Media Literacy And The Emerging Citizen Youth

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this book addresses the relationship of citizenship and public management in europe after fifteen years of state reform it is time for an overall discussion of the theoretical and empirical impact and limits of new public management as one of the latest re orientations in public administration on the practice of citizenship all the authors have pointed out the tension between a focus on improvement of state bureaucracies on the one hand and the involvement of citizens in the co production of policies on the other they point to a fundamental change that is taking place the importance of state apparatuses for the development and sustainability of viable societies is being de emphasised and special attention to governance is now taking over the central place that for so long has been occupied by attention to government through the co production of public policies by citizens and public authorities working together a new civil society is emerging this book highlights the fact that the re invention of the citizen is of crucial importance to public administrative practice as well as to the various public administration disciplines in europe

it has become a common complaint among academics and community leaders that citizens today are not what they used to be nowhere is this decline seen to be more troubling than when the focus is on young americans compared to the youth of past generations today s young adults so the story goes spend too much time watching television playing video games and surfing the internet as a result american democracy is in trouble the evolving citizen challenges this decline thesis and argues instead that democratic engagement has not gotten worse it has simply changed through an analysis of seven high school newspapers from 1965 to 2010 this book shows that young people today according to what they have to say for themselves are just as enmeshed in civic and political life as the adolescents who came before them american youth remain good citizens concerned about their communities and hopeful that they can help make a difference but as the evolving citizen demonstrates today s youth understand and perform their roles as citizens differently because the world they live in has changed remarkably over the last half century

media literacy and the emerging citizen is about enhancing engagement in a digital media culture and the models that educators parents and policy makers can utilize to place media savvy youth into positions of purpose responsibility and power two specific challenges are at the core of this book s argument that media literacy is the path toward more active and robust civic engagement in the 21st century how can media literacy enable core competencies for value driven diverse and robust digital media use how can media literacy enable a more civic minded participatory culture these challenges are great but they need to be examined in their entirety if media literacy is to begin to address the opportunities they present for democracy participation and discourse in a digital media age by presenting information that places media literacy at the center of what it means to be an engaged citizen educators and policy makers will understand why media literacy must be integrated into formal and informal education systems before it s too late

although the last half of the twentieth century has been called the age of democracy the twenty first has already demonstrated the fragility of its apparent triumph as the dominant form of government throughout the world reassessing the fate of democracy for our time distinguished political theorist ralph ketcham traces the evolution of this idea over the course of four hundred years he traces democracy s bumpy ride in a book that is both an exercise in the history of ideas and an explication of democratic theory ketcham examines the rationales for democratic government identifies the fault lines that separate democracy from good government and suggests ways to strengthen it in order to meet future challenges drawing on an encyclopedic command of history and politics he examines the rationales that have been offered for democratic government over

the course of four manifestations of modernity that he identifies in the western and east asian world since 1600 ketcham first considers the fundamental axioms established by theorists of the enlightenment bacon locke jefferson and reflected in america s founding then moves on to the mostly post darwinian critiques by bentham veblen dewey and others that produced theories of the liberal corporate state he explains late nineteenth century asian responses to democracy as the third manifestation grounded in confucian respect for communal and hierarchical norms followed by late twentieth century postmodernist thought that views democratic states as oppressive and seeks to empower marginalized groups ketcham critiques the first second and fourth modernity rationales for democracy and suggests that the asian approach may represent a reconciliation of ancient wisdom and modern science better suited to today s world he advocates a reorientation of democracy that de emphasizes group or identity politics and restores the wholeness of the civic community proposing a return to the jeffersonian universalism that which informed the founding of the united states if democracy is to flourish in a fifth manifestation the idea of democracy in the modern era is an erudite interdisciplinary work of great breadth and complexity that looks to the past in order to reframe the future with its global overview and comparative insights it will stimulate discussion of how democracy can survive and thrive in the coming era

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