

Social Media, News and the Government

By

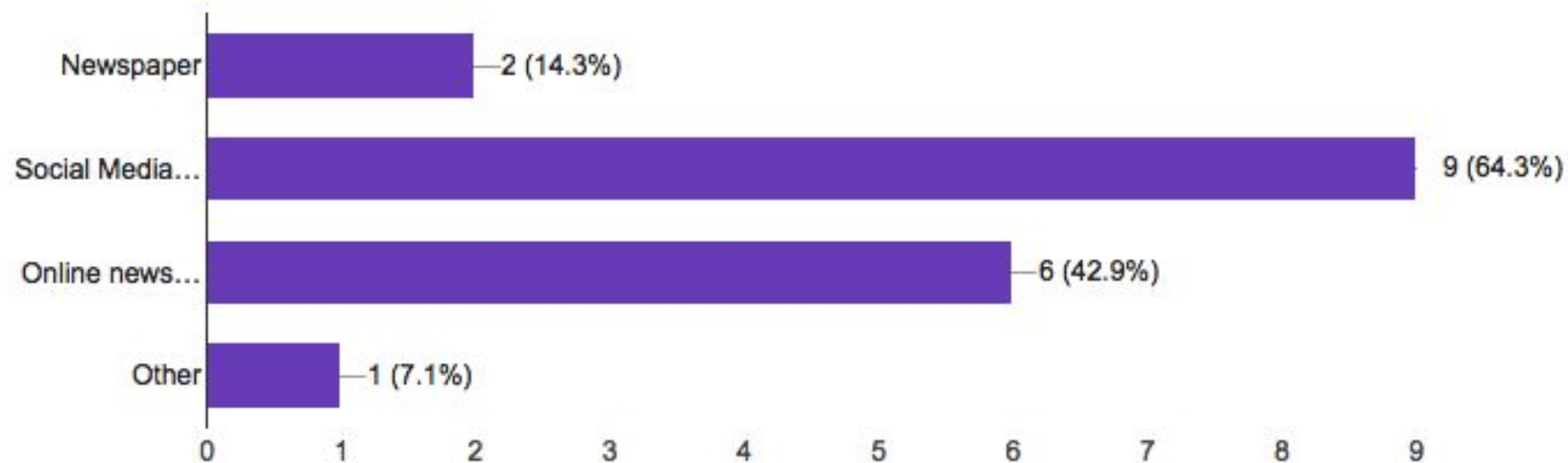
Anushikha Sharma and Natalie Altman



1. Where do you get your news from?

- a. Newspaper
- b. Online news websites
- c. Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat
- d. Other

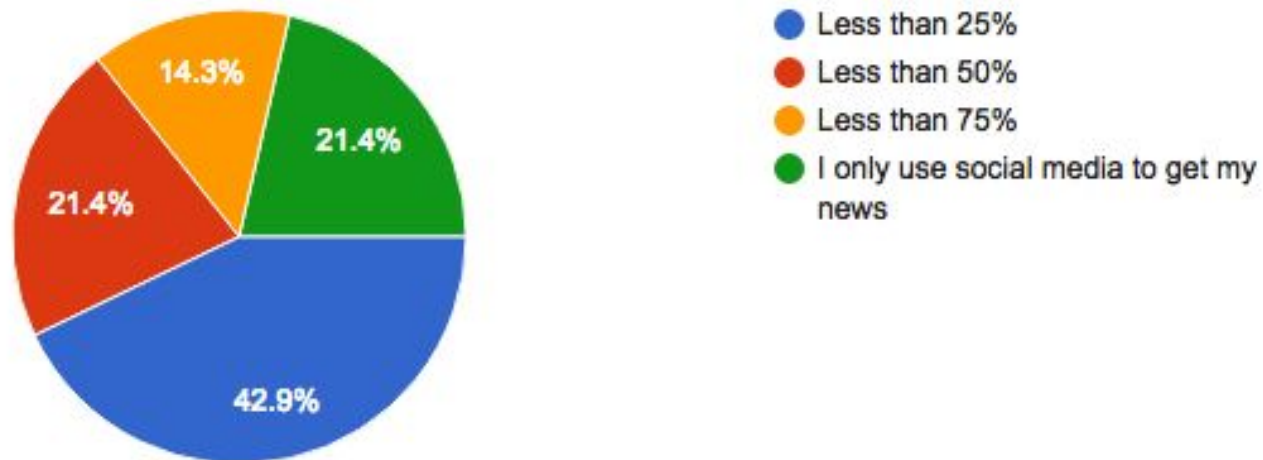
Where do you get most of your news from? (14 responses)



2. How much social media do you use to read the news?

- a. Less than 25%
- b. Less than 50%
- c. Less than 75%
- d. Almost all my news

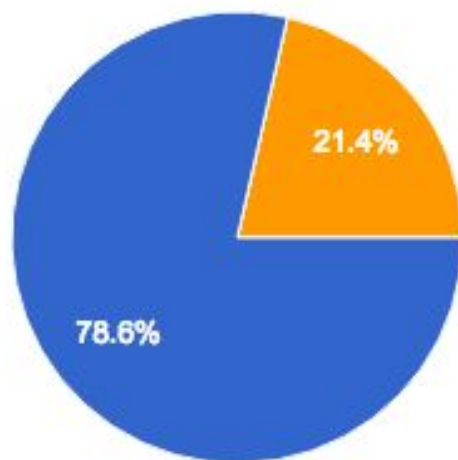
How often do you use social media to read the news? (14 responses)



3. Do you believe in the idea of an echo chamber?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know what an echo chamber is
- d. Other

Do you believe in the idea of an echo chamber? (14 responses)



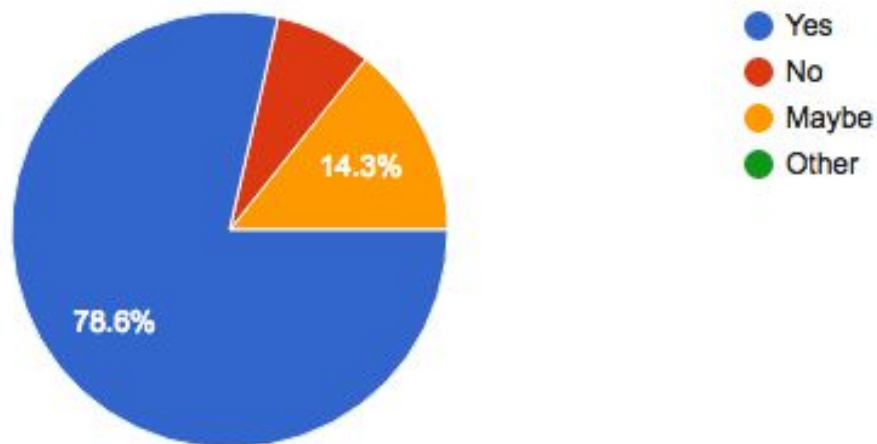
- Yes
- No
- I don't know what an echo chamber is
- Other

Do you think government officials should be allowed to run their own social media accounts?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Maybe
- d. Other

Do you think government officials should be allowed to run their own social media accounts?

(14 responses)

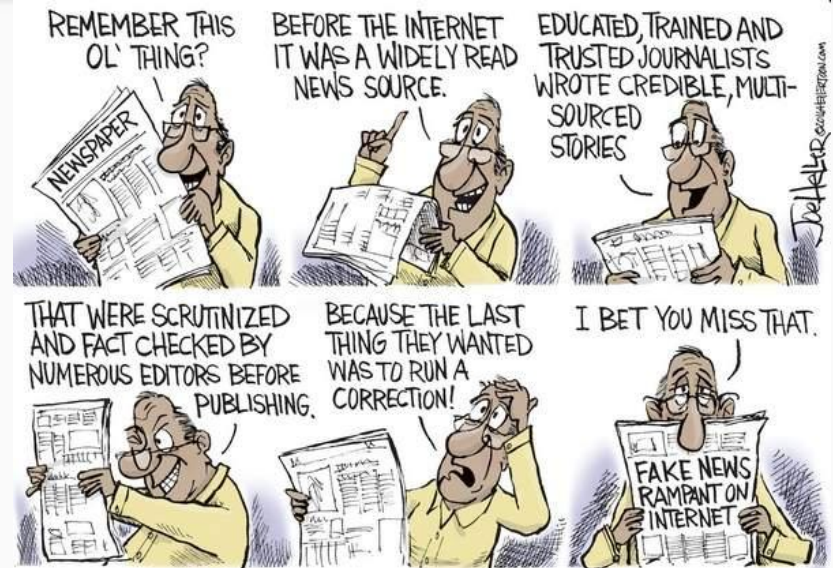


Overview

- “Mobile devices are the Gutenberg presses of our generation” Bryce Roberts¹
- Age of digital activism

Tunisian revolution (2011):

- Grassroots mobilization
- Organize the rise of civil society and active citizenship
- Counter rumor or propaganda tool
- Helped people analyze government statements

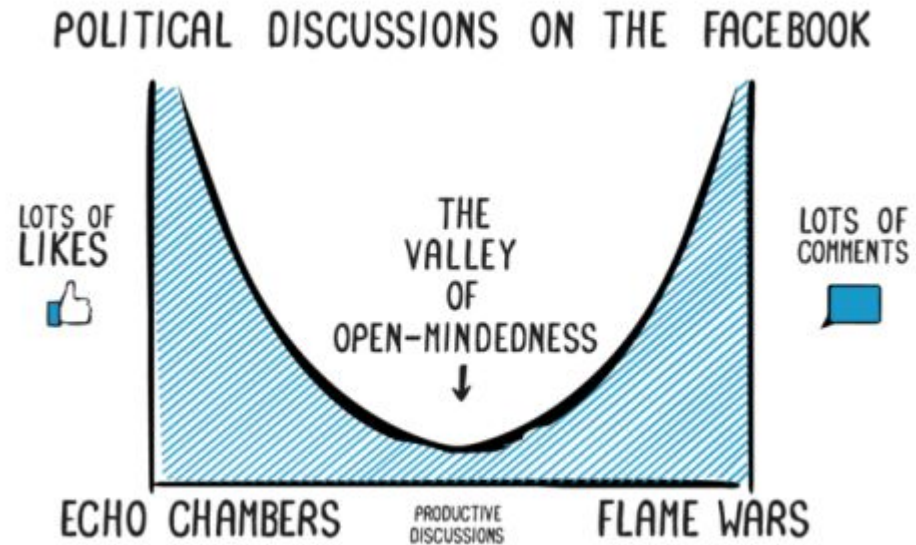


<http://gov20.govfresh.com/a-tunisian-on-the-role-of-social-media-in-the-revolution-in-tunisia/>

<http://www.dailystar.com/storyimage/DA/20161201/ARTICLE/161209990/AR/0/AR-161209990.jpg&MaxW=600>

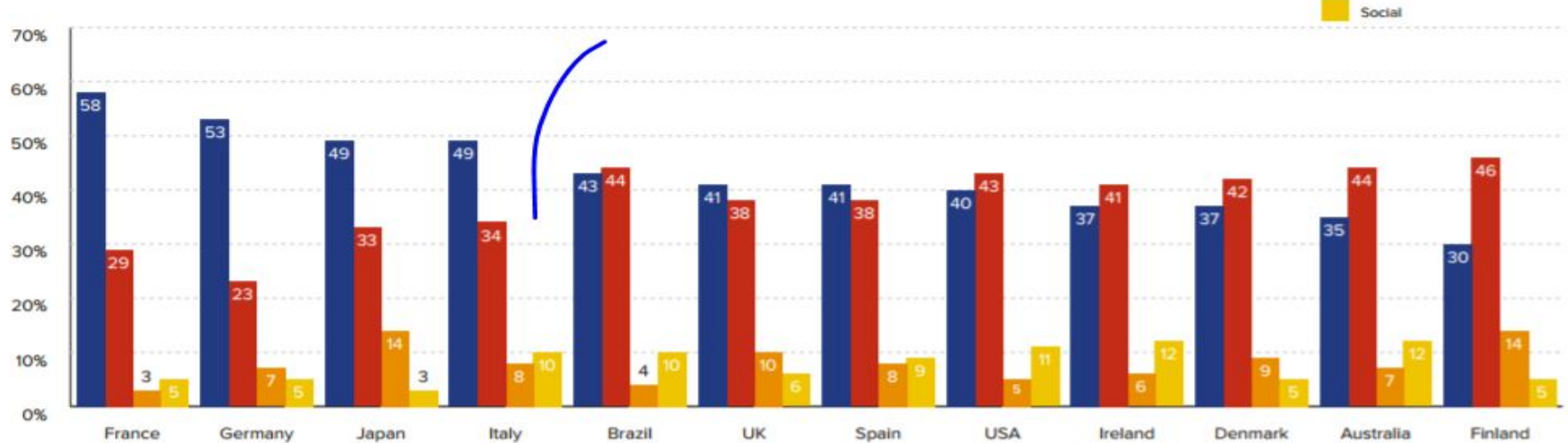
Echo Chambers

“ The explanation involves users’ tendency to promote their favored narratives and hence to form polarized groups. Confirmation bias helps to account for users’ decisions about whether to spread content, thus creating informational cascades within identifiable communities. At the same time, aggregation of favored information within those communities reinforces selective exposure and group polarization.”



SOURCES OF NEWS BY COUNTRY

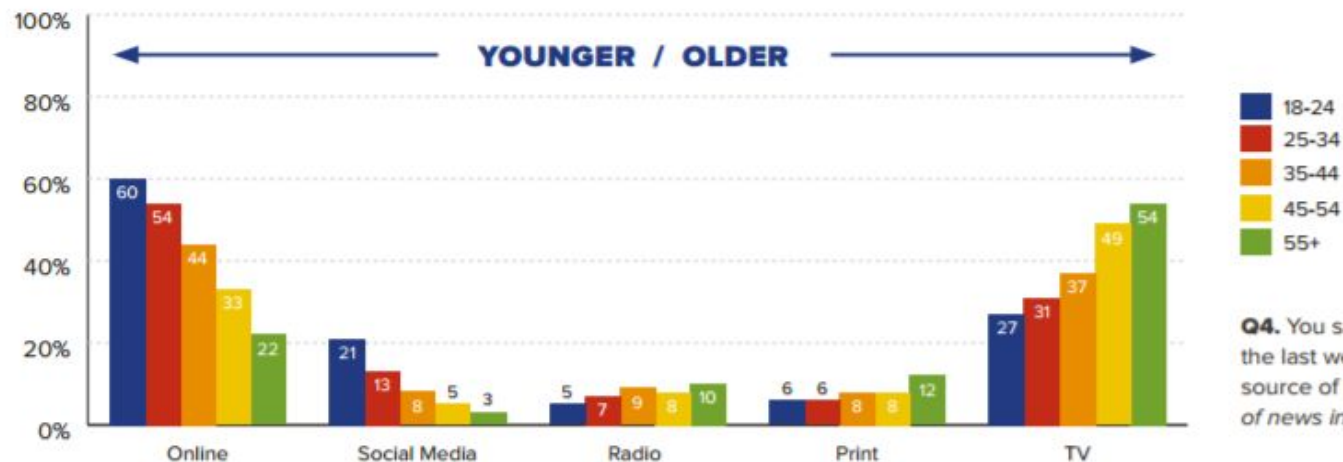
MAIN SOURCE OF NEWS BY COUNTRY



Source: Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2015

SOURCES OF NEWS BY AGE

MAIN SOURCE OF NEWS BY AGE

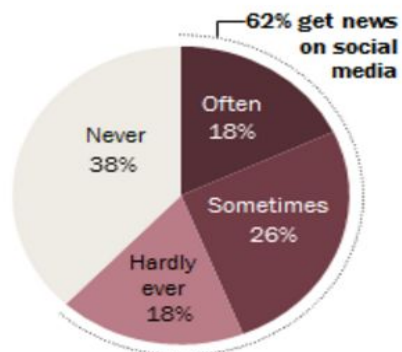


Q4. You say you've used these sources of news in the last week, which would you say is your MAIN source of news? Base: All who have used a source of news in the last week All = 23155.

Americans and the Social Media

About 6-in-10 Americans get news from social media

% of U.S. adults who get news on a social networking site ...

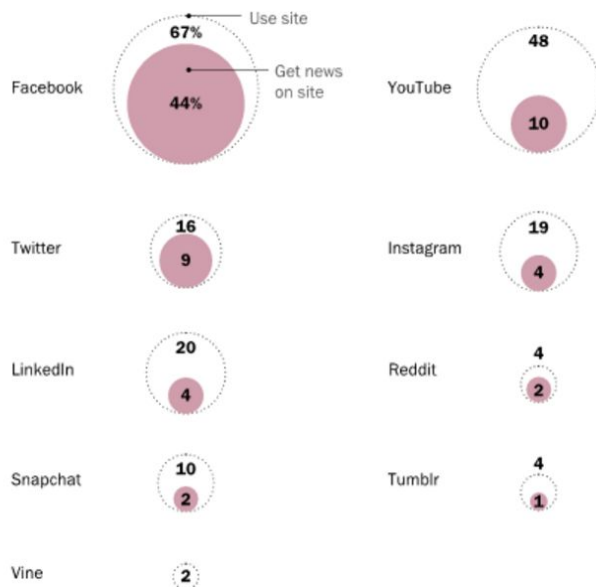


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 12-Feb. 8, 2016.
"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Social media news use: Facebook leads the pack

% of U.S. adults who ...

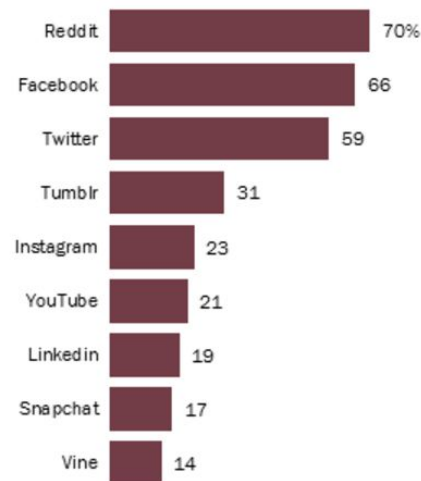


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 12-Feb. 8, 2016.
"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016"

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Reddit, Facebook and Twitter users most likely to get news on each site

% of each social networking sites' users who get news on the site

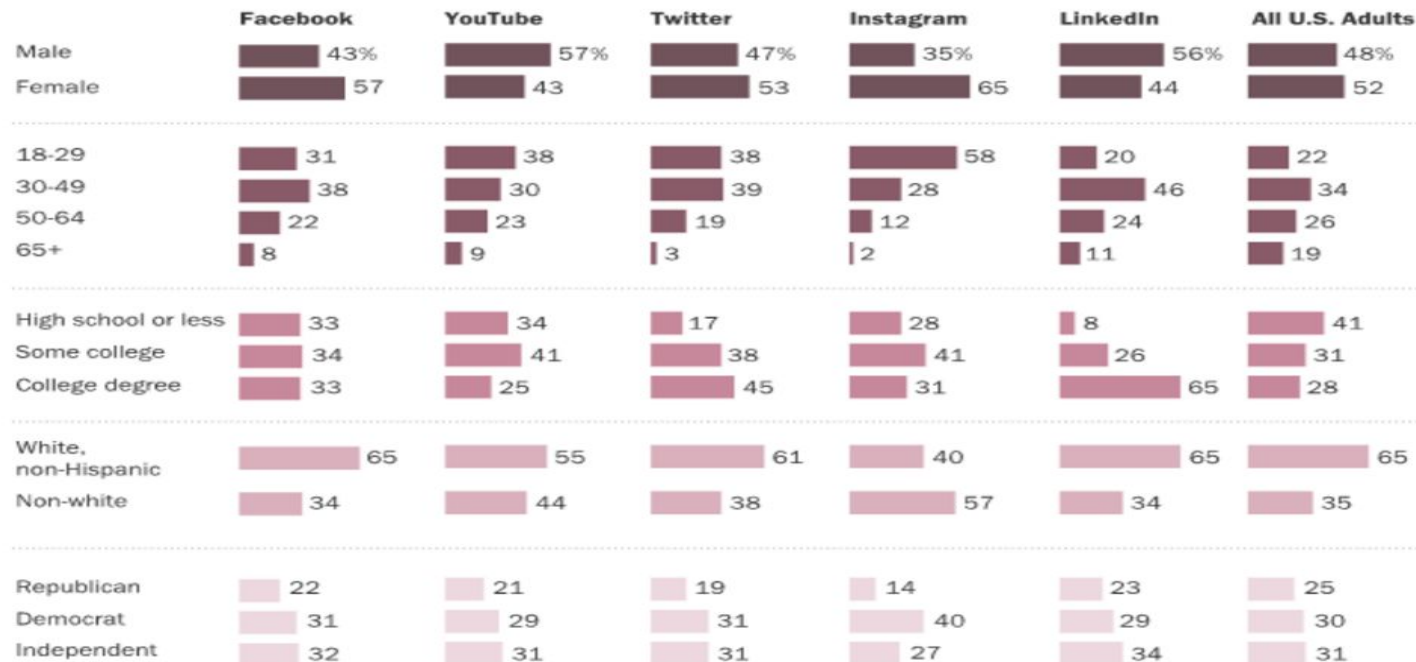


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 12-Feb. 8, 2016.
"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016"

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Demographic profile of social networking site news users

% of news users of each site who are ...



Note: "All U.S. Adults" figures based on non-institutionalized, 18 and older U.S. adults.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 12-Feb. 8, 2016. Pew Research Center analysis of 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016"

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Debate: Should social media be a neutral platform when it comes to politics and political opinions?

1. **Proposition** - Yes, social media should be a neutral platform when it comes to politics and political opinions. - **Use two ethical frameworks to support your argument**
2. **Opposition** -No, social media should not be a neutral platform when it comes to politics and political opinions. - **Use two ethical frameworks to support your argument**

Debate Rules and Format

- **Plan for argument - 15 min**
- **First proposition constructive** - This speaker makes a case for the motion for debate, providing a proof of the topic with two major points - **2 min**
- **First opposition constructive** - This speaker makes a case for the motion for debate, providing a proof of the topic with two major points - **2 min**
- **Second proposition constructive** - This speaker makes a case for the motion for debate, providing a proof of the topic with two major points - **2 min**
- **Second opposition constructive** - This speaker makes a case for the motion for debate, providing a proof of the topic with two major points - **2 min**
- **Proposition Rebuttal** - This speaker should summarize the issues in the debate and explain why, even with the opposition's arguments, the proposition teams should win the debate - **5 min**
- **Opposition Rebuttal** - This speaker should summarize the issues in the debate and explain why, even with the propositions arguments, the opposition teams should win the debate - **5 min**

Sources

1. <http://www.digitalnewsreport.org/survey/2015/sources-of-news-2015/>
2. <http://www.journalism.org/2016/05/26/news-use-across-social-media-platforms-2016/>
3. https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Reuters%20Institute%20Digital%20News%20Report%202015_Full%20Report.pdf
4. <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/08/how-governments-deal-with-social-media/243288/>
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/feb/04/twitter-accounts-really-are-echo-chambers-study-finds>
6. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sounman_Hong2/publication/221585145_Does_the_early_bird_move_th
7. Does the Early Bird Move the Polls? The Use of the Social Media Tool 'Twitter' by U.S. Politicians and its Impact on Public Opinion - A case study
8. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/07/14/confirmed-echo-chambers-exist-on-social-media-but-what-can-we-do-about-them/?utm_term=.527e6d9a8f7a