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## Hybrid Democracy: Internet Technology in the Service of Democracy

Parliamentary democracy is based on the assumption that due to the size of the modern state and the multiplicity of political decisions, decisions should and will be made through representatives elected to parliament by the public. This article examines that assumption through a discussion in the field of teledemocracy (cyberdemocracy, or e-democracy), referred to in the article as “technological democracy.” The first aim of the article is to examine how the use of Internet technology helps to solve the technical challenges inherent in producing parliamentary elections – and in turn, may contribute to increasing civic motivation to take part in the direct civic voting process. The second objective is to assess the costs and benefits of increasing the extent of civic engagement due to the use of technological means in the parliamentary regime.

The article argues that in the context of technological democracy, in which internet technology is used to increase the scope of civic involvement in voting in parliament and the legislative process, the benefits outweigh the costs. The conclusion that emerges from the discussion of the pros and cons of technological democracy is that the proposed solutions may significantly blunt the impact of the various difficulties and challenges, while the benefits of a democratization of the political regime remain unchanged. Additionally the article proposes a regime model, which is characterized by the hybridization of civic involvement in the parliamentary activity, known as “hybrid democracy,” where civic involvement in the legislative process becomes an integral part of the parliamentary regime and not an afterthought.