

Unit 7-9 discussion forum: initial post

What Is The Impact Of Technologies On Basic Liberties?

The relationship between technology and civil liberties has attracted significant debates from scholars. According to Brownsword (2017), deploying technologies in a manner that will transform the traditional processes and practices of the criminal justice system into a smart regime of social control undermines the existing civil liberties (p.107). The United Nations also holds that the proliferation of digital technologies has increased privacy violations due to extensive surveillance of humans (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 2019). Technology can emerge as a form of social control in addition to acknowledging other freedoms but may undermine human liberties. For instance, the freedom of expression and association has increased following the proliferation of user-generated content on social networking platforms (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2018). As such, the emergence of technology is shaping civil liberties in various ways.

Brownsword and Harel (2017) assert that liberty allows individuals to deliberate between a right and wrong (p.107). However, new technologies underwrite greater rights and freedoms, while other are eroded, suspended, or limited (Petrina, Volk, and Kim, 2004 p.181). The proliferation of technology in different parts of the globe suspends basic civil liberties to grant technology companies control over their users. In addition, liberties have been curtailed because consent among users is not required by tech companies to gather data and support the surveillance of users due to the rise of networking platforms (McLeod and Tanyi, 2021 p.1). The regulatory measures imposed by tech companies and regulatory agencies are stringent and have prompted the

violation of civil liberties through increased censorship and the rise of unconsenting practices. Consequently, users are suspending their civil liberties to increase their ability to use various technology platforms.

References

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