

# **Freedom of information and democracy: an interdependent relationship and the role that the Internet can play.**

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This paper deals with the interdependence between democracy and information. Taking for granted that information means knowledge and knowledge means power, we examine the importance of free and immediate information in democracy, that helps citizen to evaluate, participate and exercise actively and freely his political rights and obligations. Taking as an example the way that dictatorships treated the factor of information and the importance they gave to control information and create their own propaganda, we reach to the conclusion that free information is an enemy of totalitarian regimes and the biggest ally of a well-governed and effective democracy.

But how can we have free and objective information (newspapers - radios - TV) when information is in the hands of entrepreneurs and factors associated directly or indirectly with various political forces? When many TV channels and newspapers act, admittedly, as mouthpieces of various political parties with which they interact? Is this an important problem of democracy and also a moral-ethic issue of information? And how it differs from the function of propaganda in totalitarian regimes?

Perhaps the only mean of information that can be direct and independent, is the Internet. Here the citizen can have direct and free information through a various number of blogs and hundreds of pages. In a deficit democracy combined with the frustrating political situation, according to the common sense, the Internet can be the biggest ally of democracy, giving it its true essence, which is the right to freedom of information and expression.

## **Keywords**

Information, Democracy, ethics, Internet, Propaganda