

Review of: "Free Speech Regimes and Democratic Vehemence"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I want to make it clear to the editors and the author that I am not an expert in the field. I am a biologist; I am not an expert in political science. I was just interested in some very specific aspects of governance related to the control of technological innovations and the fight against global threats. I therefore do not consider myself capable of judging the value of this article vis-à-vis the literature already existing on the subject. This is beyond my skills. My comments are therefore only general and are made solely for the purpose of improving this article.

The title of the previous version of the article "Free Speech Regimes and Democratic Cooperation" seemed to me more appropriate given the content. But that's just an opinion.

The abstract does not seem very clear to me. It should be more structured and clearly differentiate the phenomenon studied, the question or the postulate of the author and then his conclusion. Above all, this abstract does not seem to have a conclusion.

It seems to me that the text would gain in interest by contextualizing more broadly the phenomenon it analyzes. Two things seem useful to me to add: (i) Briefly explain the theoretical foundations of VR in the introduction. This movement has a history. These are linked, it seems to me, to the postmodern vision of society developed by the authors of the "French theory", in particular Bourdieu and Foucault. And then to the social justice movements that have developed in the USA. But I don't know if this history is valid for Asian countries. (ii) Explain briefly in the discussion why international cooperation, which would be weakened by VR, is important today. International cooperation is obviously useful for many things (in particular to avoid wars), but what seems new to me is the need to be able to fight pandemics, climate change and pollution effectively. These global threats absolutely require international cooperation to be resolved.

I suggest that the author take particular care not to take a position in his text on the controversies he evokes. This could lead the reader to see his text as politically engaged, which would reduce his interest.