

How Digital Media Drive Affective Polarization Through Partisan Sorting

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Introduction:

Are you tired of the seemingly endless political battles raging online? Do you wonder why political discourse feels so toxic and divided? The answer lies, in part, in the powerful intersection of digital media and partisan sorting. This post delves deep into how algorithms, echo chambers, and the very structure of online platforms contribute to affective polarization – the intensification of feelings of dislike and animosity towards those holding opposing political views. We'll explore the mechanisms behind this phenomenon, examine its consequences, and consider potential solutions. Prepare to understand how the digital world is shaping – and potentially warping – our political landscape.

1. Understanding Affective Polarization and Partisan Sorting:

Before diving into the role of digital media, it's crucial to define our key terms. Affective polarization refers to the growing emotional divide between political groups. It's not just about disagreeing on policies; it's about actively disliking and distrusting individuals based solely on their political affiliation. This animosity extends beyond policy differences and bleeds into personal judgments, impacting social interactions and even interpersonal relationships.

Partisan sorting, on the other hand, describes the increasing alignment of individuals' social identities with their political affiliations. We're seeing less political moderation and more individuals firmly identifying with one party or the other. This sorting process strengthens group cohesion and increases the salience of political identity, making political differences feel more personal and consequential.

2. The Algorithmic Amplification of Polarization:

Digital media platforms, particularly social media networks, employ algorithms designed to maximize user engagement. These algorithms often prioritize content that elicits strong emotional responses, regardless of its factual accuracy or neutrality. This creates a feedback loop: users are presented with content confirming their existing biases, reinforcing their beliefs, and deepening their animosity towards opposing viewpoints. The algorithm, unintentionally or not, becomes a powerful tool amplifying affective polarization.

For example, if a user frequently interacts with content from a specific news source or political figure known for inflammatory rhetoric, the algorithm will likely prioritize similar content in their feed. This limits exposure to diverse perspectives and creates an echo chamber, reinforcing pre-existing beliefs and fostering a sense of tribalism.

3. Echo Chambers and Filter Bubbles: Limiting Exposure to Diverse Perspectives:

Echo chambers and filter bubbles further contribute to affective polarization. An echo chamber is an environment where individuals primarily interact with people who share similar viewpoints, reinforcing their beliefs and limiting exposure to dissenting opinions. A filter bubble, on the other hand, refers to the personalized experience created by algorithms that curate information based on past behavior, filtering out content that might challenge the user's preconceived notions.

Both phenomena limit exposure to diverse perspectives, hindering critical thinking and creating an environment where opposing views are dismissed or demonized rather than debated. This lack of exposure to alternative viewpoints strengthens the emotional divide between political groups.

4. The Role of Misinformation and Disinformation:

The spread of misinformation and disinformation online significantly exacerbates affective polarization. False or misleading information, often designed to provoke strong emotional reactions, can easily spread virally through social media, amplifying existing biases and deepening divisions. The lack of robust fact-checking mechanisms and the speed at which information spreads online create a fertile ground for the proliferation of harmful narratives that fuel animosity between political groups.

The emotional impact of these narratives is often more powerful than factual accuracy, making them highly effective tools for mobilizing support and demonizing opponents.

5. The Impact of Online Political Discourse on Real-World Interactions:

The affective polarization fueled by digital media doesn't remain confined to the digital sphere. It spills over into real-world interactions, impacting social relationships, community cohesion, and even political stability. The online animosity often translates into increased distrust and hostility in face-to-face interactions, making it more challenging to engage in constructive dialogue across political divides.

The blurring of lines between online and offline interactions further amplifies this effect. What starts as an online argument can easily escalate into real-world conflict, highlighting the serious consequences of digital-mediated affective polarization.

6. Mitigating the Effects: Strategies for a Less Polarized Digital Landscape:

While the challenge is significant, there are strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of digital media on affective polarization. These include:

Media Literacy Education: Educating individuals to critically evaluate online information, identify misinformation, and understand the biases embedded in different media sources is crucial.

Algorithmic Transparency: Increased transparency in how social media algorithms function could help users understand how their feeds are curated and make more informed choices about the content they consume.

Promoting Cross-Cutting Dialogue: Encouraging online platforms to facilitate constructive dialogue and interaction between individuals with opposing viewpoints can foster understanding and reduce

animosity.

Fact-Checking and Misinformation Countermeasures: Investing in robust fact-checking initiatives and developing effective strategies to counter the spread of misinformation online are essential.
Regulation and Accountability: Considering appropriate regulations to hold social media platforms accountable for the content they host and how their algorithms impact users could be necessary.

7. Conclusion:

Digital media plays a significant role in driving affective polarization through partisan sorting. The algorithms, echo chambers, and spread of misinformation all contribute to a digital landscape where political differences are amplified and animosity is intensified. Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach involving media literacy education, algorithmic transparency, promoting cross-cutting dialogue, robust fact-checking initiatives, and perhaps even regulatory intervention. The future of our political discourse depends on our ability to navigate the complexities of the digital world and foster more constructive and less polarized interactions.

Article Outline:

Title: How Digital Media Drive Affective Polarization Through Partisan Sorting

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Outline:

Introduction: Hook, overview of the topic and what the article will cover.

Chapter 1: Defining Affective Polarization and Partisan Sorting.

Chapter 2: The Algorithmic Amplification of Polarization.

Chapter 3: Echo Chambers and Filter Bubbles.

Chapter 4: The Role of Misinformation and Disinformation.

Chapter 5: Impact on Real-World Interactions.

Chapter 6: Mitigating the Effects: Strategies for a Less Polarized Digital Landscape.

Chapter 7: Conclusion: Summary and call to action.

FAQs

Related Articles

(Note: The above sections are already expanded upon in the main body of the article above.)

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between affective polarization and partisan sorting? Affective polarization refers to increased animosity between political groups, while partisan sorting is the alignment of social identity with political affiliation.

2. How do algorithms contribute to affective polarization? Algorithms prioritize engaging content, often amplifying emotionally charged material that confirms existing biases and limits exposure to diverse perspectives.

3. What is an echo chamber, and how does it affect political discourse? An echo chamber is an environment where individuals only hear opinions that confirm their own, reinforcing biases and hindering critical thinking.
4. How does misinformation spread online, and what is its impact? Misinformation spreads rapidly through social media, amplifying biases and deepening divisions, often having a more emotional impact than factual accuracy.
5. How does online polarization affect real-world interactions? Online animosity can translate into increased distrust and hostility in real-life interactions, making cross-political dialogue more difficult.
6. What is the role of media literacy in combating polarization? Media literacy helps individuals critically evaluate information, identify bias, and make informed choices about the content they consume.
7. Can algorithms be designed to reduce polarization? Algorithmic transparency and modifications to prioritize diverse perspectives could potentially mitigate the effects of polarization.
8. What role can governments play in addressing online polarization? Governments could consider regulations to hold social media platforms accountable for content and algorithmic design.
9. What can individuals do to combat polarization in their own online behavior? Individuals can actively seek diverse perspectives, engage in respectful dialogue, and fact-check information before sharing it.

Related Articles:

1. The Psychology of Political Polarization: Explores the psychological factors contributing to political division.
2. Social Media and the Erosion of Trust: Examines how social media impacts trust in institutions and individuals.
3. The Spread of Misinformation Online: Focuses on the mechanisms of misinformation spread and its consequences.
4. Echo Chambers and the Filter Bubble Effect: Deep dive into the formation and impact of echo chambers and filter bubbles.
5. Political Discourse in the Digital Age: Analyses the evolution of political communication in the digital environment.
6. The Impact of Algorithmic Bias on Political Polarization: Investigates how algorithmic bias exacerbates political divisions.
7. Combating Online Hate Speech: Addresses strategies for mitigating hate speech and online harassment.
8. Building Bridges Across Political Divides: Explores methods for promoting constructive dialogue and understanding between political groups.
9. The Future of Political Communication: Discusses potential future trends in political communication and their implications for democracy.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Grandstanding*

Justin Tosi, Brandon Warmke, 2020 Why does talk about politics and moral issues tend to get so ugly, heated, and personal? So much public discussion goes awry because people are using it for the wrong reasons. Too often, especially online, people engage in moral grandstanding—they use moral talk to impress others by showing them they have the right views. Tosi and Warmke show why people behave this way, why it's wrong, and what we can do about it.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Propaganda

Lukasz Olejnik, 2024-10-02 The book is a modern primer on propaganda—aspects like disinformation, trolls, bots, information influence, psychological operations, information operations, and information warfare. *Propaganda: From Disinformation and Influence to Operations and Information Warfare* offers a contemporary model for thinking about the subject. The first two decades of the 21st century have brought qualitative and quantitative technological and societal changes, and the subject of information influence needs to be re-ordered. Now is the time. The book explains the origins of the meaning and phenomenon of propaganda—where it came from and how it has changed over the centuries. The book also covers modern methods, including artificial intelligence (AI) and advertising technologies. Legal, political, diplomatic, and military considerations ensure that the material is covered in depth. The book is recommended for security and cybersecurity professionals (both technical and non-technical), government officials, politicians, corporate executives, academics, and students of technical and social sciences. Adept with an interest in the subject will read it with interest.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: The Oxford Handbook of Social and Political Trust

Eric M. Uslaner, 2018-01-02 This volume explores the foundations of trust, and whether social and political trust have common roots. Contributions by noted scholars examine how we measure trust, the cultural and social psychological roots of trust, the foundations of political trust, and how trust concerns the law, the economy, elections, international relations, corruption, and cooperation, among myriad societal factors. The rich assortment of essays on these themes addresses questions such as: How does national identity shape trust, and how does trust form in developing countries and in new democracies? Are minority groups less trusting than the dominant group in a society? Do immigrants adapt to the trust levels of their host countries? Does group interaction build trust? Does the welfare state promote trust and, in turn, does trust lead to greater well-being and to better health outcomes? *The Oxford Handbook of Social and Political Trust* considers these and other questions of critical importance for current scholarly investigations of trust.

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Debra J. Davidson, 2024-08-16 Examining the social response to the mounting impacts of climate change, *Feeling Climate Change* illuminates what the pathways from emotions to social change look like—and how they work—so we can recognize and inform our collective attempts to avert further climate catastrophe. Debra J. Davidson engages with how our actions are governed by a complex of rules, norms, and predispositions, central among which operates our emotionality, to assess individual and collective responses to the climate crisis, applying a critical and constructive analysis of human social prospects for confronting the climate emergency in manners that minimize the damage and perhaps even enhance the prospects for meaningful collective living. Providing a crucial understanding of our emotionality and its role in individual behaviour, collective action, and ultimately in social change, this book offers researchers, policymakers, and citizens essential insights into our personal and collective responses to the climate emergency.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Contentious Data in Movement

Cristina Flesher Fominaya, MILAN STEFANIA, Davide Beraldo, 2024-12-16 This book explores the profound transformations brought about by the datafication of society, and reflects on the implications this has for activism, social movements, and contentious politics. The result is a collection of chapters that advance the field of social movement studies theoretically and empirically, enabling us to better understand these transformations and offering a vocabulary and conceptual apparatus that facilitates a truly interdisciplinary dialogue. Through rich case studies,

empirical examples, novel insights, and provocative reflections, the book serves as an invitation for scholars and activists to reflect on the theoretical, empirical, methodological and ethical implications of the datafied society, and its consequences for social movement activism. The volume will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of social movements, political science, social anthropology, and ethnography. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of *Social Movement Studies*.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *The Certainty Trap* Ilana Redstone, 2024-09-02 When we're in the Certainty Trap, we tend to view people who disagree with us as hateful, ignorant, or just plain stupid. When it comes to heated social and political issues in particular, many of us know this feeling well— a consuming state of righteous indignation and moral outrage. And this response makes sense because our very certainty tells us that there are simple and obvious causes and solutions to the hot-button issues we care about most. But the things we care about the most are— far more often than not— morally and ethically complex. If the problems that divide us are inherently complicated, then a sense that the answers are obvious— and that anyone who disagrees must be deficient in some way— is misplaced. It's an oversimplification that both leads to and reflects faulty thinking. When we're certain, we not only fail to recognize the possibility that we're wrong but also fail to be clear about the principles and values that drive our disagreement in the first place. By committing to challenging and clarifying our thinking— by avoiding the trap certainty sets for us— we can increase social trust, reduce political polarization, and better address the world's pressing challenges.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Communicating Politics Online* Chapman Rackaway, 2023-01-24 This second edition explores the relationship between politics and media, with a particular emphasis on the significant disruptive changes to media and technology that have faced journalists, campaigners, and the public in recent years. The first edition, in 2014, described the earliest elements of social and online media: Web 2.0, the 'information economy,' and the changes from traditional broadcast media to the early online world. With the rise of TikTok, the 'fake news' claims of Donald Trump, the decline of local news, and the anti-democratic impulses that drove the January 6, 2021 coup attempts, the last decade has provided a rich and sometimes confounding set of disruptions to political communication that deserve attention. Technology has disrupted political communication in the online environment exceptionally quickly over the last decade, and this book provides a framework for understanding the intersections of these disruptions and their effect on an already-fragile democratic circumstance in the United States.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Network Propaganda* Yochai Benkler, Robert Faris, Hal Roberts, 2018-09-17 This is an open access title available under the terms of a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 International licence. It is free to read at Oxford Scholarship Online and offered as a free PDF download from OUP and selected open access locations. Is social media destroying democracy? Are Russian propaganda or Fake news entrepreneurs on Facebook undermining our sense of a shared reality? A conventional wisdom has emerged since the election of Donald Trump in 2016 that new technologies and their manipulation by foreign actors played a decisive role in his victory and are responsible for the sense of a post-truth moment in which disinformation and propaganda thrives. *Network Propaganda* challenges that received wisdom through the most comprehensive study yet published on media coverage of American presidential politics from the start of the election cycle in April 2015 to the one year anniversary of the Trump presidency. Analysing millions of news stories together with Twitter and Facebook shares, broadcast television and YouTube, the book provides a comprehensive overview of the architecture of contemporary American political communications. Through data analysis and detailed qualitative case studies of coverage of immigration, Clinton scandals, and the Trump Russia investigation, the book finds that the right-wing media ecosystem operates fundamentally differently than the rest of the media environment. The authors argue that longstanding institutional, political, and cultural patterns in American politics interacted with technological change since the 1970s to

create a propaganda feedback loop in American conservative media. This dynamic has marginalized centre-right media and politicians, radicalized the right wing ecosystem, and rendered it susceptible to propaganda efforts, foreign and domestic. For readers outside the United States, the book offers a new perspective and methods for diagnosing the sources of, and potential solutions for, the perceived global crisis of democratic politics.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Governable Spaces Nathan Schneider, 2024-02-27 When was the last time you participated in an election for an online group chat or sat on a jury for a dispute about a controversial post? Platforms nudge users to tolerate nearly all-powerful admins, moderators, and “benevolent dictators for life.” In *Governable Spaces*, Nathan Schneider argues that the internet has been plagued by a phenomenon he calls “implicit feudalism”: a bias, both cultural and technical, for building communities as fiefdoms. The consequences have spread far beyond online spaces themselves. Feudal defaults train us to give up on our communities' democratic potential, inclining us to be more tolerant of autocratic tech CEOs and authoritarian politicians. But online spaces could be sites of a creative, radical, and democratic renaissance. Schneider shows how the internet can learn from governance legacies of the past to become a more democratic medium, responsive and inventive unlike anything that has come before. “A prescient analysis of how we create democratic spaces for engagement in the age of polarization. *Governable Spaces* is new, impeccably researched, and imaginative.” -- Zizi Papacharissi, Professor of Communication and Political Science, University of Illinois at Chicago “This visionary book points a way to scrapping capitalist realism for community control over our digital spaces. Nathan Schneider generously brings together disparate wisdom from abolitionists, Black feminists, and cooperative software engineers to spark our own imaginations and experiments.” -- Lilly Irani, author of *Chasing Innovation: Making Entrepreneurial Citizens in Modern India* “From feminist theory to blockchain governance, this dizzying array of topics pulls readers out of their comfort zone and forces a novel look at very old questions.” -- Ethan Zuckerman, Associate Professor of Public Policy, Communication, and Information and Computer Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Human Development Report 2023/2024 United Nations Development Programme, 2024-03-13 Today, collective action on challenges ranging from climate change mitigation to peace and security is frustratingly slow or stymied altogether. Lack of trust and polarization--both associated with insecurity--exacerbate the gridlock. Shared, interlinked global challenges, like the pandemic and its recovery, are outpacing our willingness and our institutions' capacities to respond to them. Why, despite all our riches and technologies, are we so stuck? How do we get unstuck? Is it possible to mobilize action to address globally shared challenges in a world that is intensively polarized? The 2023-2024 Human Development Report explores these issues and offers a platform for strategic discussion on how to move beyond narrow zero-sum thinking and support cooperation even as we have diverging interests and views. The e-book for this publication has been converted into an accessible format for the visually impaired and people with print reading disabilities. It is fully compatible with leading screen-reader technologies such as JAWS and NVDA.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Echo Chamber Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Joseph N. Cappella, 2008-07-22 Kathleen Hall Jamieson and Joseph Cappella--two of the nation's foremost experts on politics and media--offers a searching analysis of the conservative media establishment, from talk radio to Fox News to the editorial page of *The Wall Street Journal*. *Echo Chamber* is the first serious account of how the conservative media arose, what it consists of, and how it operates. Jamieson and Cappella find that Limbaugh, Fox News, and *The Wall Street Journal* opinion pages create a self-protective enclave for conservatives, shielding them from other information sources and promoting highly negative views toward conservatism's political opponents. A thoughtful and incisive study, *Echo Chamber* offers the most authoritative and insightful account of this revolutionary phenomenon and its indelible effect on the American political landscape.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Uncivil*

Agreement Lilliana Mason, 2018-04-16 The psychology behind political partisanship: “The kind of research that will change not just how you think about the world but how you think about yourself.” —Ezra Klein, Vox Political polarization in America has moved beyond disagreements about matters of policy. For the first time in decades, research has shown that members of both parties hold strongly unfavorable views of their opponents. This is polarization rooted in social identity, and it is growing. The campaign and election of Donald Trump laid bare this fact of the American electorate, its successful rhetoric of “us versus them” tapping into a powerful current of anger and resentment. With *Uncivil Agreement*, Lilliana Mason looks at the growing social gulf across racial, religious, and cultural lines, which have recently come to divide neatly between the two major political parties. She argues that group identifications have changed the way we think and feel about ourselves and our opponents. Even when Democrats and Republicans can agree on policy outcomes, they tend to view one other with distrust and to work for party victory over all else. Although the polarizing effects of social divisions have simplified our electoral choices and increased political engagement, they have not been a force that is, on balance, helpful for American democracy. Bringing together theory from political science and social psychology, *Uncivil Agreement* clearly describes this increasingly “social” type of polarization, and adds much to our understanding of contemporary politics.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion* Elizabeth Suhay, Bernard Grofman, Alexander H. Trechsel, 2020-04-01 Elections are the means by which democratic nations determine their leaders, and communication in the context of elections has the potential to shape people's beliefs, attitudes, and actions. Thus, electoral persuasion is one of the most important political processes in any nation that regularly holds elections. Moreover, electoral persuasion encompasses not only what happens in an election but also what happens before and after, involving candidates, parties, interest groups, the media, and the voters themselves. This volume surveys the vast political science literature on this subject, emphasizing contemporary research and topics and encouraging cross-fertilization among research strands. A global roster of authors provides a broad examination of electoral persuasion, with international perspectives complementing deep coverage of U.S. politics. Major areas of coverage include: general models of political persuasion; persuasion by parties, candidates, and outside groups; media influence; interpersonal influence; electoral persuasion across contexts; and empirical methodologies for understanding electoral persuasion.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Polarized* James E. Campbell, 2018-03-27 An eye-opening look at how and why America has become so politically polarized Many continue to believe that the United States is a nation of political moderates. In fact, it is a nation divided. It has been so for some time and has grown more so. This book provides a new and historically grounded perspective on the polarization of America, systematically documenting how and why it happened. *Polarized* presents commonsense benchmarks to measure polarization, draws data from a wide range of historical sources, and carefully assesses the quality of the evidence. Through an innovative and insightful use of circumstantial evidence, it provides a much-needed reality check to claims about polarization. This rigorous yet engaging and accessible book examines how polarization displaced pluralism and how this affected American democracy and civil society. *Polarized* challenges the widely held belief that polarization is the product of party and media elites, revealing instead how the American public in the 1960s set in motion the increase of polarization. American politics became highly polarized from the bottom up, not the top down, and this began much earlier than often thought. The Democrats and the Republicans are now ideologically distant from each other and about equally distant from the political center. *Polarized* also explains why the parties are polarized at all, despite their battle for the decisive median voter. No subject is more central to understanding American politics than political polarization, and no other book offers a more in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the subject than this one.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Culture War?* Morris P. Fiorina, Samuel J. Abrams, Jeremy Pope, 2005 Fiorina's text incorporates polling data with

a compelling narrative to ridicule commonly-believed myths about American Politics.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Intimate Communities of Hate* Anton Törnberg, Petter Törnberg, 2024-02-05 Social media has fundamentally transformed political life, driving a surge in far-right extremism. In recent years, radical anti-democratic ideologies have entered into the political mainstream, fueled by energy from extreme online environments. But why do far-right extremist movements seem to thrive so well on social media platforms? What takes place within the fringe online spaces that seem to function as incubators for violent extremists? To answer these questions, this book goes inside the “murder capital of the racist Internet”, examining 20 years of conversations on Stormfront.org. Using a combination of computational text analysis and close reading, we seek a deeper understanding of the emotional and social effects of being part of an extremist community. We lay the foundation of a new way of understanding online extremism, building on the tradition of Émile Durkheim and Randall Collins. We find that online radicalization is not merely an effect of repeated one-sided arguments, as suggested by metaphors such as “echo chambers”. Instead, social media politics can be better understood through Durkheim’s concept of rituals: moments of shared attention and emotion that create emotional energy and a sense of intersubjectivity, weaving from participants a political tribe - united, energized, and poised to act.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Z Generation Ian Garner, 2023-05-04 How did Vladimir Putin galvanise the Russian people to back his genocidal war in Ukraine and why are so many of them willing to embrace fascism? This vivid, on-the-ground narrative reveals how Russia’s fascist generation came into being—and the dark future that awaits the country if that hold cannot be broken. Wartime Russia is drowning in fascist symbols. Zealous patriots attack journalists, opposition activists, and anyone suspected of betraying the motherland. Russians are urged to join the cause by hordes of online trolls and sleek videos of angry young men bellowing patriotic slogans. State television terrifies viewers with trumped up tales of anti-Russian conspiracies and genocidal yearnings. Child soldiers proudly parade across Red Square. This is Russia in the 2020s: a land of performative rage and nationalist untruth, where play-acting, pretence and broken promises are a way of life. But in a world where pretence has become the norm, a terrifying, apocalyptic mindset is seizing the Russians of tomorrow. As enrapturing as it is terrifying, Z Generation reveals how Russia ended up where it is today, and where its young people are headed: a fascist generation more zealous, violent and ideological than anything the country has seen before.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Social Media and Democracy Nathaniel Persily, Joshua A. Tucker, Joshua Aaron Tucker, 2020-09-03 A state-of-the-art account of what we know and do not know about the effects of digital technology on democracy.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Environmental Policy Michael E. Kraft, Barry G. Rabe, Norman J. Vig, 2024-01-09 Environmental Policy brings together top scholars to evaluate the changes and continuities in American environmental policy since the late 1960s and help students think critically about their implications for current policy.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: The Origins of Elected Strongmen Erica Frantz, Senior Fellow and Director of the Transatlantic Security Program Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Joe Wright, 2024-07-11 Examining the role of personalist political parties, or parties that exist primarily to further their leader's career as opposed to promote a specific policy platform, and using original data capturing levels of personalism, this book shows that the rise of personalist parties around the globe is facilitating the decline of democracy.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *Why Washington Won't Work* Marc J. Hetherington, Thomas J. Rudolph, 2015-09-14 Polarization is at an all-time high in the United States. But contrary to popular belief, Americans are polarized not so much in their policy preferences as in their feelings toward their political opponents: To an unprecedented degree, Republicans and Democrats simply do not like one another. No surprise that these deeply held negative feelings are central to the recent (also unprecedented) plunge in congressional

productivity. The past three Congresses have gotten less done than any since scholars began measuring congressional productivity. In *Why Washington Won't Work*, Marc J. Hetherington and Thomas J. Rudolph argue that a contemporary crisis of trust—people whose party is out of power have almost no trust in a government run by the other side—has deadlocked Congress. On most issues, party leaders can convince their own party to support their positions. In order to pass legislation, however, they must also create consensus by persuading some portion of the opposing party to trust in their vision for the future. Without trust, consensus fails to develop and compromise does not occur. Up until recently, such trust could still usually be found among the opposition, but not anymore. Political trust, the authors show, is far from a stable characteristic. It's actually highly variable and contingent on a variety of factors, including whether one's party is in control, which part of the government one is dealing with, and which policies or events are most salient at the moment. Political trust increases, for example, when the public is concerned with foreign policy—as in times of war—and it decreases in periods of weak economic performance. Hetherington and Rudolph do offer some suggestions about steps politicians and the public might take to increase political trust. Ultimately, however, they conclude that it is unlikely levels of political trust will significantly increase unless foreign concerns come to dominate and the economy is consistently strong.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: The Web We Weave Jeff Jarvis, 2024-10-08 A bold defense of the internet, arguing attempts to fix and regulate it are often misguided —essential reading for anyone who cares about the future of the internet (Taylor Lorenz, author of *Extremely Online*) The internet stands accused of dividing us, spying on us, making us stupid, and addicting our children. In response, the press and panicked politicians seek greater regulation and control, which could ruin the web before we are finished building it. Jeff Jarvis is convinced we can have a saner conversation about the internet. Examining the web's past, present, and future, he shows that many of the problems the media lays at the internet's door are the result of our own failings. The internet did not make us hate; we brought our bias, bigotry, and prejudice with us online. That's why even well-intentioned regulation will fail to fix hate speech and misinformation and may instead imperil the freedom of speech the internet affords to all. Once we understand the internet for what it is—a human network—we can reclaim it from the nerds, pundits, and pols who are in charge now and turn our attention where it belongs: to fostering community, conversation, and creativity online. *The Web We Weave* offers an antidote to today's pessimism about the internet, outlining a bold vision for a world with a web that works for all of us.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Elections and Social Networks around the World Erica Guevara, Anaïs Theviot, 2024-10-28 This book analyzes the role of social networks during electoral campaigns around the world, taking into account the non-technological particularities (political, electoral, social, economic, cultural) of the media configurations of different countries. Political parties all over the world engage in real virtual battles to appear at the cutting edge of technology. Providing in-depth case studies from across Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, and Africa, this book emphasizes the need to study how institutions, culture, and politics shape the processes of technology diffusion in each context. It asks: what are the uses of social networks in election campaigns in different countries? and what are the factors that lead to social networks playing an important role in the elections of a given country? International and comparative in focus, this book brings together work on the uses of social networks (Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), WhatsApp, TikTok, Instagram, Telegram, and more) in the context of an election campaign by different actors (such as parties, companies, journalists, and voters). This book explores the different methodological and theoretical approaches developed for the study of the uses of social networks in an electoral context. The contributors focus on the identification of the “online ecosystem” of electoral actors in each country, studying their strategies and logic. They also analyze the scaremongering rhetoric about the possible effect of social media on elections as an object of study. While taking seriously the issues of polarization, disinformation, or negative campaigning, this book provides understanding of how these work and how their

discourses are constructed. This book will be of great interest to upper-level students and scholars of Political Science, Media, and Communications Studies.

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: *The Latin American Voter* Ryan E Carlin, Matthew M Singer, Elizabeth J Zechmeister, 2015-07-21 Public opinion and political behavior experts explore voter choice in Latin America with this follow-up to the 1960 landmark *The American Voter*

how digital media drive affective polarization through partisan sorting: Why We're Polarized Ezra Klein, 2020-01-28 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2022 One of Bill Gates's "5 books to read this summer," this New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller shows us that America's political system isn't broken. The truth is scarier: it's working exactly as designed. In this "superbly researched" (The Washington Post) and timely book, journalist Ezra Klein reveals how that system is polarizing us—and how we are polarizing it—with disastrous results. "The American political system—which includes everyone from voters to journalists to the president—is full of rational actors making rational decisions given the incentives they face," writes political analyst Ezra Klein. "We are a collection of functional parts whose efforts combine into a dysfunctional whole." "A thoughtful, clear and persuasive analysis" (The New York Times Book Review), *Why We're Polarized* reveals the structural and psychological forces behind America's descent into division and dysfunction. Neither a polemic nor a lament, this book offers a clear framework for understanding everything from Trump's rise to the Democratic Party's leftward shift to the politicization of everyday culture. America is polarized, first and foremost, by identity. Everyone engaged in American politics is engaged, at some level, in identity politics. Over the past fifty years in America, our partisan identities have merged with our racial, religious, geographic, ideological, and cultural identities. These merged identities have attained a weight that is breaking much in our politics and tearing at the bonds that hold this country together. Klein shows how and why American politics polarized around identity in the 20th century, and what that polarization did to the way we see the world and one another. And he traces the feedback loops between polarized political identities and polarized political institutions that are driving our system toward crisis. "Well worth reading" (New York magazine), this is an "eye-opening" (O, The Oprah Magazine) book that will change how you look at politics—and perhaps at yourself.

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a regime has the potential to both enhance and undermine democracy, in a time where the vulnerability of democracy is more obvious than ever before. Featuring research from the USA, Western Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia, this book will be of interest to those studying recent political events in these regions, as well as to those scholars of media studies whose research focuses on the inter-relation of politics, communication and the media. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Information, Communication & Society*.

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increased more rapidly since the mid-1990s than in most other Western publics. We then show that affective polarization is more intense when unemployment and inequality are high; when political elites clash over cultural issues such as immigration and national identity; and in countries with majoritarian electoral institutions. Our findings situate American partisan resentment and hostility in comparative perspective, and illuminate correlates of affective polarization that are difficult to detect when examining the American case in isolation.

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communication is a hybrid field with complex ancestry, permeable boundaries, and interests that overlap with those of related fields such as political sociology, public opinion, rhetoric, neuroscience, and the new hybrid on the quad, media psychology. This comprehensive review of the political communication literature is an indispensable reference for scholars and students interested in the study of how, why, when, and with what effect humans make sense of symbolic exchanges about sharing and shared power. The sixty-two chapters in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Communication* contain an overview of past scholarship while providing critical reflection of its relevance in a changing media landscape and offering agendas for future research and innovation.

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