts of individuals who either own a mobile phone or that use other devices to access platforms such as Facebook and other platforms on which social relationships are established, means that new forms of social identities are formed and reformed every day (Singh, 2013). This means that political ideals that are associated with or developed along with these social identities change as well. Thus, generating a flux in political standings on a daily basis (Singh, 2013). Information or communications networks generates interactivity and the formation of new ideals, then this transforms the identities or ideals that users side with (Singh, 2013). This changes the capabilities and power that these political ideas hold within society, and this taking place over international social platforms, affects international political outcomes and ideals (Singh, 2013).

Technology also places an impacting force behind the economic side of politics. With technology touching many areas within economics it has an evident effect on politics. For example, the way journalism is performed is different and ever changing with the advances and changes within information technology (Florida, 2010). This affects the population in how they receive and perceive political information, and the economic factors of politics are also affected. Also with media affecting people in many different economic categories, due to income or other factors, political ideals are easily communicated between these groups. International trade has also been impacted through the technological advancements, which has in turn has influenced political components globally. These changes are sometimes in conflict with nationalistic concerns about maintaining comparative advantage and government systems alike (Stever, n.d.). Therefore, politics and governments are having to make shifts to adopt and adapt to these economic and technological factors (Stever, n.d.). However, even with all the growth and change technologically some governments and political systems are not ready to adopt them and are limited in that manner (Stever, n.d.). Economics and technology have adapted to this fact through multinational corporations, seek to fix the imbalances in these countries and invest in differing countries wisely and respectfully (Stever, n.d.). Thus, promoting global technological, political, and economic equilibrium (Stever, n.d.).

Politics has and is being influenced through the technology that people have and use every day. With social media being ever growing and at its peak, politics has impacted this technology through its use. Political areas now have the capacity to use technology to benefit and increase in influence. This is especially true in America, where the use of social media exploded into the twenty first century political realm (Harvey, 2014). The political realm now includes electronic voting, internet campaigning, using tweets and texting, vlogging and blogging, online polling, and Facebook as a way to voice or portray political figure, ideals, or policies (Harvey, 2014). The use of these technologies has lead to the use of informationalization, which is the ability to collect, generate, store, transmit, interpret, share, and/or keep data about people (Harvey, 2014). Thus, also leading ot the generation of Big Data, this allows for emerging ideals to be discovered and studies in order to generate the best politically persuasive ideals, arguments, and ads (Harvey, 2014). It does not rely on the old standards of manufacturing and industrialization (Harvey, 2014).

The participation within politics has increased since the start of using technology within politics. Media should be the bridge that communicates the message of progress towards sustainable development within communities and stakeholders when concerning politics (Reddick, 2010). However, participation has become an issue either due to lack of trust or simply the lack of important that is passed onto many stakeholders (Reddick, 2010). The use of social media brings political ideals back into the circulation of importance, ensuring sustainable development (Reddick, 2010).

Politics have also influenced education throughout history and this has caused for a shift and impact within technology. Education is highly supported by the surrounding public (Investigating the Influence of Standards, 2002). Therefore, is shown through public polls and by the prominence of education issues in political campaigns (Investigating the Influence of Standards, 2002). Overall the public desires to have high standards academically, and is trace all the way up to national levels of politics. Thus, any tools that would help to achieve this goal would be supported in use within the education system. One tool being that of technology, within education. Also, an outcome would be better technology as student grow into the next generation and can add and take interest in the technological field and advancements.

There is also an emphasis that stemmed from political views that places a high importance on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.). During the Cold War major changes to the U.S. education systems were made and are still in place today with the S.T.E.M. fields (How Sputnik Changed U.S. Education, 2007). This political decision has impacted education and the technology that we have and are continuing to develop (How Sputnik Changed U.S. Education, 2007). With terrorism on the rise and the conflict in the Middle East, there may possibly be adjustments made through political means that adjust the education system that would impact the technology field in the near future (How Sputnik Changed U.S. Education, 2007).

Technology and Politics are fused together in growth and influence. They shape around and through one another. Technology has been impacted through the economics of politics and the political use of communication technologies and the expansion of political ideals on a global level. In a similar way politics are also influenced and benefit from using technology with new forms of political influences and the study of Big Data arising. Technology is being enhanced to maintain new and ever-changing demands with political means. Education has also produced a political stimulus within the technology field, with the S.T.E.M. incentives and implementation into the education system. Thus, producing the next generations of scientists to transform and better technology. Technology and politics will ever continue to develop simultaneously.

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