

Prof. Dr. Martin Hochhuth, University of Freiburg, Aberystwyth, September 10th 2014

AMBIVALENT INTERNET AND WHAT THE STATE IS FOR

HOW THE INTERNET IS SHARPENING UP AND SHIFTING CLASSIC PROBLEMS OF THE POLITICAL ECOSYSTEM LIKE DEMOCRACY AND FREE SPEECH

Introduction: The information ecosystem, the political ecosystem, and new media — and the state

Chapter 1: The information ecosystem not as nature but as a garden

Chapter 2: The ambivalence of the Internet and romanticism

- a) The Internet as a technical revolution
- b) The aims of the two ecosystems and the aims of the Internet
- c) Reversal of principles in the information structure of civil society (one of the good things about Habermas)
- d) The Internet strengthening and at the same time weakening the dangers denounced by Habermas

Chapter 3: Recent examples for the ambivalent impact of acceleration on enlightenment and democracy.

- a) From newspapers to TV and to the Internet: further acceleration
- b) Piecemeal solution proposal: Two objects of legal protection any constitutional democracy should defend.
 - α) The awe-inspiring number and age of the problems of democracy and free speech the Internet is modifying
 - β) Truth, truthfulness and good governance: the Spinoza argument
 - γ) Reputation and democracy or: why Harry Truman was wrong and how Friedrich Ebert died

Chapter 4: The political ecosystem and the state

- a) The state as an ambivalent wonder of technical progress
- b) The state as "Leviathan"
- c) The legal systems between national and international technocracies and pressure groups
- d) Conclusion: The state of "the democratic moment" as sole agent and protector; but no romanticism whatsoever