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**Technology and Politics**

**Box #88**

**11/1/17**

Technology has a huge effect on politics and vice versa. Technology affects politics in two major ways. First of all, technology affects politics by influencing public opinion. In addition, technology allows politicians and people concerning politics to understand statistics and trends within the political world. Politics in turn affects technology in two major ways. First, politics encourages the growth of certain technology such as online registration and programs for scheduling campaigns and meetups. Lastly, politics influences technology by discouraging the development of certain types of technology.

Technology has a clever way of influencing public opinion in politics. Take the United States presidential election of 2016 for example. Towards the end of the election, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump competing in almost a manner of who looked worse. This type of humorous competition stemmed directly from social media within technology. Everyone has seen a video of Trump cursing out a minority, and everyone knows about Hillary Clinton’s suspected “deleted emails.” A big way technology influenced public opinion was Donald Trump’s use of Twitter. “In the same year, the Howard Dean campaign embraced technological innovation to run political campaigns, such as Meetup to organize monthly meetings, Dean TV to run online videos, experimented with SMS and used an online event tool Get Local” (Staff). This shows how politicians now depend on social media and technology to further their campaign. If it were not for the public release of videos and articles through social media, public opinion would be based solely off direct impressions.

The power of technology allows people to search and study statistics and trends going on in the world of politics. “Tech innovations, such as the free Obama08 app for iPhone and Facebook Connect, played a huge role in the election of Barack Obama. The release of the Facebook API helped in the development of Act.ivi.st, which integrates a campaign with online communities in Facebook or Twitter through messages” (Staff). These apps are just a couple examples of how we are able to stay in touch with politics. One other major example of this would be national debt. The internet allows us to see what our country is spending money on, and how much money is being spent. This is a luxurious benefit that would not be accessed in such detail without the use of technology. Technology allows us to see what is really going on in our country. It provides people with the ability to always be in the know. This is a luxury that has slowly progressed year by year, and it only gets better.

Politics determine the use of many different types of technology. “A prime example would be military technologies where politics set out to create more and more sophisticated technologies with the aim of increasing their power” (Zahn). This quote by Zahn shows how politics encouraged the growth of military spending. Due to the encouragement of spending money on military investments, militarial technology then improves. If politics were to discourage the idea, we would notice a slower improvement in the technology of the military.

Politics additionally discourage the use of certain types of technology. ”Politics can also influence technologies and its progress by deciding *not* to support a certain technology. For example, some countries are banning the technology of genetically modified organisms due to public health concerns” (Zahn). We can notice here how not only does politics encourage certain technology, it also discourages it as well. By noticing that genetically modified organisms were creating health concerns and other issues, politics were able to use their power to ban these.“Government should try to help U.S. firms respond to the competitive challenge of a fast-changing global marketplace and should be able to do it without meddling in domestic markets or favoring selected competitors” (Branscomb). This quote shows the direct effect of politics on the world of technology.

To sum it all up, technology has a huge effect on politics and vice versa. Technology has an effect in politics in two major ways. Technology affects politics by influencing public opinion allowing politicians to see trends and statistics within the world of politics. Politics as well affects technology in two major ways. Politics encourages the growth of certain technology and influences technology by discouraging the development of different types of technology. As one could see, technology and politics directly affect each other in major ways.

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