A Brief History of the Internet – Response

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I think it’s always important when first

I’m very grateful to be **introduced** to the history of the internet and be immediately confronted not with a single canonical narrative, but instead with the substantial complexity that comes with the plurality of the many sometimes complimentary, sometimes contradictory histor*ies* of the internet. Being that this is a “brief” history I also appreciated that much of the historiographical analysis is done for me as Rosenzweig speaks to the academic backgrounds of, and the economic and institutional contexts in which the authors wrote their histories which helps explain the varying emphasis that is placed on different aspects of the internets histories.

I found particularly useful and relevant talk the of the binary roots of the internet: at the same time permitting both awesome increases and decreases of the centralization of capital, information… power. This article made sense of this contradiction by placing the internets’ histories within the similarly polar political context 60’s America: on one hand the establishment, acts as the centralizing force; while the counter culture and hacker acts as the decentralizing force.

on one hand being pr

on different placed.

– in this case a history – presented from the start with the complexity of the topic at hand through the mention of many differing interpretations and hisgraphical frameworks.

Really like this approach of surveys in general, where they are basic summaries of canon works. I also love how the author speaks directly to problems of histography, and speaks to the academic backgrounds, and economic/institution contexts through which the authors were writing in which may explain their particular emphasizes on particular subjects.

Loved the discussion of the binary nature of the internert: permitting (depending on usage) for both vast increases and decreases in the centralization of capital, information… power. Especially putting this into the political context of the 60’s, the establishment 🡪 big, post-war and therefore big government (thanks in large part to FDR’s consolidations) versus counter culture movements like the hippies but also the hackers and certain relatively disenfrachaised computer science students excluded from the military’s networks.

It’s great to get such variety of views as my intro to the internets history.