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Politics and Technology

Technology has a ton of impacts on the way we live today, whether it is with our personal lives, Social lives, or even Political lives the technology is everywhere impacting our lives positively and negatively. Within the lives of political figures, technology has a huge impact on what happens in politics and even the personal lives of the politician. It just takes one misinterpreted message or an inaccurate video for a politician to become a hated figure overnight. Throughout history, technology has increasingly caused more problems as the technological advancements continued. Everything that has any kind of importance is instantly recorded by the millions of people that are walking around with cameras in their pockets at all times. Even when there is nobody around the unintentional footage of something good, or bad is often recorded from one of the 265 million surveillance cameras around the world. Although there are a lot of negative impacts of technology on politics, there are plenty of positives for having technology in political issues. With the technology that we have today we can instantly see what each of the politicians want to say about what they will do to make our country better.

For nearly 20 years politics has been greatly impacted by the technology that is being used. The technology that we have today is amazing and has a huge impact on politics, and vis versa. With the technology that is used different politicians have used different methods to win over the public. JFK used television and his good looks to win over voters, Reagan used satellite technology to be at every GOP campaign rally, and in 2008 Obama and his team used digital technology and social media in order to win over the younger voters to win. This past election technology was used very much by both Clinton and Trump in order to get the most votes. Clinton spent millions of dollars on television ads alone in order to get the most votes “Trump has reserved zero dollars in television advertising, compared to $117 million from Hillary Clinton and her allies, according to data from the ad tracking firm Kantar Media/CMAG” (CNNPolitics). Although Trump did not invest as much in the TV ads he had the social media on his side, with 7 million followers on Twitter and roughly 50,000 more followers every day the tweets that Trump tweeted were seen and retweeted thousands of times giving him the clear advantage when it came to social media. This allowed Trump have a more direct connection with his voters “Social media tools including Facebook, Twitter and Youtube allow politicians to speak directly to voters without spending a dime” (Murse).

Not only does technology impact politics and the outcome of many debates, politics also impact technology and how it is used. In the most recent debate between Trump and Clinton there have been many cases where fake news was created either to help themselves or to hurt the other politician. According to the article written by Hunt Allcott “Our database contains 115 pro-Trump fake stories that were shared on Facebook a total of 30 million times, and 41 pro-Clinton fake stories shared a total of 7.6 million times” (212). With politics today the different political teams will do almost anything possible to make the other politician to look bad. This was not a huge part of past political debates where there were less The idea of politics triggers the instinct that we must get it onto social media immediately and share it with as many people as possible. Recently Trump argued that the NFL player that protested against the National Anthem should be fired “Get that son of a b\*\*\*\* off the field right now. Out! He’s fired. He’s fired!” (USA TODAY). This immediately backfired and after just one day more players, and even entire teams protested the National Anthem because of how quickly Trump’s speech was passed around. Finally, politics affect the amount of truth that goes into each social media post or television ad, in order to get the most votes politicians are willing to use whatever necessary to win the debate even if it causes the other politician to look terrible.

The idea of using technology with political debates has many advantages and disadvantages. In the past, the political debates were not seen by everyone everywhere instantly because they just not have the technology we have today. The debates that past generations had took hours upon hours to debate in each town, where today using technology is more important in the debate and the actual discussion is very minimal. In the article by Gregory Ferenstein he discusses the small amount of discussion time that the politicians actually have “At this very moment tonight, where do you stand on the financial recovery plan? First response to you, Senator Obama. You have two minutes.” Although the technology that we have today is very useful, in some ways we use it too much when it comes to debates, the public need to know what the President will actually do. Not the news that is provided by their opponents. Another disadvantage to the technology we have today and how it is used in politics is that it is very hackable. According to Wilson’s article in TIME Magazine there were many more electronic voters this past election “But many more—an estimated 22 percent of expected voters—will vote in precincts that leave no paper trail whatsoever (the red-colored counties on the map), leaving them in a precarious position”(TIME). When using paper instead of electronic voting systems there is a lot higher chance of there not being an inaccurate number of votes because of hackers. There are many advantages to having the technology that we have today for political debates. With the technology and social media that we have today, politicians are able to connect to their voters fast and easy.

In conclusion, without the technology that we have today our political debates would be very different, and vis versa. The way that politicians have been able to lunge at another campaigner with fake news because of the technology that we have today would not be possible. Our instant knowledge of who is winning and what is going on at every moment of the debate would change dramatically without the technology that we have today. Politicians use our technological advancements in order to show what they want to improve, yet many more times than not they also have some sort of negative fact about the other politician. With this being said, showing what the other politician is doing wrong does not help with what they are going to do right. Overall, technology has many positive and negative impacts on the politics that we have today and vis versa.

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