

IQ2 Debate: Social Media is Good for Democracy? | MPR News

By MPR News Staff

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Minnesota Public Radio captured a debate at the 2018 Aspen Ideas Festival on the subject of whether or not social media is good for democracy, featuring opinions from academia, journalism, government, and business.

Critics argue that rather than uniting and informing, social media deepens social and political divisions and erodes trust in the democratic process.

Will the power of social media yet be harnessed and used as an unprecedented force for good in the world? Or do systemic platform flaws pose an irreversible threat to the world's democratic institutions?

Emily Parker, writer, digital entrepreneur, and former State Department official, teams up with journalism professor and executive committee member of the Facebook-funded News Integrity Initiative, Jeff Jarvis, to argue for the motion.

On the other side is Franklin Foer, Atlantic staff writer and author of "World Without Mind," and venture capitalist Roger McNamee, who was an early investor in Facebook and a mentor to Mark Zuckerberg.

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