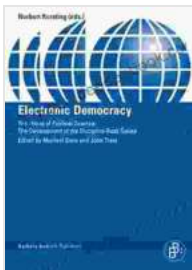# Electronic Democracy: The World of Political Science, the Development of the

Electronic democracy is a form of democracy that uses electronic means to facilitate political participation. It can include online voting, e-petitions, and online discussion forums. Electronic democracy has the potential to increase voter turnout, make government more responsive to the needs of citizens, and reduce the influence of money in politics. However, it also raises concerns about security, privacy, and the digital divide.

### Electronic Democracy (The World of Political Science – The development of the discipline Book Series)

by Norbert Kersting

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## The History of Electronic Democracy

The concept of electronic democracy has been around for centuries. In the 18th century, the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau proposed a system of direct democracy in which citizens would vote on laws and policies online. In the 19th century, the British philosopher Jeremy Bentham

proposed a system of "numerical democracy" in which each citizen would have a certain number of votes, which they could cast online.

In the 20th century, the development of computers and the internet made electronic democracy more feasible. In 1996, the Estonian town of Tartu held the first online election in the world. Since then, many other countries have experimented with electronic voting, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia.

## The Benefits of Electronic Democracy

Electronic democracy has a number of potential benefits. First, it can increase voter turnout. Studies have shown that online voting can be more convenient and accessible for voters, which can lead to higher voter turnout rates. Second, electronic democracy can make government more responsive to the needs of citizens. Online petitions and discussion forums can allow citizens to voice their concerns and opinions directly to elected officials. Third, electronic democracy can reduce the influence of money in politics. Online campaigns can be less expensive than traditional campaigns, which can level the playing field for candidates who don't have access to large amounts of money.
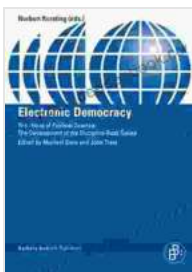
## The Challenges of Electronic Democracy

Electronic democracy also raises a number of challenges. First, there are concerns about security. Online voting systems must be secure to prevent fraud and hacking. Second, there are concerns about privacy. Online voting data can be used to track voters' political activities. Third, there is the digital divide. Not everyone has access to the internet, which can create a divide between those who can participate in electronic democracy and those who cannot.

## The Future of Electronic Democracy

The future of electronic democracy is uncertain. There are a number of challenges that need to be addressed before electronic democracy can become a reality on a large scale. However, the potential benefits of electronic democracy are significant, and it is likely that electronic democracy will continue to grow in the years to come.

Electronic democracy is a complex and evolving issue. There are a number of potential benefits and challenges associated with electronic democracy, and it is important to weigh these factors carefully before moving forward. However, electronic democracy has the potential to make democracy more participatory, responsive, and fair, and it is an important issue to continue to explore.

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