

A Digital Bellwether

—

By Nikolis Clark

Introduction

- **New Media:** Digital media that are interactive, incorporate two-way communication and involve some form of computing. (1)
 - Youtube
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
- **The Intellectual Dark Web Beliefs:** “There are fundamental biological differences between men and women. Free speech is under siege. Identity politics is a toxic ideology that is tearing American society apart. And we’re in a dangerous place if these ideas are considered “dark.”” (2)

Question: Did New Media have an effect on the voters and politics in 2016?

Hypothesis: New Media has served as an important force in the political radicalization of like minded individuals on the right, as well as serving as a secondary form of political socialization for emerging adults (18-24).

Method

Pew Research Institute: Core Findings Survey (3)

- Jan 3-10, 2018
- 1,505 Surveys collected
- Called Homelines and Cellphones
- 18 years or older were called
- Called people from all 50 states

Literature Review

- The Internet can serve as a form of political socialization.
- The Internet allows for people of variety of political backgrounds to find one another and grow their communities.
- New Media is unique in the fact that it engages with so many people that it can become a breeding ground for new and dangerous political ideologies.

Key Data

Emerging Adults New Media Users % of 201 Participants and % Daily Users

- Facebook: 80%, 41% Daily
- Twitter: 45%, 26% Daily
- Youtube: 94%, 62% Daily

Digital Nationalism

- Hobsbawm's construction on a nationalist nation(4)
 - Standardized Education
 - The IDW and New Media Socialization
 - Creation of Public Ceremonies
 - Rallies, Town Halls, and Speeches
 - The Mass Production of Monuments
 - Alt-Right Memes



Conclusion

New Media is being used as a vehicle for spreading of Digital Nationalism to emerging adults.



Bibliography

1. "What Is New Media? | Southeastern University Online." 2020. Southeastern University Online. <https://online.seu.edu/articles/what-is-new-media/> (24 May 2020).
2. Weiss, Bari. 2018. "Opinion | Meet The Renegades Of The Intellectual Dark Web." Nytimes.com. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/08/opinion/intellectual-dark-web.html> (24 May 2020).
3. Smith, Aaron, and Monica Anderson. 2020. "Social Media Use 2018: Demographics And Statistics." Pew Research Center: Internet, Science & Tech. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/03/01/social-media-use-in-2018/> (24 May 2020).
4. Hobsbawm, Eric. 1986. The Nation As Invented Tradition.