



Hacking democracy - lessons for liberal democracies

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The theme of 'hacking democracy' has become commonplace in contemporary discussions about foreign interference. But what do we mean by the phrase, and what lessons can we draw from recent events? This paper evaluates the modes, main target vectors and main effects of contemporary information warfare efforts directed against democracies. In particular, it focuses on the use of social manoeuvring, kompromat and theft of sensitive information as part of a 'total war' strategy aimed at mobilising both action and inaction in democratic societies. It then identifies some steps that might be taken to combat each form of interference.