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*The Intersection of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere: Dynamics of Extremism in American
Democracy*

“When somebody accuses a powerful or famous figure like Trump of “sexual assault,” I don’t look the other way. I don’t denounce them or their behavior. Instead, I run towards them because there is no truer signal of which side somebody is on than when they’re given a bogus accusation by the establishment. **This is our beacon to find allies in the war.**”

- Redpillschool, moderator, 2016 Men’s Rights post titled “Sexual Assault” Is Why I’m Endorsing Donald Trump for President of the United States.”

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and Research Questions

To tell a story about modern extremism within American Democracy, we have to tell a story of neoliberalism, white supremacy, misogyny, and the rise of the alt-right. These concepts are familiar to American society, as they have been deeply integrated through popular culture and mainstream ideology. The story of the intersection of these concepts is as old as American democracy itself. However, we will start with the story of the internet, which began to show the fraying of the fabrics of the United States.

The internet has dramatically improved people's lives and the progress we see throughout our society. It has provided better access to healthcare information and options, made communicating with friends and family more accessible, increased access to social services and benefits, and improved the economy. Those are some positive impacts, to name a few. However, it can be argued that the internet harms ourselves and our society, especially democracy.

In recent years, the landscape of American political discourse has been profoundly influenced by the rise of the two interconnected ideological movements: the Alt-Right and the Manosphere. While the Alt-Right espouses a range of far-right beliefs often rooted in white nationalism, the manosphere encompasses a disparate collection of online communities united by a shared dissatisfaction with contemporary gender norms and a belief in male empowerment. Despite their seemingly distinct focuses, these two movements share common ideological underpinnings and have increasingly converged in both online spaces and real-world activism. The term “manosphere” serves as a broad label encompassing a network of interconnected misogynistic communities predominately active on the internet.

These groups span a spectrum of attitudes and behaviors, from overarching male supremacist ideologies to advocacy for men’s rights and the involuntarily celibate (known as incels in mainstream discourse). Within the manosphere, there exists a continuum of misogynistic expression ranging from anti-feminism to outright violent rhetoric directed at women. Notably, significant crossover has been observed between the manosphere and alt-right extremism. The appeal of the manosphere lies in its resonance with the struggles young men face, including romantic rejection, economic hardship, and existential uncertainty. Influencers within the manosphere exploit these vulnerabilities, often aligning with far-right ideologies, to profit from their audience by selling self-help products and services.

Originating from the men's liberation movements of the 1970s and 1980s, which critiqued traditional male gender roles, the manosphere evolved to blame feminism and female empowerment for men's perceived societal challenges. As noted by Debbie Ging, a professor of digital media and gender at Dublin City University, its proliferation was facilitated by the advent of the Internet. Ging has argued that the growth of the "World Wide Web" enabled the spread of "toxic" anti-feminism, misogyny, and associated violent rhetoric.

Emma Jane, a Professor in the School of Arts and Media at UNSW Sydney and one of the leading academic scholars on misogyny, gender, and technology-facilitated violence, identifies the transition of manosphere communities from the online fringes to mainstream platforms in the late 2000s and early 2010s, which coincided with the rise of Web 2.0 and user-generated content platforms like social media.

Central to manosphere ideology is the concept of "The Red Pill," borrowed from the 1999 film *The Matrix*. This symbolizes a revelation of hidden truths about gender dynamics that individuals in the manosphere experience. Groups such as Pick-Up Artists, men's rights activists, and The Red Pill community adopt this terminology to articulate their belief in male disenfranchisement by women and feminists. Contrarily, those who adhere to mainstream societal norms are disparaged as "blue-pilled normies."

Over time, the manosphere has seen a shift towards "The Black Pill, mostly among incel forums, which discusses rejecting individual-level strategies in favor of societal-level change. Black Pill adherents assert that physical appearance dictates success in relationships and advocate for mass violence as a means of effective structural change. Tragically, this worldview often leads to the glorification of suicide and even mass murder within the community.

There is discourse online that refers to the “manosphere to the alt-right pipeline.” Many people on social media platforms such as Reddit and YouTube have brought up these observations and argue that scholars should look at this more closely. Not only do people on the internet notice this trend, but the research that has been done by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has brought up this observation by stating, “While affiliates of one may not explicitly identify as the other, there have been instances of graphic misogynistic content on right-wing extremists sites and references to right-wing extremist ideology in Incel forums.” (CITE)

So, how does this form of extremism relate to American Democracy? This research paper aims to explore whether “American Extremism” is shaped by “American Democracy” or if “American Extremism” points to the fact that “American Democracy” is failing. The specific research questions that are asked consist of;

- 1. How do extremist narratives within the manosphere intersect with broader movements of right-wing extremism in the United States, and what are the implications for democratic institutions and social cohesion?*
- 2. To what extent do individuals radicalized within the manosphere participate in acts of violence, and how does this impact perceptions of democratic stability and security?*
- 3. How do social media algorithms and platform design contribute to the proliferation of extremist content within the manosphere, and what are the implications for democratic deliberation and information integrity?*

This paper explores the intricate dynamics at the intersection of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere, examining how their shared ideologies, rhetoric, and tactics contribute to the proliferation of extremism within American democracy. By delving into both movements' historical roots, key figures, and online ecosystems, the goal is to elucidate how they reinforce and radicalize one another and their collective impact on political discourse and social cohesion.

Understanding the symbolic relationship between the Alt-Right and the Manosphere is paramount for comprehending the evolving nature of extremism in contemporary American society. As these movements continue to influence political narratives and cultural norms, scholars, policymakers, and the public must critically assess their implications for democratic governance and social equality.

This research seeks to contribute to a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics shaping the contemporary political landscape through a multidisciplinary analysis drawing upon insights from sociology, political science, and communication/ media studies. By shedding light on the interplay between the Alt-Right and the Manosphere, I hope to inform efforts aimed at countering extremism, safeguarding democratic institutions, and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Table 1. Research Objectives

Explore the ideological foundations and historical contexts of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere movements.
Analyze the socio-political factors contributing to the intersectionality between the Alt-Right

and the Manosphere.
Investigate these movements' online presence and digital networking strategies to disseminate their ideologies and recruit members.
Examine the impact of Alt-Right and Manosphere ideologies on attitudes towards gender, race, and democracy in American society.
Assess the role of social media platforms in facilitating the spread of extremist ideologies within these movements.
Identify patterns of radicalization and extremism within individuals who both the Alt-Right and the Manosphere influence.
Evaluate the potential implications of the intersection between the Alt-Right and the Manosphere for democratic norms and institutions in the United States.
Help propose strategies for countering the spread of extremism within these movements while upholding principles of free speech and democratic values.

1.2. Significance and Literature Review

This research is significant not only because of its contemporary importance with technology-related violence but also because of the larger literature on domestic terrorism within the United States and how extremism, especially with social media, is impacting American Democracy. It addresses the critical and growing concern of political extremism in the United States, mainly as it manifests through the intersection of the alt-right and the manosphere. These

movements not only challenge the foundational principles of democratic engagement and civil discourse but also pose real threats to social cohesion and public safety.

Examining the shared ideologies and recruitment strategies of these two communities provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of radicalization and the spread of extremist beliefs to domestic terrorism. Moreover, this research contributes to a broader understanding of how digital platforms are leveraged to amplify isolating narratives and mobilize individuals toward radical actions.

The rise of digital communities has significantly transformed the landscape of political and social discourse in contemporary American democracy, and both the alt-right and the manosphere have been central to this transformation. This literature review examines the intersection of these two movements, exploring their shared ideologies, recruitment strategies, and impact on political extremism. By analyzing existing scholarship on the alt-right and the manosphere, this review aims to bring attention to the dynamics at play within these communities and their implications for the broader democratic fabric of the United States. Understanding these intersections is crucial for comprehending the mechanisms through which extremism is fostered and propagated with social media.

These online communities often serve as breeding grounds for radical ideologies that advocate for violence and social upheaval. Members of these groups frequently express hostility towards marginalized communities, government institutions, and societal norms, which can escalate into acts of domestic terrorism. By promoting a narrative of victimhood and inciting anger against perceived enemies, the alt-right and the manosphere create environments conducive to radicalization and violent extremism.

Political extremism and domestic terrorism have been on the rise in the United States, as we specifically saw it occurring more often in the 2010s (Al Raffie, 2016). It has primarily taken on the form of mass shootings, but we have witnessed bombings used as forms of domestic terrorism. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a dramatic increase in mass shootings in the United States. The overall percentage of mass shootings increased by 46.7%, and even gun-related violence wasn't tied to domestic terrorism (Smith, 2023).

The COVID-19 pandemic led to massive disruptions in the lives of many people. The United States faced shifts in basic routines and activities because of social distance orders, school closures, and businesses closing. This meant that a lot of individuals were spending time at home and isolated from social circles, which directly impacted crime and violence (Schildkraut, 2022). Not only did it directly impact crime and violence, it has been reported that there were unprecedented levels of social isolation, disconnection, and distress. Individuals who usually weren't isolated before COVID-19 moved onto social media to find forms of some sort of community. There was a lot of reliance on social media for finding community during this time (Cho, 2023).

Ironically, there is not a lot of research or scholarship that has been done that focuses on this increased use of social media and the rise of violence. However, many scholars have been researching whether the heightened reliance on social media has benefits or drawbacks, especially in times of crisis (Tull, 2020). Social media is a source of both social support and anxiety, as well as fear (Ahmad, 2020). Individuals started joining online communities, especially those focused on politics, because of the 2020 Presidential Election (Morris, 2022).

Not only did social media affect fueling terrorism and violent extremism, but the United Nations found that the heavy enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions, growing economic

inequalities, and an “erosion of trust in government” all came together to cause more stress on individuals who were already isolated (Morris, 2022). A study that was done by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, which is a UK counter-extremist think tank, identified that there were “quite significant spikes in extremist activity and also conspiracy theories” during the pandemic (Morris, 2022).

One of the most notable events of alt-right violent extremism that happened during the COVID-19 pandemic would have to be the January 6th United States Capital attack that happened on January 6th, 2021. This attack was an unprecedented effort to overturn a presidential election in the United States through violence. Donald Trump and Joe Biden were the presidential nominees for each respected party during the 2020 Presidential Election. Joe Biden won the 2020 election, but many conservatives who identify as MAGA supporters (supporters of Donald Trump) believed that the election was “stolen,” otherwise known as The Big Lie (Desai, 2024).

The Big Lie is a false claim that was circulated throughout alt-right social media platforms and communities that argued that the 2020 Presidential election was “stolen from Donald Trump and that the Republicans who affirmed Biden’s victory were part of a conspiracy to defeat their own party’s presidential candidate.” (Desai, 2024) The conspiracy unfolded even before the election had happened in November of 2020. #StopTheSteal, which Donald Trump promoted, was a hallmark of the 2016 and 2020 elections. It was primarily campaigned in the 2020 election and had started even before Joe Biden was named the party nominee for the Democrats (Desai, 2024).

The #StopTheSteal Movement contained many communities on the alt-right spectrum regarding radicalization. There were the pro-Trump activists and media outlets, the Proud Boys,

unlawful militias from around the country (e.g., the Three Percenters movement), individuals who were deeply involved in the delusions of QAnon, a community called the Boogaloo Bois, and other members of the alt-right who wanted to witness something that they would believe to be amazing: storming Congress (DFRLab, 2024).

Many researchers have claimed that the January 6th United States Capital riots would have likely not occurred if Trump hadn't had a heavy involvement and encouragement in the #StopTheSteal movement. However, other researchers have claimed that this event only happened because of the "perceived relative decline of American conservatives and the simultaneous radicalization of the conservative movement and the Republican Party." (Kydd, 2021. Pg. 3)

American extremism existed way before the creation of the Internet and social media platforms, but this extremism is starting to reach other audiences that it would usually never reach. David H. Bennett, who is Professor Emeritus in the Syracuse University History Department, wrote the following statement in 1967 while researching the origins of American extremism;

"Certainly, political extremism is not a recent phenomenon in this country. Radical organizations on the left and the right have occurred and recurred through the decades of American history. But the other questions - concerning why and how such organizations have appeared and, in some cases, prospered with such disquieting regularity - are not so easily answered. However, the historical pattern of their activities provided the best clues to the origin and nature of today's radicalism. The enigma of American extremism can be solved by tracing its growth and development over the last century. Such a study of the historical dimension of the problem points to two essential and complementary factors, which, curiously, appear to be

partially contradictory. One has to do with something we might call the “sameness of American society.” The other has to do with the variety of America’s people - the multilingual nature of the United States population and the “anti-alienism” that has developed among its citizens.”

(Bennett, 1967. Pg. 201)

Extremism is nothing new to American society, and it is not new to American democracy, either. In the late 1960s and 1970s, groups and individuals on the far left performed most of the United States's political violence. This violence was essentially and mostly against property by social, environmental, and animal rights activists. However, since the late 1970s, the shift of political violence has been with the rise of white supremacists, anti-abortion, and militia groups (Kleinfeld, 2021). Many scholars have pointed out that extremist ideals were once confined to fringe groups, but we are seeing these ideas being shown and promoted in the mainstream media.

White supremacist ideals, militia fashion advice, and conspiracy theories are all being spread by using gaming websites, YouTube channels, blogs, and even alt-tech platforms. There is a prevalent use of language consisting of means, slang, and jokes - which blurs the lines between pursuing and provoking violence and normalizing radical ideologies and activities. It has been researched and studied that people who commit far-right violence are usually older and more established than typical terrorists and violent criminals. They often hold jobs, are married, and have children. It was found that those who attend church or belong to community groups are more likely to keep violent, conspiratorial beliefs (Kleinfeld, 2021)

In the January 2021 American Perspectives Survey, it was found that “white Christian evangelical Republicans were outsized supporters of both political violence and the Q-Anon conspiracy.” (Kleinfeld, 2021) However, the other subgroup prone to violence consisted of those

who feel threatened by women. This survey did not identify this other subgroup as manosphere or Red Pill communities, but it could be argued that is what they were referring to.

There is a lot of overlap between these two communities. Yet, it is argued that younger individuals relate more to the manosphere communities, and older individuals relate more to the alt-right communities (Mamie, 2021).

Studying online radicalization with a focus on the alt-right has been new to researchers over the last couple of years. Before this, researchers focused on the recruitment and propaganda of mainstream online social networks on international extremist groups (Klausen, 2014). As stated in the journal article by Mamie, "... on YouTube, the proximity between alternative content creators within the platform could create "radicalization pathways" ... users that engaged in channels from so-called "gateway communities" would consistently migrate to Alt-right content. The mechanisms governing these radicalization pathways on YouTube have been extensively discussed. While some suggest that YouTube's algorithm would be "the great radicalizer," others have pointed out that the platform's novel technological affordances and social dynamics could drive radicalization." (Mamie, 2021)

Communities within the Manosphere tend to take on different forms, but all of these communities perceive that there is a "crisis in masculinity," which stems from the feminization of society and the "feminization of men." (Mamie, 2021) An article released by The Atlantic in 2019 titled "To Learn About the Far Right, Start With the Manosphere." Anti-feminist values and the far right overlap with each other because both of these communities weave narratives around real, observable phenomena surrounding race and reproduction. As stated, "Anti-feminist ideas work so well as recruiting tools for the far right for three reasons. First, they sit at a particular point in popular discourse: They are widely accepted in mainstream society and can be voiced

with minimal pushback, yet still seem “edgy” and iconoclastic... Second, antifeminism offers to address a genuine sense of grievance. Sites such as 4chan... have developed a whole language to talk about the hurt young men feel... Finally, anti-feminist ideology can become a 360-degree conspiracy theory, similar to the kind of anti-Semitic ideas that flourish online.” (Lewis, 2019)

2.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for this research paper revolves around the intersectional analysis of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere, examining the shared ideologies, tactics, and impacts on American democracy. This framework draws upon theoretical perspectives from several disciplines, including sociology, political science, and communication/ media studies, to comprehensively understand the dynamics of extremism within contemporary political discourse.

This research will explore the ideological underpinnings and ideological foundations of both the Alt-Right and the Manosphere by tracing their historical roots and core beliefs. This includes an examination of concepts such as white nationalism, white supremacy, misogyny, male empowerment, anti-feminism, and the rejection of mainstream cultural norms. The framework will analyze how these ideologies serve as catalysts for group cohesion, radicalization, and the formation of online communities by drawing on social identity theory and group radicalization models.

A central component of the research involves mapping the online ecosystems of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere, including forums, social media platforms, and alternative media outlets. By utilizing concepts from network time series analysis and digital ethnography, the framework will investigate how these online spaces facilitate the dissemination of extremist ideologies, recruitment strategies, and the formation of echo chambers.

This framework will examine the interpersonal dynamics within the Alt-Right and the Manosphere, including the role of charismatic leaders, influencers, and peer-to-peer radicalization processes. This research will draw on social influence and persuasion theories and explore how individuals are drawn into extremist circles, undergo radicalization processes, and become active online and offline activism participants.

Building upon intersectional feminist theory, the framework will analyze how intersections of race, gender, and class shape the discourse and tactics of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere. Additionally, the research will investigate how the convergence of these movements amplifies their impact on political discourse, contributing to the normalization of extremist ideologies and the erosion of democratic norms.

Finally, the framework will assess the broader implications of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere for American democracy, including their effects on political polarization, social cohesion, and the rise of hate speech and violence. Drawing on theories of democratic erosion and social movements, the research will evaluate the challenges these movements pose to democratic governance and pluralistic values and potential strategies for countering extremism and promoting civic resilience. By synthesizing insights from these theoretical perspectives in the literature review, the conceptual framework aims to provide a holistic understanding of the dynamics of extremism at the intersection of the Alt-Right and the Manosphere, offering valuable insights from scholarly analysis and policy interventions.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODS

Table 1. Hypotheses

H1	Extremist narratives within the manosphere will intersect linguistically with broader movements of right-wing extremism in the United States.
H2	Individuals radicalized within the manosphere will discuss engaging in acts of violence.
H3	Social media algorithms and platform design contribute to the proliferation of extremist content within the manosphere.

Table 2. Research Design Objectives

Explore the themes, language patterns, and discourse dynamics within the manosphere and alt-right extremism on social media platforms.
Identify the overlap and intersections between the two groups regarding ideology, rhetoric, and messaging.
Examine the potential influence of manosphere discourse on the propagation and dissemination of alt-right extremist ideologies.

4.1. Text Analysis on Reddit

To study Reddit, there will need to be a dataset of data collection from subreddits associated with the Manosphere and the alt-right. The starting point would need to be a pool of subreddits to look at, and these subreddits would consist of r/AgainstHateSubreddits because it will be easier to find alt-right subreddits that aren't as explicit in name and

r/AntifascistsofReddit. These two communities openly oppose hateful groups on the Reddit platforms and go to extreme lengths to bring these subreddits to the mainstream to get them banned from the platform.

The goal is to select a range of different Reddit subreddits that are related to both alt-right communities and manosphere-related communities. Robin Mamie, who wrote a journal article titled “Are Anti-Feminist Communities Gateways to the Far Right? Evidence from Reddit and YouTube,” had an exciting methodology and viewpoint to do this research. They did a text analysis of 65 different subreddits that would correlate to both communities, and some communities were included that most people wouldn’t have thought of to look at (e.g., looking at gaming subreddits).

The focus was explicitly on these subreddits' trends happening during January 2021. If this were done in this research, the focus would be to look at these subreddits during huge political events (e.g., 2016 Election, January 6th Capital Riots, Unite the Right Rally, etc). As Mamie did the sampling in their research, the goal would be to use PushShift, a tool that can be used to collect, analyze, and archive data from Reddit. Using the software is important because the data includes real-time updates and historical data dating back from the beginning of Reddit’s platform creation.

Once the pool of subreddits is selected, the goal is to start annotating them and carefully inspecting the posts from the specific timelines. These communities are subjective, so there will be posts that may not relate to either the alt-right or the manosphere. Human coding will be significant for text analysis on these subreddits. Some subreddits have been banned, so human coding will be needed to annotate and browse historical snapshots in the Internet Archive.

4.2. YouTube Data Analysis

YouTube is one of the most used social media networks in the United States and one of the only major social media platforms popular among the alt-right before the creation of alt-tech platforms (e.g., Rumble, Truth Social, Gab Social, DLive). Specifically, YouTube has represented a significant democratization of political media through video, and it has been argued that it is one of the most potent media for accessing information (Munger, 2020).

A similar methodology would be used in the paper from Ribeiro and Mamie, which consisted of collecting data that was associated with the four main subgroups within the Manosphere: Incels, PUAs (Pick-Up Artists), MGTOWs (Men Going Their Own Way), and MRAs (Men's Rights Activists). The goal would be to start with seed channels selected from different online sources, wikis, and blog posts focusing on these topics. There would then be a list of key phrases that each of these subgroups identifies with (e.g., Incels would include keywords like "black pill," "incels," and "lookmax.") By using these key phrases. This will help define the search option on YouTube to help show the most accurate videos and channels that feature those terms.

Other researchers have used and proposed what is called a "Supply and Demand" framework for analyzing politics on YouTube. Kevin Munger, a professor of political science and social data analysis at Penn State University, designed this framework. This framework aims to understand the dynamics among right-wing video producers and consumers (Munger, 2020). Munger argues that YouTube has been specifically designed to be an agent of radicalization into the far-right. Munger is looking at the supply and demand of this content over time on YouTube and when this content becomes popular. It has been shown that alt-right content on significant platforms will rise in viewership before and after elections in the United States (Munger, 2020).

Kevin Munger argues that a helpful starting point for analyzing YouTube would be to focus on the factors that lead conservative and far-right content creators to populate websites like YouTube and why there is a demand among the users. This framework was published in 2020, so a lot has changed, especially with the rise of these creators moving to alt-tech platforms. However, many creators still use YouTube to engage with a different audience they couldn't interact with if all this content were solely on alt-tech platforms.

YouTube is an exciting form of media compared to the other social media platforms discussed throughout this paper. Many people spend hours a day in the context of watching videos or even just listening to the audio from the videos. It can be done more quickly than going on other platforms and sitting there and reading through all the comments. There is a rise in the number of people who can perform their jobs with headphones, mostly among blue-collar workers. It has been found that many of these workers are consuming content in the form of audio from YouTube videos and podcasts (Walker, 2018).

4.3. Survey Sampling / Qualtrics Survey Example

This mock study surveyed 1,000 male college students to examine their perspectives on democratic institutions, perceptions of corruption, and attitudes toward political violence. The survey included questions designed to gauge trust in democratic institutions, beliefs about corruption within these institutions, and the justification of violence for political purposes. This survey was conducted for DACSS 602- Research Design and the information is related to the topic of this paper.

The respondents rated their trust in democratic institutions on a scale from 1 (least trust) to 5 (most trust). They also answered "Yes/No" questions regarding their beliefs about corruption

and the necessity of violence to achieve political goals. Additional questions assessed the likelihood of justifying violent actions against perceived enemies of the state, feelings of connectedness to their community and society, and the impact of online extremist narratives on social cohesion.

Finally, these computer-generated respondents rated how their views on democratic institutions and justification for supporting violence had changed after viewing specific content, using a scale from 1 (least change) to 5 (most change). The scale for the responses on the survey was for these numbers to be randomly generated. The survey example is listed below:

Survey Example Using MockData

Survey Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how much trust do you have in democratic institutions? (1 being the least, 5 being the most trust)
1 2 3 4 5
2. To what extent do you believe democratic institutions in the United States are corrupt?
Y/N
3. Do you believe that violence is sometimes necessary to achieve political goals? Y/N
4. How likely are you to justify violent actions against groups perceived as enemies of the state?
1 2 3 4 5
5. How connected do you feel to your community and society at large?
1 2 3 4 5
6. Do you believe that online extremist narratives impact social cohesion?

1 2 3 4 5

7. Has the content that you viewed changed your views on democratic institutions? If so, how?

1 2 3 4 5

8. Do you feel more or less justified in supporting violence after viewing the content? Y/N

Average Scores for Survey Questions

1. Average Score: 2.943
2. Yes: 508 No: 492
3. Yes: 502 No: 498
4. Average Score: 3.088
5. Average Score: 2.949
6. Average Score: 2.974
7. Average Score: 3.047
8. Yes: 501 No: 499

Findings from Mock Survey

This section will interpret the survey results from above and the average scores found from the survey questions.

1. The average score of 2.943 indicates moderate trust in democratic institutions among the surveyed students. This score suggests that while there is some degree of confidence in them, there is also significant skepticism about their effectiveness and integrity.
2. A slight majority of respondents (508 out of 1000) believe democratic institutions in the United States are corrupt. This nearly even split highlights a divided opinion on the

integrity of these institutions, with a significant portion of students perceiving corruption as a substantial issue.

3. Similarly, a slight majority (502 out of 1000) of students believe violence is sometimes necessary to achieve political goals. This near-even division does suggest a contentious and polarized view on the use of violence in politics, which reflects broader societal debates on the question.
4. The average score of 3.088 indicates a moderate inclination among respondents to justify violent actions against groups perceived as enemies of the state. This suggests that while there is some hesitancy, many students are open to justifying such actions under certain circumstances.
5. With an average score of 2.949, students generally feel moderately connected to their community and society. This score points to a mixed sense of belonging, with some students feeling more integrated than others.
6. The average score of 2.974 suggests that students perceive online extremist narratives as having a moderate impact on social cohesion. This indicates an awareness of the potentially divisive effects of such narratives, although opinions on their severity may vary.
7. The average score of 3.047 shows that the respondents' content has moderately influenced their views on democratic institutions. This suggests that exposure to certain types of content can sway opinions, highlighting the power of media and information sources.
8. An almost even split (501 to 499) on whether the content viewed made respondents feel more justified in supporting violence indicates a polarized effect of such content. This

suggests that while some students may be swayed toward justifying violence, an almost equal number are not.

The findings from this mock survey reveal a population with moderate trust in democratic institutions, a divided perception of corruption, and contentious views on justifying political violence. The impact of online extremist narratives is recognized, and exposure to certain content appears to influence opinions on democratic institutions and the justification for violence. These results from the survey highlight the complexity and polarization of views among male college students regarding democracy and political violence, reflecting broader societal trends and the influence of media consumption. If this survey was conducted among a real population, the results may lean more against extremist values.

Word Count: 7470

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