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Senior Seminar

3/1/2021

Is Social Media Expediting Democratic Erosion in the US?

During the tenure of Donald Trump, we saw an extreme amount of concerned feelings towards the use of social media by the 45th president of the United States. The feeling in America felt mightily tense, as many tensions rose between 2016 through 2020. The people of America was angry, slander and racist comments and tweets were posted. We saw many news outlets share tweets on national TV from Donald J. Trump’s account that were cited as derogatory and offensive, as well as false. This has led to a faster approach towards democratic erosion within the United States. Social media is a platform that allows its users to express their thoughts with no filter at most times. However, Donald Trump’s account was suspended and blocked from many social media platforms due to hateful and inciting comments.

There was a pretty great piece written by B. Hudson on Apriil 6, 2020 regarding social media and the effect it can have on democracy. He noted that in today’s media landscape, there are two major ways for information sources to be manipulated: Fake News, which according to Cambridge Dictionary is defined as “false stories that appear as news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views,” and through false or over-exaggerated political advertisements. “There are no fundamental issues with a political advertisement, until they start heading towards the route of a populist agenda where campaigning techniques are used to ruin the credibility or character of one’s opponent.” That is where erosion begins. You must be able to understand that during the different presidencies, there has been countless times where we had felt that we are failing as a democracy. There has been plenty times that the news media twisted stories, or promoted the narrative that steers the plot even more. However, social media does the same with more of a dramatic effect. Social media is the primary source of media for the country now, with people being able to voice their opinions and political beliefs open and freely. This has caused many debates and many concerns. None bigger than what was caused by the 45th president’s social media presence. Not to mention many people felt that the capitol breaching was a direct reflect of Donald Trump’s beliefs and tweets, which incited the breaching. Although unproven, many people share this belief, which does not bold well for the democracy within the United States.

In conclusion, social media has worsened democracy and promoted democratic erosion. Incited by members of leadership above the U.S. our great democracy is falling at an expedited rate. We must not fail to see how much of an effect we have on democracy through social media, which is the biggest platform in America. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and even Snapchat have all banned certain political figures, most notably Donald Trump, due to comments viewed as a threat to democracy, by promoting division, suggesting a stop on voting polls, implying racist standards, and a lack of empathy for the abused in the case of police brutality. Democratic erosion is free falling and social media is at the bottom of the pile.