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# E-DEMOCRACY INSTITUTIONS IN CHINA

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# ABSTRACT

Since the 1960s and 1970s, with the rapid development of electronic information technology represented by television, telephone and computer network, as well as the emergence of the deficit of traditional representative democracy in the West, a new form of democracy, "electronic democracy", which uses electronic information technology to promote political democracy, has emerged. The development of e-democracy provides a new perspective and a new platform for the academic research on the political participation of citizens.

Since the reform and opening up, with the rapid development of China's economy, China's political, legal and social fields are unconsciously entering a transition period. Based on this, on the basis of combing the relevant literatures of Chinese and Western e-democracy, focusing on the different stages, current situation and operation mode of China's e-democracy development, this paper uses the theory of participatory democracy to analyze the difficulties faced by China's e-democracy and explore the reasons behind the difficulties. While promoting the development of democratic politics and law in China, electronic democracy is in a state of disorderly development due to various subjective and objective factors such as the lack of public rationality of political participants, the wide existence of digital divide, and the lack of construction of electronic participation platform. At present, China's electronic democracy faces many problems, such as the irrationality of political participants, group polarization and aristocratic participation. Information control, information explosion; The effect of electronic democracy is difficult to transform. These difficulties hinder the development of electronic democracy in China, and at the same time bring some impact and challenge to Chinese traditional democratic values, legal system and political order. In view of these difficulties, under the guidance of participatory democracy theory, this paper puts forward the corresponding solutions from three aspects of "soft environment", "hard environment" and system, in order to help China's electronic democracy out of the predicament and make it develop in a standardized and orderly direction.

**Key words:** democratic politics, electronic democracy, legal system

**Purpose, objectives.** Using participatory democracy theory, this paper analyzes the predicament faced by the development of e-democracy in China and studies its reasons.

**Object of research.** The research object of this thesis is the problems and causes of China's e-democracy system.

**Research significance.**

1. E-democracy promotes the process of socialist democracy

2. E-democracy contributes to the formation of modern citizenship.

3. Promote the online openness of government affairs and realize the online supervision of power.

**Research methods.**

1. Literature research method Literature method

It is an ancient and vigorous scientific research method. This paper uses the literature research method to sort out and summarize different views by reading the classic works related to e-democracy. Secondly, a large number of the latest research results and academic papers will be collected through the network resources, and they will be classified and analyzed to provide rich literature materials for writing papers.

2. Historical research method

Historical method, also known as longitudinal method, is a form of comparative method. This paper mainly studies the evolution of e-democracy through historical research and summarizes the understanding of regularity. In Order to fully understand E-democracy, We need to sort out its historical background and realistic evolution, and discuss the system reform and cultural change caused by it.

3. Comparative research method

Comparative research methods are based on certain standards, study two or more related things, find out their similarities and differences, and explore the general and special rules of things. This method is helpful for us to learn from the successful experience and scientific practice of developed countries in the process of e-democracy operation. Through comparing with the existing experience of developed countries, unifies the situation of E-democracy in our country, makes some beneficial explorations in its legal system, standardization and overture operation.

**Innovation of the research.**

At present, China's e-democracy faces many difficulties, which hinder the development of China's e-democracy, and also bring a certain impact and challenge to China's traditional democratic values and political order. Based on this, under the guidance of participatory democracy theory, this paper puts forward corresponding solutions from three aspects, in order to help China's e-democracy out of the dilemma, make it develop towards the direction of standardization and order, and also provide new solutions for other countries.

# CHAPTER 1
# GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF E-DEMOCRACY

## 1.1 Stages of formation of electronic democracy in the world

Theodore L.Becker, a political scholar from Auburn University in the United States, first proposed that electronic democracy could be regarded as a means to promote public participation in public affairs. Theodore L.Becker he clearly pointed out this point in his article "Electronic Democracy: Return Rights to the People" in 1981, which is the preliminary understanding of western scholars on the value of electronic democracy. In 1984, Professor Benjamin Barber deepened the theoretical connotation of electronic democracy. In 1995, American scholar Mark Slouka put forward the concept of network democracy. In 1998, Rosa Sargaluciano, a communication scholar from the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom, analyzed the potential of "e-democracy" and explored the influence of network information technology on the state of democracy in her book Cyber Democracy -- Technology, Cities and Citizen Networks through the cases of the Citizen Project in the United States and Europe. Since then, more and more western scholars have devoted themselves to the study of electronic democracy.

This paper divides foreign scholars' studies on electronic democracy into the following categories:

(1) Research on the connotation of electronic democracy

About the connotation of electronic democracy, different scholars have different expressions. According to Steven Clift, e-democracy refers to the more frequent and active political participation of citizens through the Internet, mobile communications, and other technologies. The International Centre for Electronic Democracy in Scotland believes that electronic democracy is the process of improving democratic decision-making, democratization and public participation with the help of electronic information technology. The British Hansard Society believes that e-democracy is the result of the expansion of citizens' political participation. Electronic democracy connects citizens and governments through electronic information and technology. But in the final analysis, its most basic connotation components all include citizens, government and electronic technology platform.

To sum up, the connotation of electronic democracy among Western scholars includes at least three elements: government, citizen and electronic technology platform.

(2) Research on the value of electronic democracy

As for the value of e-democracy, Chung-Pin Lee, Kaiju Zhang, Frances Stokes Berry and others believe that e-democracy can provide a powerful e-community to contact the political process and make policies, and is playing an increasingly important role in government affairs. Anttiroiko and Ari-Veikko believe that e-democracy is achieved through the participation of the role, the building of inclusive society, and the sensitivity and flexibility of the individual in the participation. The Internet provides a sense of participation, allowing everyone's voice to be heard and opinions to be expressed. At the same time, e-democracy provides a low-cost and flexible mode of political participation. He believes that the implementation of e-democracy can play a positive role in social change. The foreign scholars' understanding of the value of e-democracy basically focuses on the high positive significance of e-democracy as a new mode of democratic participation.

(3) Research on the practice mode of electronic democracy

Regarding the research on the practice mode of e-democracy, western scholars have different opinions from different dimensions as follows:

①Different electronic media: TV democracy and Internet democracy

According to the different development media of e-democracy, some western scholars believe that the development of e-democracy can be carried out in two dimensions. One dimension is that through television democracy, the development of electronic democracy can be achieved. The other dimension is through network democracy, that is, through the construction of network information technology platform, electronic democracy has been developed. Here, no matter the development path is through television democracy or network democracy, electronic democracy can be realized. However, this view does not completely regard TV democracy or Internet democracy as the application of technology in politics, but more as the practical transformation of political participation theory.

Different depth of participation: the route of technologism and democracy

According to the different depth of participation of the subjects of e-democracy, some people believe that the development of e-democracy can be helped by two ways: technicalism and democracy. Technologists believe that using information and communication technology to rebuild government processes to improve the relationship between government and citizens is a good model. For

example, Gatna Dartaquast divides the development of electronic democracy into four stages along this direction: participation stage, that is, the Internet provides online information in a static way; In the communication stage, citizens communicate with the government by searching for information and downloading forms. Online transaction phase, reducing the burden of electronic mail and on-the-spot participation; Reform stage, namely redesign government work flow. Those in the democratic line believe that e-democracy should be placed within a grand vision of political participation and democratic decision-making. This line of analysis is supported by the vast majority of researchers

Hold. Among them, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) makes a typical distinction. It divides the levels of citizens' participation in e-democracy into three levels. The first layer is one-way information transmission, that is, the government releases policy information on its own initiative or citizens obtain information on demand. The second layer is consultation, in which the government consults and gets feedback from the public on policy making. Consultation creates a limited two-way interaction between government and public participation. The third level is active participation, that is, citizens actively participate in policy formulation, but policy expression and final decision-making power depends on the government. "From the stratification of the OECD, we can see that civic participation has no potential direct democratic orientation, but is merely a complement to existing decision-making mechanisms.

(4) Research on the relationship between e-democracy and social capital

There are two opposing views on the relationship between e-democracy and social capital. The positive view is that people who use the Internet regularly are more likely to participate actively in online communities, so the growth of e-democracy helps increase social capital. According to scholar Lin Nan, social capital increases with the expansion of cyberspace, that is, electronic democracy helps to increase social capital. Linnan argues that social capital has been on the rise over the past decade through the formation of electronic cyberspace. Others argue that the decline of public places does not necessarily weaken social networks. Social networking scholar Wellman argues that the gap left by the decline of real communities can be filled in the form of the home Internet. In a study of "Internet villages", Keith Hampton found that Internet villages with broadband were more common in the suburbs of Toronto. In cyber villages, the intersection of civil society increases with the increasing frequency of Internet use and communication with neighbors. But there are also critics that electronic democracy makes social capital

increase is not absolute. If Internet users have different motivations and habits towards the Internet, then their degree of involvement in online social interaction is different, and accordingly, the social capital they have obtained is also different.

The negative view is that e-democracy reduces social capital. Because communication through electronic networks is so different from face-to-face communication, Putnam believes that electronic networks can further isolate individuals from society. Putnam finds that in postwar American society, people's participation in civic meetings has generally declined, so social capital has been declining. As a result, he thinks that the social capital and there is positive correlation between political participation, with clubs or the second and third class societies such as unions, associated with church groups, sports teams, bowling association participation to measure social capital, political participation can make use of writing a letter to congress, the way such as assembly, a vote to participate in politics, as well as meeting the measurement. Analyzing the measurements, Putnam finds that both participation rates among American citizens have declined over the past 30 years. From this he concludes that social capital or civic participation is declining, probably due to a decline in democracy and political participation. Of course, Putnam's views and research have been challenged by different theoretical and methodological perspectives. Others argue that the Internet can divert people's attention away from their surroundings. Although the Internet has increased global interaction to a certain extent, it has often led people to stay in their rooms, staring at computer screens for long periods of time, rather than interacting with their local communities and neighbors. Therefore, this argument argues that e-democracy may lead to the reduction of people's social capital.

On current trends, the majority agree that e-democracy will increase social capital, and of course the view that e-democracy will reduce social capital cannot be ignored. Considering the actual situation, it is still difficult to draw a definite conclusion about the relationship between e-democracy and social capital, which requires us to treat it dialectically by integrating various manifestations.

(5) Research on the relationship between electronic democracy and the public sphere

The debate on the relationship between e-democracy and public domain is mainly reflected in whether the space brought by e-democracy is public domain. On this point, foreign positive view that cyberspace is an open nonlinear hypertext space, is the carrier of dialogue and communication. It overcomes and avoids many obstacles that affect the traditional public sphere, provides a wide free expression

space for the public on the network, and can create a network public sphere with the characteristics of decentralized rationality. As for the public sphere, Habermas thinks that with the development of The Times, in modern western countries, the public sphere gradually or has shrunk due to the expansion of government power and economic capital, and the independence and vitality of citizens' political participation are also gradually lost. However, this negative view has changed with the development of new technology. The openness and interactivity of the Internet space make the public domain theory full of vitality. The negative view is that many virtual communities do not meet the standards of an ideal public realm. Some western scholars think that the electronic public domain is "exclusive, elitist, far from being so idealistic", and criticize it. Sunstein even believes that network participants are prone to "group polarization" in the absence of an effective constraint mechanism, which is inconsistent with the rational spirit of the public domain. Admittedly, the public space generated by electronic democracy has both positive and negative meanings, but more scholars pay more attention to its positive effects, aiming to remind us to seek advantages and avoid disadvantages.

(6) Research on the limits of electronic democracy

Foreign scholars are not only paying attention to the value of electronic democracy, but also paying attention to the limitation of its development. One of the dilemmas is that electronic democracy sometimes behaves as an "elite democracy" and does not really play its democratic role. Due to the disadvantaged status of some groups, their appeals are not paid attention to by the government, and it often happens that they are not answered. As Roza Tsagarousianou puts it: While discourse interaction is the foundation of most e-democracy initiatives, most programs are actually initiated from the top down by executives and are primarily based on providing greater access to information. This form of politics is more about information dissemination and persuasion than communication and discussion. In actual political life, e-democracy is more like a tool to convey government information and propagate political ideas from top to bottom. The second dilemma is the "digital divide". Manuel Castells argues that technological forces, rather than narrowing social gaps, reinforce trends that are rooted in original social structures and institutions. Foreign scholars have realized that although electronic democracy has provided the possibility of narrowing the distance between citizens and the government, it has also probably even widened the gap of access to information between the poor and the rich. The third dilemma is the information explosion. , Mr Voser dyson, seen in the electronic technology brings huge amounts of information

and may be illegal and criminal tools at the same time, he said, "the digital world is a new territory, can release is difficult to describe the production of energy, but it may also be terrorism and jianghu swindler tool, or a big lie and malicious slander." "In the view of foreign scholars, whether the dilemma faced by electronic democracy can be properly solved is an important factor affecting the orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy.

## 1.2 The concept and meaning of e-democracy

In western countries, electronic democracy appears more as a kind of auxiliary governance means, which provides great convenience for election and voting as well as citizens' political participation. However, when discussing the significance of e-democracy, we cannot ignore the differences in the political ecology behind it. The political reality of China determines the limitation of the function of electronic democracy. In China, the function of e-democracy is generally limited at the peripheral level, such as the limited sharing of e-government, the limited disclosure of government information, and the irregular official public opinion survey. Of course, limited functioning of e-democracy is better than none.

### 1.2.1 Theoretical significance

Electronic democracy has opened up a new paradigm of democratic political participation in China, which can not only promote the development of democratic politics in China, but also contribute to the formation of modern civic consciousness.

(1) Electronic democracy promotes the socialist democratic political process

As a way of democracy, electronic democracy enriches the form of socialist democratic politics and promotes its development. Since the reform and opening up, after forty years of democratic political construction, the political system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, such as the system of people's congress, the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and the system of democratic autonomy at the grass-roots level, have gradually reflected their distinctive superiority. At the same time, with the increasing scope and channels of citizen participation in politics, the satisfaction of citizen participation in politics is also increasing. However, in the actual operation of democratic politics, citizens' political participation is also faced

with such problems as high participation, low quality and increasingly narrow channels of participation, which are not conducive to the satisfaction of citizens' political demands. In recent years, with the emergence and gradual application of electronic democracy, the electronic technology it relies on provides a broad platform for citizens to participate in politics. The extensive and direct participation emphasized by electronic democracy provides the possibility for citizens to participate in democratic politics. The hidden and virtual space created by electronic technology eliminates or reduces the concerns, pressures and worries of citizens in the process of realistic political participation. In this way, citizens can directly and bluntly participate in the decision-making process of public affairs. In addition, in the non-network era, the path of information transmission has been one-way. With the emergence of the network, with the help of electronic technology platform, the one-way transmission mode of information has become a two-way mode. Through the electronic platform, the cost and threshold of information acquisition have also been reduced. In this way, information is no longer monopolized by elites and gradually flows to the public. Citizens can become both the acquirer of information and the producer and disseminator of information. All these are conducive to meeting citizens' demands for political participation and thus promoting China's democratic political process. As Mr Roszak puts it: "There is a myth in the information age that computers, especially the personal computer, will bring about a democratic Renaissance."

(2) Electronic democracy contributes to the formation of modern civic consciousness

The development of electronic democracy is conducive to the protection of citizens' political rights and the formation of modern civic consciousness. Cohen believes that democracy means that "the people govern themselves and the people are the rulers". In the Internet era, citizens' political participation rights have been greatly guaranteed. Through the political participation platform provided by the Internet, citizens can equally and extensively participate in the discussion of all aspects of social life, and provide opinions and suggestions for the formulation of major policies. This participation mode is conducive to stimulating citizens' political consciousness and right consciousness and promoting the reform of citizens' political values. This paper argues that consciousness is more important than rights. If citizens lack awareness, even if they have rights, democracy will be difficult to achieve. At present, there is a phenomenon of political apathy in China, which is more common among the economically disadvantaged farmers and college students. Economically

weak, they have no additional conditions to participate in political life. However, the development of electronic democracy provides convenience for citizens to participate in politics across time and space, and at the same time reduces the cost of citizens' participation in politics. To a large extent, electronic democracy has stimulated and revitalized the enthusiasm for political participation of farmers and college students, which helps to promote the benign development of modern civic consciousness.

### 1.2.2 Practical significance

Electronic democracy is both a theoretical and practical problem. The practice of electronic democracy in China has extremely high practical significance. On the one hand, e-democracy realizes the network openness of government affairs and improves the openness and transparency of government affairs, which is conducive to protecting citizens' right to know and facilitating citizens to supervise the government's power operation through the electronic information technology platform. On the other hand, the extensive practice of e-democracy can effectively increase the number of citizens participating in political activities and improve their enthusiasm and participation in political activities. At the same time, the consultation and communication functions of electronic democracy have promoted the deliberative democracy process in China.

(1) Promote the network openness of government affairs and realize the network supervision of power

Electronic democracy has promoted the openness of online government affairs. The essence of democracy is that the rights of citizens are guaranteed, that is, citizens have the ultimate rights in political affairs. Procedural democracy is a way to seek political transparency in socialist democratic politics, which requires that "socialist democratic politics must ensure that citizens can exercise the ultimate right of political affairs, and can obtain sufficient right of participation and the right to know". That is to say, socialist democracy must be open politics. Open politics requires that citizens have the right to know and be able to know important things. The essence of the people's government is to let the people know about the government's activities, especially the decision-making process of the government, so as to achieve maximum democracy. In addition, the government's use of the Internet to carry out work can greatly improve the transparency of government work, conducive to the realization of widespread democracy. Electronic channels are a fast and efficient way

for citizens to understand and participate in government activities. Through electronic democracy, the formulation and implementation of policies and decisions can be presented to the people, making the government's activities no longer mysterious. The people can quickly and conveniently understand the working process of the government and improve the transparency of the government's work.

Since 1999, Chinese governments across the country have launched online projects, which have greatly improved the transparency of government information and decision-making. To further make government work more open, the State Council issued the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Disclosure of Government Information in 2007, which requires the government to disclose its administrative affairs to the public, such as medical care measures, urban construction, affairs handling, road planning and so on. The public should not only have the right to be informed about government affairs, but also have the right to inquire about and supervise government administrative affairs, the regulation said. Now, with the development of network technology, governments all over the country are setting up the network government information system, in which government affairs publicity will be a basic content of the government information system. In order to make government work more open and transparent, relevant departments at all levels of the Chinese government have basically set up webpages for the public to provide policy consultation and information disclosure services to the public. As of 2012, the overall penetration rate of government websites at all levels in China has exceeded 85%. Although some websites have problems such as long information updating cycle and late response to the questions expressed by netizens, in general, government websites have become an important window for government information disclosure. Through the openness of government e-government, citizens can understand the government's actions and express their personal opinions through the e-government platform.

Electronic democracy realizes the network supervision of power. Government information disclosure is a prerequisite for justice. Although the government can make information public, it does not always get justice in the decision-making process. Absolute power leads to absolute corruption. To put an end to the corruption of power and make the right use of power, it is necessary to put the operation of power in the sunshine. The development of electronic democracy provides the supervision of the "fourth power" for the justness of government decision-making, and truly puts the exercise of government power under the sunlight. In the absence of effective constraints on the exercise of power, some government departments may

ignore the opinions of the public out of consideration of interests. After all, the effectiveness of individual public opinions is minimal, and it is difficult to insist on appealing to the government. However, in the era of electronic democracy, as a new carrier of electronic democracy, the controllability of the network in the transmission of information is gradually declining, so the power of the network in reflecting public opinion should not be underestimated. If the government ignores or even disregards the opinions of netizens and turns a deaf ear to the issues concerned by netizens, then the relevant opinions of netizens are likely to gather in various major forums and become hot spots, which will generate lasting and extensive public opinion pressure, which will force the government to pay attention to the opinions of citizens. In this way, when the actual power is not supervised enough, the network provides a powerful platform for citizens to supervise the operation of government power. "In the network, there are only round tables for the public, but no podium for officials." In the network, everyone has the equal right of speech and will not be divided into three or six classes because of the real status difference. To convince others, only logic and facts are necessary. In recent years, the spread speed, wide participation, low cost, influence of the network anti-corruption can best reflect this point. Corruption cases can be revealed to the public in an instant because of the speed of Internet transmission. And because of the open and transparent nature of the Internet, it is difficult for people involved in corruption cases to hide or escape. In addition, the anonymous protection mechanism for online informants has greatly expanded the information sources of online corruption reports. Network anti-corruption has become an important form of anti-corruption work in China. In addition, in recent years, the Internet, especially the network public opinion, has also played a huge role in China's legal cases such as the Guo Meimei Incident and the case of "insulting his mother". When the traditional media are unable to cope with these events, the public can use the network media to express their support for the vulnerable groups in the cases and restrict the abuse of public power by creating the huge pressure of network public opinion. The above facts prove that e-democracy plays a huge role in promoting the network openness of government affairs and realizing the network supervision of power. Meanwhile, it also plays a strong role in promoting the perfection of e-democracy related laws.

(2) Expand political participation and promote interactions between officials and the people

According to the Statistical Report on China's Internet Development released by China Internet Network Information Center in July 2018, as of June 2018, the

number of online government service users in China had reached 470 million, accounting for 58.6% of the total Internet users. Data shows that more and more members of the public participate in government affairs through the Internet. Thus it can be seen that electronic democracy plays a very important role in expanding citizens' political participation and promoting the good interaction between officials and people.

Take the "two sessions" in 2018 as an example. Many deputies to the two sessions set up personal micro blogs to solicit opinions and suggestions from the public and answer questions from netizens. At the same time, some government portals and business news websites have also set up special columns for the two sessions, which not only update the latest developments of the sessions in real time, but also provide discussion areas for netizens to express their opinions and suggestions. People.com.cn has even planned a column called "I have questions to ask the premier", where the public can leave messages on online forums, microblogs, WeChat and other platforms. As a result, the public, no matter where they are, can put forward many questions and suggestions for the two sessions through online forums, microblogs, WeChat and other media. Another example is that the new generation of mobile population can participate in political activities and exercise political rights through the network platform. In the past, although many floating population paid high attention to politics, due to practical reasons, it was difficult to have channels to guarantee their "right to speak". This is mainly manifested as: on the one hand, the participation rate of floating citizens is very low in the election activities of the village and neighborhood committee in their hometown; On the other hand, in the areas where migrant workers work, the household registration restrictions on election participants also hinder the exercise of democratic rights to a large extent. However, with the widespread popularization of technology in China, and the close combination of all aspects of voter registration and election with network technology, it has become a reality for floating population to exercise their right to vote and stand for election through the network. Thus, electronic democracy guarantees and expands citizens' political participation.

Electronic democracy has expanded citizens' political participation, which is mainly reflected in the depth and breadth of citizens' political participation. First of all, the most direct impact brought by e-democracy is to expand the scope of citizens' political participation, which is in the aspect of numbers. In modern society, it is impossible for everyone to participate in the politics of a perfect regime, so the emergence of foreign representative system and domestic people's congress system

is also possible. In terms of domestic situation, given the large population base, complex population structure and low overall education level, China has implemented the system of people's congress. The main process is that deputies are elected by the people to participate in the management of state public affairs on behalf of the people. Actually, due to the elected representatives is the social from all walks of life in general, the elite in various fields, while China has formed the corresponding system of National People's Congress on behalf of ties with the masses to guarantee citizens' right of expression and supervision, but in fact did not implement the system in some region, this to a certain extent, limits the ordinary citizen's political participation of the breadth and depth. Moreover, with the changes of economic and social life, many citizens believe that the national policies and policies are too far away from individuals to be of any importance to them, so they pay more attention to the acquisition of wealth than the national policies and policies. In the course of time, apathy of citizen participation in politics is formed. The emergence of electronic democracy has gradually improved the phenomenon of citizen political apathy. The political participation platform provided by electronic democracy is free, equal and open, and is not restricted by time and space. Citizens can express their opinions freely through electronic platforms anytime and anywhere. At the same time, with the popularization of electronic information products and the continuous popularization of the network, citizens of different classes, ages and regions can participate in electronic democracy. The cost of this kind of political participation is very small, so more and more netizens get involved and regain their enthusiasm for political participation, which expands the main body of political participation to a great extent. In addition, the characteristics of e-democracy, such as anonymity, openness and equality, enable citizens to freely express their opinions and discuss public affairs through in-depth consultation. In this sense, e-democracy deepens the depth of political participation. Finally, the development of e-democracy also makes government affairs more open, which enables citizens to know more about the government and the public, and further deepens citizens' political participation.

Electronic democracy not only expands the scope and deepens the political participation of citizens, but also turns into a communication platform connecting citizens and government officials, promoting the good interaction between officials and the people. In the Internet era, the Internet has become a new platform for public opinion gathering. With the help of convenient and fast network technology, more groups or individuals can express public opinions anytime and anywhere. Relevant

government departments and staff can also learn about public opinion and communicate with the public in a timely manner through online platforms. "The expression of public opinion is the process of public opinion reaching the other side through certain channels. The other side of the expression of public opinion includes all social authority forces, mainly public administration departments." On this electronic technology platform, citizens can directly communicate and negotiate with officials on public affairs, and citizens' opinions can be actively responded by government officials, thus forming a circle of good interaction between officials and the people. This embodied in: on the one hand, the Chinese government attaches importance to the role of electronic democracy increasingly, often with the aid of electronic information platform, accelerate the pace of information disclosure, the communist party and the government related policies and law interpretation through the platform spread and promoting public understanding of government policies, laws, to achieve the openness, fairness and justice. As President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China said in his congratulatory message to the fifth World Internet Conference, we need to accelerate the development of the digital economy and make the global Internet governance system more just and equitable. On the other hand, the public generates personal opinions through the electronic platform of government related policies, and then puts forward personal opinions to the government through the electronic information platform. In turn, government policy makers will take into account the views of the public and incorporate them into government policy making.

It is a very convenient platform to express public opinions, and at the same time, it improves the efficiency of communication between the government and the public. Using electronic networks, governments can get a wider range of public opinions and feedback. The Internet is the most direct way for the government to obtain public opinions, which can effectively avoid the distortion of information due to multi-layer filtering. The ability of the Internet to quickly transmit information can significantly improve the speed of the public's feedback to information, thus helping to promote the direct dialogue between ordinary people and high-level government officials. Electronic networks not only weaken rigid hierarchies, but also remove restrictions and allow free communication between people and their government. In general, electronic networks can eliminate other links of communication between ordinary people and the government, and achieve equal and efficient communication.

To sum up, the orderly development of e-democracy guarantees the political rights of citizens, helps to promote the good interaction between government officials

and the public, and is also conducive to the democratic decision-making of the government.

(3) Promote consultative democracy

The orderly development of e-democracy is conducive to promoting the deliberative democracy process in China. The value of electronic democracy to deliberative democracy is mainly reflected in providing a public space for consultation and discussion. At the same time, electronic democracy has expanded the subjects of citizens' political participation and expanded the ways for citizens to obtain political information. This lays a good foundation for public democracy to improve public rationality and participate in consultative democracy.

Electronic democracy creates a virtual public space, and public space is exactly one of the essential elements for the smooth development of consultative democracy. Citizens can gather in the network public space provided by electronic democracy, such as network forums, network communities, microblogs, etc., and form different network organizations to participate in the discussion of social public affairs. In the process of discussion, citizens can obtain different information, put forward personal views, exchange different views, and then reach a unified opinion. At the same time, these organizations will continue to absorb citizens with the same views and gradually grow and form a public space to express the same interests and interests. With the continuous development of network electronic information technology and the popularization of electronic products, more network public space will be created, providing conditions and support for the smooth advancement of deliberative democracy. The smooth advancement of deliberative democracy requires citizens to have more public rationality, while the orderly development of electronic democracy is exactly conducive to improving citizens' ability to participate in politics and rationality. In this way, citizens are more rational in the process of negotiation, and will take others' opinions into account to think and express themselves prudently. The public rationality of citizens is gradually formed, which is conducive to the development of deliberative democracy.

# CHAPTER 2
## CHARACTERISTICS OF E-DEMOCRACY IN CHINA

## 2.1 Formation of e-democracy in China

### 2.1.1 The rise of electronic democracy in China

China's electronic democracy and the rise of the end of the 1990s, mainly manifested as the Internet based network democracy. At that time, with the development of society and the continuous popularization of education, citizens' literacy rate and literacy level have been greatly improved, so there are higher requirements for political participation. However, in conflict with this, the government lacks the ability to guide and institutionalize the demands of citizens' political participation. Although it is undeniable that a stable political environment and a good political order are the indispensable political guarantee for the development of a country. As Deng Xiaoping put it: "China's problem, above all else, is stability." Indeed, if the environment is unstable, China will not be able to do anything and all the gains it has made will be lost. American political scientist Huntington held the same view. In his opinion, the primary issue for the development of modern countries is to establish a legal public order, rather than freedom. Only with political stability can the government concentrate social resources and strength to accomplish big things. Under the guidance of the same idea, great changes have indeed taken place in China. But at the same time, it also reduces the channels for citizens to participate in politics, weakens the function of public opinion expression institutions, and greatly restrains the enthusiasm of citizens to participate in politics. In fact, if citizens' demands for political participation do not get reasonable attention and response, it is bound to affect the political stability. Just like the discussion on the importance of political participation by Ikuo Kujima: political participation will affect the economic development and political stability of the society. Political participation plays an important role in maintaining political stability. The higher the degree of political participation, the stronger the responsiveness of citizens' demands, and the stronger the spirit of citizens' national ownership, which directly affects the stability of the regime.

In the 1990s, with the rapid development of electronic information technology in China, the Internet changed the past political control mechanism at a very fast

speed. Various Internet forums have sprung up like bamboo shoots after a rain. The Internet has provided a cross-space, cross-region platform for Chinese citizens' demands for political participation. On this platform, citizens' enthusiasm for political participation is re-stimulated, and electronic democracy is gradually paid attention to by people. As for the rise of the practice of electronic democracy in China, some scholars believe that it began with the "Great Power Forum Event". In 1999, the United States bombed our embassy in the Federal Yugoslavia. This is the first time that Chinese netizens have focused on expressing dissatisfaction with the United States. What's more, some patriotic hackers have launched large-scale attacks on American networks. This led to the outbreak of a cyber war between China and the US, with over 100 websites on each side being planted with the flags of the other side. As a result, the Forum of Strong Countries was established and gradually entered the field of view of netizens, becoming a hub for people's opinions. The topic of discussion on the forum has gradually changed from anti-violence to patriotism. Therefore, the forum of powerful countries can be one of the origins of electronic democracy in China.

## 2.1.2 The rapid development of electronic democracy in China

In the 21st century, especially after 2005, electronic democracy has developed rapidly in China. On the one hand, major mainstream media and government websites are gradually landing in China's Internet domain. Moreover, with the popularization of digital products such as electronic computers and smart phones, more netizens can access relevant electronic platforms at any time and conveniently and try to participate in democratic activities in China. In addition, with the improvement of the economic situation and the improvement of the cultural level of the Chinese people, the people's awareness of political participation and rights has been constantly enhanced. People's demands for social issues concerning their own interests are increasing day by day, and the time-transcending convenience of electronic platforms can just help people express their demands. Faced with the expression of people's demands in various aspects, how to communicate and interact with the people on the Internet and how to deal with the actual social problems have become one of the main issues facing the development of electronic democracy in China. Since 2006, at every press conference of the "two sessions", Wen Jiabao has taken the initiative to express his concern for and thanks for the questions raised by netizens. At the press conference, he also expressed the government's strong support

for the development of the Internet. Governments at all levels should not only accept the supervision of the people, but also actively adopt the opinions of the online public. Since then, more netizens in China have participated in political activities, and e-democracy has developed rapidly in China.

China's electronic democracy has improved the form of democratic political participation. For example, the emergence of network judgment, network hearing, network supervision and other modes has diversified the forms of Chinese citizens' political participation. In 2011, the Chinese government ushered in the era of microblogs. From the perspective of the development of e-government platforms, the government microblog and the government website form a new phenomenon of competing for flowers. Local governments at all levels have set up official microblogs with more than a million followers. The development of e-government platform ensures that the government can hear the voice of the people, effectively solves some social cases, reduces the public's complaints against the government, guarantees the people's right to participate, and improves the relationship between the people and the government. November 28, 2012 solstice On December 4, Guangzhou held the first online hearing. At this hearing, 18 speakers debated and expressed their opinions on the "Guangzhou Social Medical Insurance Regulations". The online legislative hearing garnered more than 11.35 million views online. This is another major innovation of e-democracy in China, which effectively improves the participation of the public in political activities. Although the development of electronic democracy in China has slowed down in recent years, it still points out a new development direction for China's democratic construction.

## 2.2 Analisys of the state of e-democracy in China

### 2.2.1 The manifestation of electronic democracy in China

No matter what form democratic politics takes, the emphasis is on political participation. As American scholar Cohen elaborated in his book On Democracy, the key of democratic politics lies in "how broad and deep the members of the society are and on what issues they participate in the affairs of common concern". Similarly, as a form of democratic politics, the key of e-democracy is that it provides an electronic platform for the public to participate in politics. Compared with the real democratic politics, this virtual electronic platform can transcend time and space, build a space for people to express themselves freely and allow people to participate

in politics through information and communication technology. Although the electronic platform provided by the Internet is virtual, it is also related to the reality. Because the public opinion formed on this platform may be transformed into real political power. Different from the western electronic democracy, which is mainly manifested in electronic voting and electronic election, the primary manifestation of China's electronic democracy is mainly manifested in the bottom-up network public opinion supervision and the top-down network survey. Later, the manifestation of electronic democracy in China has become rich and diverse.

(1) Top-down electronic democracy

①Internet polls

Internet polls are Internet public opinion polls. This means that the relevant actors collect the public's opinions and attitudes about an event, especially a public event, by means of questionnaires or interactive communication through the electronic technology platform, so as to provide reference for the relevant units or the government in making decisions. By 2018, the People's Daily Online's "Hot Spot Survey of the Two Sessions", which has been launched for 17 years, has attracted the most attention. The process is as follows: First, People.com.cn lists the recent issues and their subdivisions on its webpage. Most of these issues are related to the national economy and people's livelihood and are of the greatest concern to the public. Secondly, netizens vote on these different issues or offer personal opinions and suggestions. The site then ranks the questions according to the level of response. Finally, the results of the survey will be passed on to the "two sessions". More than 4.2 million people participated in the online survey conducted by People's Daily Online ahead of the 2018 "Two Sessions". The above facts show that the Internet poll has become one of the channels for the two sessions to understand public opinion.

②Online hearings

As the name suggests, the Internet hearing means that the government solicits opinions from the public on major issues related to the public interest through the Internet platform. The big questions can be about legislative activity or public policy. In recent years, the number of netizens in China has been increasing rapidly. Through online hearings, the government can collect and has collected a large number of opinions and suggestions from netizens on major national issues more conveniently. For example, in 2010, the government solicited opinions from the whole country on the Outline of the National Medium - and Long-Term Plan for Education Reform and Development (2010-2020). In just one month, nearly 10,000 opinions and suggestions were collected, a large number of which were provided by netizens.

Another example is that in 2011, the National People's Congress solicited opinions from the whole nation on the amendment of the individual income tax. In just over a month, 220,000 opinions were provided online. At the same time, the discussion on the amendment of personal income tax has been increasing in the major online media.

③Internet politics

In other words, the government collects public opinions and suggestions on relevant government policies through the Internet platform, so as to understand people's conditions and gather their wisdom, so as to make adjustments to relevant policies and realize scientific and democratic governance. From June 20, 2008, former Chinese President hu jintao at the beginning of the People's Daily online chat with friends online, to the local officials of provinces and cities across the country have now by telephone, radio, television, network and other various electronic platform to communicate with the public, local governments are increasingly ask government to the people through the network, more transparent and open government information. Among them, the "political style" hotline, the most popular. In 2002, the Sunshine Hotline program jointly held by Hebei Provincial Recorrection Office and Hebei TV Station is the first provincial political style hot line in China. Subsequently, the program was carried out with great vigour across the country. At present, most parts of the country have set up a set of "online report problems, the relevant departments offline verification, online reply" process system to solve problems for the people.

④Network publicity

Network propaganda refers to the information exchange process carried out by the government through the network technology platform, using various symbols including text, sound, picture and image. Through the network platform, the government quickly spreads a large amount of information to the public to achieve the purpose of influencing their cognition, emotion, attitude and values, so as to make the public make the behavior in line with the government's requirements. At first, many governments only provided the public with the simplest information browsing services through the Internet, which was called the "name card" of the government network. With the development of Internet technology, the popularity of the Internet among the public is becoming higher and higher. The information provided by the government on the Internet is becoming more and more abundant, in more and more diversified forms and with higher and higher interactivity. Therefore, the effect of government's online propaganda is getting better and better. At present, the technology platforms for government propaganda are mainly government portal

websites, commercial news websites, public interactive columns and private blogs of government officials. Among them, the government portal website assumes the most important role of government network propaganda. At the same time, the mayor's mailbox, the director's mailbox and the political discussion forum have been opened on the government's portal website to actively accept public opinions. Network poll, network hearing, network political inquiry and network publicity are all important forms of electronic democracy in China from top to bottom, which play a very important role in the development of electronic democracy in China.

(2) Bottom-up e-democracy

The bottom-up e-democracy is manifested as citizens' participation in network politics, which mainly includes network voice behavior, network judgment, network motion and network supervision.

①Network voice behavior

Internet voice behavior, also known as Internet voice advice, is an activity in which the public puts forward opinions or suggestions to the government through the network technology platform. Generally, Internet voice behavior can be divided into two types: one is the activity in which the public actively provides opinions or suggestions to the state organs and relevant departments through the Internet; The other is an activity in which the public, at the invitation of the government and relevant departments, provides personal opinions and suggestions to the government through the Internet. This activity generally exists in the formation of public policies involving public interests. For example, in recent years, the public has provided a large number of feasible suggestions in the reform programs concerning the vital interests of the public, such as education, medical care and old-age care, which have provided many references for their scientific and democratic formulation.

②Network Judgment

Different from Internet voice behavior, which puts forward suggestions to relevant government departments, Internet judgment refers to the public making value judgments on specific government policies or related public affairs through the Internet platform, thus forming huge pressure of public opinion and forcing relevant departments and staff to respond and correct. In recent years, network evaluation plays an extremely important role in the evaluation of government work.

③Network initiatives

Network motion refers to the public or social groups with the help of the network platform, for a certain event to launch a public interest, social concern oriented plan or action behavior. From the practical situation, given the weakness of

individual power, the main body of initiating network initiatives is generally social groups. For example, after some major natural disasters, some civil society organizations will launch initiatives and activities to donate money and materials to the public through the Internet. This has also promoted the process of electronic democracy in China.

④Network supervision

Network supervision, in a broad sense, means that the public can understand, pay attention to, study, and provide information or intervention support for certain matters through the network platform, so as to make satisfactory solutions in an open, fair and just situation. In a narrow sense, network supervision refers to the public's supervision of the government and its staff through the network platform. What this article discusses here is the network supervision in the narrow sense. Network supervision, including network political inquiry, network onlookers and other forms, is playing an increasingly great role in the process of dealing with public affairs in China. At present, in China, through the network supervision to uncover corruption cases or because of the network supervision generated by the power of public opinion so that the case changed the sentence of countless examples. In recent years, many public events have been triggered by the Internet, forming a huge network public opinion to promote the development and solution of problems. For example, the "hide-and-seek" incident in Yunnan, China, the "Guo Meimei" case, the "mother insult case" and so on. The public can express their personal views through various electronic network platforms such as WeChat, Weibo, network forums and so on to promote the reasonable and legal settlement of the case. This on the one hand reflects the public network political participation enthusiasm, on the other hand, but also promote social fairness and justice.

Although the development of the top-down and bottom-up electronic democracy in China is still imperfect, such as the low coverage of the government's online political inquiry, and the lack of unified analysis and processing mechanism for the supervision of public opinion. But it is certain that electronic democracy has developed in China and has a very broad prospect.

## 2.2.2 The running process of electronic democracy in China

The operation of electronic democracy is generally divided into three sub-processes: information gathering, opinion formation and decision formation. In the field of electronic participation, the goal of electronic democracy is information

acquisition and opinion formation, while in the field of electronic voting, the goal of electronic democracy is decision formation.

The first is to make information public in a comprehensive, timely and authoritative manner. It is a prerequisite for citizens to participate in politics to obtain relevant policy information through electronic platforms. On the electronic platforms formed by the Internet, such as the government website, government microblog, government forum, government WeChat public account, etc., the government discloses relevant organization setup, laws and regulations, policies, government decision-making operation procedures and other relevant information. Through these e-government platforms, citizens can understand the relevant government information released by the government and provide reference for their political participation activities. At the same time, the government can also transmit relevant meeting content to citizens in real time through the form of live broadcast. The government can also promote communication and interaction between the government and citizens in the legislative decision-making process through online press conferences and online hearings. The government can also provide a variety of online education and training opportunities to improve citizens' personal skills and cultivate citizens' enthusiasm and ability to participate in politics electronically. The second is for citizens to express their personal opinions through e-government forums. This is led by the government, negotiated. After being informed of the government's disclosure of relevant information, citizens can express their personal views on the relevant government affairs forum. Then, under the leadership of the government, we will listen to the opinions of stakeholders of all parties and conduct consultation on the interests of all parties in combination with the opinions of experts and citizens in relevant fields. In this process, citizens' political participation is further enlarged. Third, citizens vote on electronic platforms. After listening to suggestions from all sides, the government forms different decisions on a certain issue and launches an online poll. Of course, this kind of online voting should consider the actual situation. In fact, due to the influence of network infrastructure and citizens' educational level, online voting is very difficult. Therefore, this kind of network voting can be carried out in an operable range according to the actual situation of each place. Finally, a unified opinion is obtained to form a decision.

The operation process of e-democracy discussed above is essentially a top-down model, which is one of the paths of e-democracy. Electronic democracy also has a bottom-up path, but in view of the lack of civic rationality of the participants, in the early stage of its development, some cases from the bottom up are easy to

evolve into network group events, which go in the opposite direction to the goal of electronic democracy. A good e-democracy should achieve the following goals: the healthy development of the relationship between citizens and the government; Forming a good communication and information culture between the government and other social and political activity entities; To provide government reform with a degree of transparency and openness; Forming corresponding electronic voting mechanism; Improve the efficiency of government administration.

# CHAPTER 3
# PROBLEMS OF E-DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA AND WAYS OF INTRODUCING NEW INSTITUTIONS

## 3.1 Difficulties in the development of electronic democracy in China

Theoretically, the development of e-democracy to a certain extent is conducive to promoting citizens to participate in politics, expanding the main body of political participation, improving the depth of political participation, effectively building a direct communication bridge between citizens and government officials, and playing a positive role in easing the tension between the government and citizens. However, from the perspective of reality, electronic democracy has not achieved the expected effect of theory in practice and still faces some difficulties. The participants of electronic democracy are prone to irrationality and group polarization. Information control, explosion, digital divide and other phenomena occur easily in the process of electronic democracy. It is also difficult to transform the negotiation effect of electronic democracy. At the same time, some government departments lack regular maintenance of relevant electronic platforms. There are many reasons for these dilemmas: on the one hand, the main reason is the lack of public reason and common discourse; On the other hand, the government has not kept up with relevant supporting facilities and lacks regular maintenance of electronic platforms. In addition, there are institutional reasons. At present, the relevant system arrangement of e-democracy in China is not perfect, which also restricts the rational and orderly development of e-democracy in China to some extent. From this point of view, China's electronic democracy is facing a variety of dilemmas, not only the participants in the plight of the subject, but also the effect of the transformation of the dilemma.

### 3.1.1 The dilemma of the participants of electronic democracy in China

(1) Electronic participation presents an irrational tendency

With the help of the hidden and virtual network platform, the participants of electronic democracy are easy to present the irrational tendency. As Lehnold puts it: People in online communities can behave as they would in real life, and they can get

rid of their physical limitations. Although you can't kiss people and people can't punch you on the nose, a lot of things still happen. The concealment of the network makes citizens participate in politics without any worries, but at the same time, it also makes it difficult for the government to control it. The Internet is a highly liberal space in which citizens can freely disseminate information and express their opinions according to their own logical ways of thinking. It is difficult to be regulated and restrained by the government to a certain extent. Therefore, the center of public opinion can be easily generated in the network. Because of the lack of ultimate restraints, any opinion of the citizens is likely to form the center of public opinion. So everyone should be the governor and the restrainer of their own actions. The values of the Internet thus revealed are the extreme of individual liberalism. As Gilmore put it in Jordan's conversation about Internet freedom: "On the Internet, no one knows who you really are. No one knows your race or gender. This unknown skin color and gender are highly positive for many people, and thus are largely supported by the public.

In the online public space, all kinds of opinions are spread with lightning speed, just like opening a Pandora's box of information dissemination, which is difficult to be effectively controlled. Because in the face of this phenomenon, the government is often unable to show. The transmission speed of information increases exponentially, and there are many choices of transmission paths, presenting a decentralized architecture. As Nicola Negroponte describes it, it's this decentralized architecture that makes the Internet the three-headed, six-armed thing it is today. There is no way for politicians to use the law or violence to control the Internet. But there is still a way for information to get out. It is precisely because of this characteristic of information transmission, coupled with the virtual nature of political participants on the Internet, that the government's management lacks strict control and at the same time leads to a large number of irrational participation behaviors. In cyberspace, faced with the explosive growth of information storms, many citizens are at a loss and lack the ability to navigate these storms. They are likely to lose their personal reason and follow what others say. Just like Esther Dyson's understanding of the digital world: on the one hand, the digital world has enormous potential power that is difficult to measure; on the other hand, it may also produce huge negative effects, turning into the evil tool of terrorist organizations and cheaters, and becoming a platform for breeding crimes.

(2) Electronic participation shows a tendency of group polarization

In view of the communication characteristics of electronic democracy, in the face of complex network information, participants of electronic democracy may sometimes find it difficult to negotiate rationally and reach a consensus. Instead, they are prone to show group polarization tendency through collaborative filtering. In the era of big data and the Internet, network information is growing explosively. Perhaps the flood of information itself is not a problem, but when people are faced with so many choices, it is inevitable that they will not make decisions based on their personal preferences and choose what they agree with most. This is called collaborative filtering. When different groups only choose opinions they agree with, mutual understanding between groups may be neglected. In this way, the coupling within the group increases, while the isolation between the groups also increases, and the phenomenon of "group polarization" appears. The term "group polarization" was put forward by Professor Janis Stoner of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1961. Group polarization refers to that in the process of group decision-making, the opinions or opinions of the group will influence the opinions of the individual, forming the phenomenon that the individual is subordinate to the group decision-making, thus generating the tendency conclusion with higher risk that is nearly the same. The most widely accepted definition of "group polarization" was put forward by Cass Sunstein, an American scholar. In his book "Cyberrepublic: Democracy in Cybersociety", he pointed out that the phenomenon of "group polarization" means that the members of a group first have some prejudices, and after discussion, people continue to move in the direction of prejudice, and finally form an extreme viewpoint. Simply put, the effect of the group reinforces preexisting tendencies among group members, thereby raising the average view to a dominant phenomenon. Therefore, we know that collaborative filtering is one of the main factors that form the phenomenon of group polarization. At present, the phenomenon of "group polarization" as a common phenomenon often appears in the network society, resulting in the characteristics of the network public opinion is not only real, but also extreme, exaggerated, inflammatory, and so on, accompanied by many components to vent emotions.

Although there are a variety of network rules and regulations restricting the participants of e-democracy, in the actual operation of e-democracy, it is easy to appear the phenomenon of network group polarization. Network group polarization can be understood as the tendency of people's opinions on a certain issue on the Internet. Due to the influence of a certain network group, it is stronger than before joining the group, and may deviate from the normal rational track and go to extremes.

Network group polarization is an extension and development of group polarization electronic network. At present, some scholars divide the polarization of network group into the polarization of network public opinion group and the polarization tendency of network political group. However, currently there is no strict definition of the two standards, so the two are often difficult to distinguish. According to current research, radicalization is enhanced when group members connect online and emphasize group identity. As Mr Sunstein puts it: there is no doubt that group polarisation is taking place on the Internet. Having said that, the Internet is a hotbed of much extremism because like-minded people can communicate easily and frequently online. But they do not hear different opinions and continue to be exposed to extreme positions. Adopting the opinions of these people will gradually lead people to believe in this position. All kinds of people who have no preconceived ideas, because they read different things, will eventually go to extremes and move towards the result of division. Or make a big mistake and cause chaos.

In the network public space, the public pay more attention to the opinions consistent with their views, but ignore or ignore the views contrary to them, thus forming a network circle with the same views or interests. In addition, because people often have the psychology of wanting to be approved by others and their own psychology of agreeing with others, they will unconsciously cater to the mainstream views and suppress their personal views in the process of discussion. In this case, once the mainstream viewpoint deviates or has an erroneous tendency, it is easy for this viewpoint to be sharpened, thus resulting in the phenomenon of network group polarization. Specifically speaking, the factors of network group polarization are shown in the following aspects: first, the group factor, which is the social factor of the "spiral of silence" effect; Second, the lack of credibility of government departments, the expression of public interest appeals is not smooth; The third factor is the Internet factor, which is determined by the characteristics of network communication, network collaborative filtering factor and the promotion of unscrupulous media.

(3) The overall expression of electronic democracy is "aristocratic" participation

Democracy requires the equality and extensiveness of the political participants, and whether the extensiveness of the participants is the premise and foundation of democracy. With the development of time, it seems that no matter what form of democracy, it seems to be inescapable from a strange circle: democracy has become more and more the stage of elite performance, more and more performance of

"aristocratic participation". As a new paradigm of democracy, electronic democracy meets the demands of democracy with the help of the new platform of Internet. Similar to other democratic paradigms, electronic democracy as a whole is gradually manifested as "aristocratic" participation. Combined with the specific national conditions of China, due to the regional development level, the overall quality of citizens is very different, in China at present can use network information technology to participate in politics, the proportion of the number of interaction is only a small part, most of the people are free from the network. According to the 42nd China Internet Report released by CNNIC, the Internet penetration rate was 57.7%. It can be seen that almost half of the groups are still excluded from the Internet, and their interest demands can hardly be answered through the Internet. There are also great differences among 57.7% of the population that popularize the Internet. When facing some hot issues, network opinion leaders often take a leading position. In this case, the main body of network political participation has a limited scope, which has a direct impact on the breadth and depth of electronic democracy. Electronic network is a kind of controlling power, and its development direction is not necessarily democratization, but also may produce autocracy and centralization. Electronic democratization reflects that members of the information elite extend their existing information advantages to the public through electronic information. However, the power of discourse is still in the hands of the elite, and some ordinary citizens do not participate enough in electronic democracy.

### 3.1.2 The implementation process of electronic democracy in China is difficult

(1) Information control and information explosion exist

The phenomenon of information control exists in the process of electronic democracy, which easily leads to information centralization. While discourse is the basis of most e-democracy initiatives, most are initiated by higher-level officials, primarily to provide more information, notes Roza Tsagarousianou, a professor at the University of California at San Francisco. This form of politics is more about the persuasion model of information transmission than the communication and communication model. In the traditional media era of information dissemination, the state cannot monopolize the technology of real media, such as newspapers, books and periodicals, because it is easy for the public to master it. However, in the

electronic information age of information transmission, the electronic technology of communication is quite complex and cannot be mastered by the general public.

Electronic information technology depends on the strong background of the state, so the state holds the control of electronic information technology and controls the dissemination and discourse power of network information. And "the countries that master the key network technology and powerful network resources can use the Internet technology to spread their cultural thoughts, and even influence the political culture of several countries, and then achieve the political monopoly of network technology for specific political purposes". Although under general circumstances, the public can freely express personal opinions on the electronic platform, the state can partly or completely filter out citizens' opinions against the state rule through some technical means, so that the information can be partially or even completely displayed. Of course, the information controlled by the state is generally related to sensitive topics such as national security and unification, or hackers and the spread of bad culture that affect social order. In fact, at present, many countries have introduced strict regulations on the management of Internet use, such as the current regulations on the real-name system of Internet use in China. In this way, the state or government controls the dissemination of information in cyberspace, which also leads to "greater inequality between the public and the government."

At the same time, the phenomenon of information explosion exists in the process of electronic democracy in China, which can easily produce electronic "MOBS". As Esther Dyson sees it: The digital world is a new frontier that can generate great power, but it can also be a tool for extremists and international fraud syndicates, or capable of creating malicious lies. Online pornography, cheating, hate groups, stalking, and extreme speech are among the bad behaviors and information on the Internet, which can harm the interaction and trust between people.

(2) the existence of digital divide phenomenon

Digital Divide refers to the "information Divide", "knowledge Divide" and "wealth Divide" caused by different countries, regions, industries and groups due to different degrees of application of information and network technology and different innovation capabilities in the process of digitization and informatization. Digital divide is mainly manifested in the following 4 aspects, referred to as "digital divide ABCD". A(Access) refers to the Internet access and use channels. Not only does the Internet require information infrastructure, but for the end user, the price of Internet access consists of hardware/software, the cost of providing access, and the telephone service fee. The times need to master the "information intelligence". The difference

of information intelligence between groups often leads to the gap of Internet utilization ability. C(content) refers to online content. In the connected network world, who dominates the multimedia and multilingual information content and network information products, and the interests and interests of which groups these contents and products are oriented, ultimately determines the gap between these groups and other groups; D(desire) refers to a person's motivation and interest in surfing the Internet. Different types of "use and satisfaction" determine the gap between Internet users' access to information and their utilization of information. The emergence of these digital gaps has affected the development of electronic democracy in China.

According to the 42nd Statistical Report on Internet Development in China released by the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC), as of June 30, 2018, China had 802 million Internet users, with an Internet penetration rate of 57.7 percent. Among them, as of June 2018, China's rural Internet users accounted for 26.3%, with a scale of 211 million. In terms of age distribution, the netizens in China are mainly teenagers, young people and middle-aged people. As of June 2018, people aged between 10 and 39 accounted for 70.8 percent of the total Internet users. Those aged between 20 and 29 accounted for 27.9 percent of the Internet users. China's netizens are mainly those with secondary education level. As of June 2018, 37.7 percent and 25.1 percent of Internet users with junior high school and high school/technical secondary school/technical school degrees, respectively. Those with a college degree or above accounted for 10.0 percent and 10.6 percent, respectively. It can be seen that students with higher education occupy an important position among them. In addition, from the perspective of economic status and distribution region, the distribution of Internet users is more concentrated in regions with stable income and more developed economy.

It can be seen that China's current information network is being used in a state of knowledge, youth and wealth. From this we can see that the digital divide exists widely in China. On the one hand, there is a digital divide in the construction of Internet infrastructure in different regions. More netizens are urban people, which makes more rural people who have difficulty in accessing modern electronic technology and products be excluded from the Internet as a vulnerable group. If the structure of Internet users is not balanced and optimized, then our electronic democracy will be doomed to become an elite and aristocratic democracy. Then the voices of the rest of society will be ignored and drowned out. On the other hand, there is a cultural digital divide, in which different online political participants have

knowledge gaps. The technological digital divide makes some people lose the right to participate, which affects the legitimacy of electronic democracy. The cultural digital divide widens the gap between societies, deprives them of their integrity and reduces the social capital available to the information-poor. Democracy requires the universality and equality of its participants, and the emergence of digital divide greatly hinders the development of electronic democracy.

(3) The institutional arrangements are binding

Although the practice of e-democracy in China has been promoted to a certain extent, in fact, as a democratic system, e-democracy has not been included in China's democratic system. "Institutions are to the Internet what staples are to snacks. No matter how delicious the refreshment is, it can only serve as a supplement." Electronic democracy, which does not exist as a democratic system, can only be regarded as a supplement in the democratic process of China, and this supplement function is weak. At the same time, as a democratic theory, the research process of electronic democracy in China is relatively slow. In view of this, the consultation and discussion of electronic democracy will not necessarily have an impact on the government decision-making in China. From this, it can be seen that the influence of electronic democracy on government decision-making is much less than that of consultative democracy, which is formally incorporated into the national democratic system, let alone compared with the people's congress of China. In addition, China's current stage of electronic democracy, there is still a lack of an effective emergency mechanism and relevant laws and regulations. Therefore, in terms of institutional arrangements, electronic democracy faces great constraints.

## 3.2 The development path choice of electronic democracy in China

Although the development of electronic democracy has indeed promoted the development of politics in a more or less realistic way, electronic democracy does have some defects in the static or dynamic development, or faces difficulties that are difficult to overcome. However, in spite of these and other dilemmas, we still have to find a strategy to try to resolve the dilemmas they face. In this regard, China need to start from the relevant system, technical basis and platform, the rationality of citizens' participation in politics and other perspectives, so that electronic democracy and realistic politics can be reasonably connected and complementary, from disorder to order, to achieve standardization and institutionalization.

## 3.2.1 The first section is to cultivate the rationality of citizens' political participation

Improving citizens' network literacy and cultivating citizens' political participation rationality are conducive to providing a good atmosphere for the orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy. Lenin believed that "the strength of a nation lies in the consciousness of the masses. The state will have strength only when the masses know everything, are able to judge everything, and do everything voluntarily." Citizens are not only political practitioners but also the main body of political participation, so the quality of citizens has a very important impact on democratic politics. Similarly, the quality of netizens' participation in politics is also crucial to the development of e-democracy. At present, Chinese netizens have a certain understanding of the Internet and can flexibly use the Internet to express their personal demands. However, in the face of some network events, many netizens are easy to be influenced by the network public opinion, imitate others and lose personal judgment. Therefore, this paper thinks that citizens' rational participation in politics needs to be improved. The orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy can be promoted from the aspects of improving the individual quality of the public, carrying forward the public spirit of society, and enhancing the self-discipline of network media.

(1)improve civic literacy

Citizens are the participants of e-democracy, so it is very important to improve citizens' network literacy and political literacy and cultivate their political participation rationality for the standardized and orderly development of e-democracy. This paper holds that it is helpful to cultivate citizens' rationality of participating in politics through network literacy and political quality.

①Improve citizens' cyber literacy

Network literacy mainly refers to the ability to use network knowledge and software to obtain valuable information, and at the same time to screen and apply the information; The ability to navigate the transition between the virtual world and the real world; Moral and ethical concepts in network communication. In the orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy, citizens' own network literacy plays an important role. The success of China's information construction process depends on the public's willingness and ability to obtain information, knowledge sharing and effective use of information technology. Since the public's informationization ability has a significant impact on the acceptance speed of

information technology application products, the public's informationization ability is very important. Specifically speaking, the country should start from the following two aspects: First, the cultivation of network literacy should be integrated into school education. Schools should not only teach students the basic knowledge of the Internet, but also cultivate their moral awareness of rational use of the Internet, and improve their ability to filter bad information. Second, the country should use various channels, such as WeChat, Weibo, etc., to vigorously promote the civilized use of Internet norms, to create a good atmosphere for the cultivation of Internet literacy. In this way, the orderly and standardized operation of electronic democracy has a certain quality guarantee.

②Improving the political quality of citizens

The level of citizens' political quality determines the degree of rationality of citizens' participation in network politics. Political quality refers to the stable quality obtained by the participants in the process of participating in politics, which has an impact on the political psychology and behavior of the participants. It is the internal quality formed by social political ideal, political belief, political attitude and political stand in people's psychology and expressed through words and deeds. To cultivate citizens' political quality and improve citizens' rational participation in politics, we should start from the following two aspects: on the one hand, we should improve citizens' consciousness of rights. The political rights of citizens include the right to vote and stand for election, political freedom and the right to supervise. Citizens should pay attention to the maintenance of these rights in the process of online political participation. On the other hand, citizens' sense of duty should be raised. Rights and obligations are consistent, and citizens' political obligations include: safeguarding national unity and unity, abiding by the Constitution and laws, and safeguarding.

National security, honor and interests, etc. When citizens exercise their political rights in the network, they should pay attention to the fulfillment of corresponding obligations. In this way, citizens will use rationality to avoid the dilemma of group polarization in the process of participating in electronic democracy. In addition, it is necessary to cultivate citizens' knowledge of political participation and stimulate their enthusiasm and ability of political participation.

(2) We will promote the public spirit

To cultivate citizens' rational participation in politics and create a good environment for the ordering and standardization of electronic democracy, it is necessary to improve citizens' network literacy and political literacy from the

perspective of individual citizens. From the perspective of the whole society, it is necessary to carry forward the public spirit, enhance the sense of responsibility of citizens, publicize the mainstream social values, and cultivate the common discourse of the public.

First, we should promote the public spirit of society, so as to improve citizens' sense of social responsibility. Different scholars give different answers about the connotation of public spirit. One view is that "public spirit is the attitude and behavior of caring for the public interest in an altruistic way". There are also views that public spirit refers to the value orientation based on the survival and development of the whole society and its citizens, including the recognition and pursuit of a series of most basic value goals such as democracy, equality, freedom, order, public interest and responsibility. In essence, public spirit embodies public concern, public values and civilized demeanor by means of public participation. Therefore, the state can carry out more public activities, so that citizens can feel public care in public participation, cultivate public values and establish civilized demeanor.

Second, we should promote mainstream social values and foster common discourse among the public. At present, China's social mainstream values are mainly reflected in the socialist core values. The current should intensify the spread of socialist core values of China, specific can through the following ways: network news media should play the role of public opinion guidance, advice network news media reports of typical characters, typical deeds, exemplary and leading role play to the role model, for ordering, standardization of electronic democracy good cultural soil and public discourse. For "democratic politics requires a cultural context in which the democratic model can lay the foundation for legitimacy and transcend any promise of political consequences.

(3) improve the self-discipline of network media

Faced with the huge amount of network information and network media, when the relevant regulatory departments of the government can not do everything, nip in the nip, the network media need to be self-disciplined and play its guiding role. First of all, network practitioners should enhance their moral awareness and strengthen their sense of responsibility. Network practitioners should clarify their personal responsibilities in their work, strengthen their sense of responsibility, introduce rational thinking into the discussion with Internet users, and maintain the rationality of Internet users' expression.

Secondly, the network media should do a good job of "gatekeeper" role. American communication scholar Kurt Lewin put forward the theory of "gatekeeper"

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in his book Channels of Group Life in 1947. He believed that only the content that conforms to group norms or meets the value standard of "gatekeeper" can enter the field of communication. In 1950, White, a communication scholar, put forward the "gate-keeping" model, which indicates that there are a large number of news materials in the society, and these news materials need to go through a filtering process before entering the field of communication. Similarly, network media should also establish a set of information screening mechanism to automatically screen and filter negative and inflammatory information. At the same time, in the face of doubtful information, the authenticity of the information should also be checked to determine whether it is transmitted. Network media should actively disseminate information with positive energy and provide a healthy environment for the orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy. Thirdly, network media should correctly guide public opinion. When online public opinion is distorted and online rumors "fly everywhere", network media, as the first line of communication, should actively seek and release true and reliable information in a timely manner.

### 3.2.2 Improve the system construction of electronic platforms

The orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy needs a perfect electronic platform system as the basic guarantee. The establishment of a perfect electronic platform system needs to improve the electronic government system. The perfection of e-government not only requires government departments at all levels to realize the informationization and networking of office, but also requires the improvement of national governance level and service. The promotion of national governance level is inseparable from professional information talents. The key to improve China's e-government system is to promote the intensive development of e-government. Therefore, the government should enhance the support for network innovation, build a team of professional information talents, and realize the sharing of resources. Strengthen the financial investment in the information infrastructure construction to realize the popularization of the network; We will innovate the concept of e-governance and realize two-way exchanges between the government and the public.

(1) Promote the intensive development of e-government

At present, government departments at all levels in China have their own websites, and the connection between their websites is looser. It is difficult to share information and resources between governments, and there is no compatibility,

which can easily cause a waste of resources. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the intensive development of e-government and improve the utilization rate and sharing rate of information resources. To this end, we should do the following:

① Pay attention to network technology innovation

Innovation is an inexhaustible driving force that supports national progress and provides an inexhaustible driving force for national development. In the report to the 19th CPC National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping mentioned "technological innovation" and "technological innovation" many times, which fully demonstrates the importance of "innovation" in the country's strategic development and the destiny of the nation. To perfect the construction of e-government system and give play to the role of technology in promoting the development of e-democracy, we also need to attach importance to the role of innovation.

To this end, the government needs to: on the one hand, increase the support for network technology innovation, elevate network technology innovation to a national strategic height, increase the financial tilt in network technology innovation, and provide sufficient financial support for network technology innovation, and carry out research on network technology. On the other hand, I learned the advanced experience of western countries. At present, the western countries in the electronic governance, mostly using filtering and grading technology. In China, filtering technology is mainly used in network governance. Therefore, China should consider introducing hierarchical technology into network governance and attach importance to the application of hierarchical technology. Also should use the existing technology, integration of existing data resources, form a unified standards and norms of each application system data connectivity, promote the data resources to solve, internal function department of government affairs platform between the government of incompatible and the problem of "information island", realize the information, resources sharing, improve the utilization rate of data resources.

② Improve the audit of outsourcing companies in the construction of government affairs platform

At present, the local e-government of China is operating independently, presenting the situation of decentralized construction. In view of the lack of support from professional IT talents within many local governments, the construction of government websites can be outsourced, but the audit standards for the qualifications and capabilities of relevant outsourcing companies should be improved, and outsourcing companies should be urged to regularly maintain and update the relevant government platforms.

③To build a team of professional IT talents

At present, the development of electronic democracy in China lacks the intellectual support of professional and informationized talents and the independent technical support system. Therefore, the government should also strengthen the training of innovative talents, and actively introduce specialized and informationized talents to provide continuous intellectual support for the innovation of electronic technology. At the same time, it is necessary to formulate a set of electronic information technology assessment and training standards for the existing government staff to improve their overall quality, which is also conducive to improving the government's service ability and level. In addition, the government has also strengthened cooperation and exchanges with universities, research institutions, enterprises and other aspects to make full use of intellectual resources.

(2) Strengthen information engineering infrastructure to narrow the digital divide

At present, China's basic information engineering construction is faced with the problem of regional, urban and rural imbalance. Combined with the difference of population structure and education level, the healthy development of electronic democracy in China is faced with the dilemma of "digital divide". Therefore, various forces should be exerted to strengthen the construction of basic information projects and improve the level of education in order to narrow the "digital divide". In this regard, we should start from the following aspects:

①Promote the popularization of network projects in rural areas

At present, some developed provinces in China, especially the southeast coastal rural information infrastructure construction has made a certain progress, but in some less developed, especially in the western region of the rural infrastructure construction needs to be strengthened. The state should increase policy support and preferential efforts in these areas, improve the ability of people in rural areas to use information resources, guarantee the equal right of the vast majority of people to enjoy Internet resources, and reduce the digital divide.

②Promote informatization by network industrialization

The state can formulate preferential policies and competition policies for the Internet industry, reduce its related operation, construction and operation costs, provide a good environment for the development of the Internet industry, attract Internet enterprises to actively participate in the national informatization projects, and help improve the national informatization, thus helping to reduce the digital divide.

③Vigorously developing education

The digital divide is also exacerbated by the low level of education in China, especially among farmers in remote rural areas. Therefore, it is necessary for the state to vigorously develop education, promote the development of cultural undertakings and cultural industries, and improve the education level of vulnerable groups, so as to improve the vulnerable situation of people in these regions in the use of Internet information resources and narrow the digital divide.

### 3.2.3 Innovate the concept of e-government governance

"Information disclosure, online affairs and public participation" are the three main functions of government affairs platform. At present, the information disclosure and online affairs functions of China's government affairs platform have been basically realized, and the responsiveness of public participation needs to be improved through the following aspects:

(1) Establishing an interactive mechanism between the government affairs platform and the public

The establishment of government affairs platform is to meet the citizens' demands for online participation in political life, so the government affairs platform should become a platform for communication and consultation between the government and citizens. To this end, the government needs to establish a set of mechanism to effectively interact with the public on the government affairs platform, constantly listen to the demands of the public through the platform, solve the problems for the public, make the government affairs platform become a practical platform for the public, and strengthen the interaction between the government and the public to ensure the realization of citizens' democratic decision-making rights.

(2) Establish the concept of service

The government and its staff need to change the traditional work concept and establish the people-oriented service concept of government affairs platform. The government's government affairs platform should combine the demands of Internet users, be oriented by the demands of Internet users, serve the people as the purpose, overcome the formalism in the function setting of the government affairs platform, fully explore the various functions of the government affairs platform, and improve the government's service level for the people.

(3) Consciously accept public supervision

The government and its staff should respect citizens' democratic supervision right and guarantee citizens' right to comment on the government online. The government and its staff should respect the opinions of netizens and the media, accept relevant complaints and suggestions with an open mind, encourage them if not, and correct them if there are. It also needs to be supervised by netizens and the media. For the complaints and messages of Internet users, do not ignore or delay the reply, the need for timely feedback. If the emergency, special events should be priority to solve.

In short, in the era of e-democracy, the government and its staff must change their governance concepts, consciously accept supervision, and respond to criticism, doubts and suggestions from the Internet with a more open and inclusive mind. Only in this way can the better development of e-democracy be promoted.

## 3.3 Improvement the legalization of electronic democracy

As some scholars have compared the relationship between system and network as staple food and snacks, no matter how obvious the advantages of network are, the protection of regulatory system is also needed, because "the healthy development of society ultimately depends on the perfection of system". Similarly, if electronic democracy wants to develop in a reasonable and orderly way, a sound institutional guarantee system is indispensable. Therefore, it is urgent to perfect the supply of electronic supervision system and provide guarantee for the development of electronic democracy. One of the reasons why China's current electronic democracy is facing difficulties is that the supply of network laws and regulations is insufficient. Therefore, China needs to improve the network laws and regulations, to rule by law network; Improve the network emergency mechanism, timely response to the network crisis; Perfect network supervision and management mechanism, escort the orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy.

### 3.3.1 Improvement of cyber legislation

Cyberspace is not "a place outside the law," Xi said in a clear directive on the importance of cyber legislation at the opening of the second Internet conference. Cyberspace is virtual, but the use of the subjects of cyberspace is real. We should abide by the law and clarify the rights and obligations of all parties. The Internet must be governed, run and used in accordance with the law to ensure its healthy

operation. When it comes to legislating the web, some of the countries that pioneered e-democracy have done better. Since the 1970s, with the rapid development of Internet information technology, the United States, Germany, Singapore and other countries have formulated a series of Internet laws and regulations according to their actual conditions. China's rule of law on the Internet has mainly gone through three periods: the period of lawless governance before 2000, the period of preliminary legal governance from 2000 to 2013, and the period of comprehensive legal governance from 2014 to now. During the 12th Five-Year Plan period, China formulated and promulgated 76 Internet-related laws, regulations and normative documents, an increase of 262% year on year. Especially since the establishment of the Central Leading Group for Cyberspace Security and Informatization, 47 Internet-related policies and regulations have been promulgated and implemented, and the pace of Internet legislation has significantly accelerated. Although China has issued many laws, regulations and policies in the period of comprehensive governance of the network, there are still some problems in China, such as imperfect basic laws on the network, imperfect regional and industrial legislation, and urgent legislative protection of personal information security. In the face of some sudden network public crisis events, the government's emergency treatment is often not in place. In the face of network public crisis events, the government's rights and responsibilities are unclear, and the effectiveness of relevant laws and regulations is weak, leading to the government has no way to respond. Therefore, China must establish a strong system of laws and regulations as soon as possible, and establish a unified network management and coordination mechanism through the compulsory role of laws and regulations. Strengthen the government to deal with the network of public emergencies of the legal system, through legislation to define the responsibilities and authority of government agencies in dealing with the network of public emergencies. Then when network public emergencies occur, national government agencies can legally and efficiently implement management and control according to relevant laws.

(1) Establishing and improving the legal system for cyber governance

Compared with the vigorous rise of electronic democracy, China's current network legislation still lags behind. Network legislation level is low, lack of authority and systematicness. At present, China's network legislation mostly belongs to the administrative regulations issued by the State Council and relevant departments, local regulations and judicial interpretations of the Supreme People's Court. The proportion of laws passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is very small, and there is a lack of specific targeted laws. At

present, the only specialized comprehensive law in China is the Cybersecurity Law of the People's Republic of China, which was promulgated on November 7, 2016. The content of China's network legislation is mainly related to information system and network security, which mainly focuses on the government's supervision of the network from the perspective of administrative control, and lacks guidance and technical content. These laws are weak when it comes to the specifics of e-democracy.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish and improve laws and regulations guaranteeing electronic democracy through perfecting the current "Cybersecurity Law of the People's Republic of China" and establishing "Cyberprotection Regulations for Minors" and other measures, so as to provide institutional guarantee for the orderly and standardized development of electronic democracy.

(2) Improve the e-government legal system

At present, the legal effect of e-government in China is not high, and the legislative level is low. In the process of e-government construction, due to the lack of guiding laws at the national level, local governments will choose the laws and regulations that are conducive to their own, which is prone to conflict of laws, and then lead to the chaos of the national e-government construction order. In addition, due to the low level of e-government legislation, the legal effect of local policies and regulations is not strong, which is not conducive to promoting the construction of e-government, thus affecting the orderly advancement of e-democracy.

Therefore, China should improve the construction of e-government legal system from the following aspects. On the one hand, economic leverage and laws can be used to solve the problem of "digital divide" in China's e-government. Policies such as financial support are included in e-government related laws, and a series of measures and policies are written into relevant legal provisions. On the other hand, establish and improve the legal system of e-government personnel training. At present, China is in urgent need of establishing and perfecting a set of laws and regulations on the training of e-government personnel. With the development of electronic democracy, China's demand for professional information talents is increasing day by day, and the traditional government staff can not quickly adapt to the new electronic business. Therefore, it is imperative to cultivate professional information talents. Relevant laws and regulations play a normative role in the process of training professional information talents. Therefore, China should set up relevant laws and regulations to regulate a series of perfect laws and regulations such as the training, qualification certification and post system of e-government talents.

(3) Perfecting legislation on citizens' electronic democratic behavior

At the same time of perfecting legislation from the above two levels of information network and e-government, we should also explore to formulate special citizen e-democratic behavior law from the perspective of public democratic behavior. On the one hand, it helps protect the electronic platform for citizens to express their political demands, and encourages the public to actively exercise their political rights and fulfill their corresponding political obligations through the e-government platform. On the other hand, it is necessary to impose legal penalties on some netizens who abuse the freedom of the virtual world, spread rumors, slander, attack and vent at will and destroy the basic order of electronic democracy. It is also necessary to severely crack down on the illegal acts that abuse the power of electronic democracy in accordance with the law, so as to maintain the normal order of the normal operation of electronic democracy.

### 3.3.2 Improvement of the network emergency response mechanism

Emergency mechanism refers to the emergency plan made by the government departments to deal with the occurrence of emergency events, especially public crises, including the process of prevention in advance, response to the event, handling in the event and after-treatment management. This mechanism is not only a simple technical operation, but also a reflection of the government's ability to respond to emergencies. As for the definition of public crisis, the academic circle has not reached a unified view. At present, the popular public crisis refers to "the event with great reality or potential danger to the public". At present, the definition of network public crisis generally accepted by the academic circle is as follows: Network and the values and public crisis, caused by the Internet application, the scope broad, or for a social system of the basic values and code of conduct architecture have serious threat, as the main body of the public sector of government departments in the condition of high time pressure and uncertainty of events to make critical decisions. As a special form of public crisis, network public crisis has the characteristics of high frequency, high destructiveness, high spread and sudden outbreak that ordinary public crisis does not have. The irrationality and group polarization of electronic democracy in the process of operation can easily lead to the network public crisis. Therefore, to deal with the network public crisis needs a set of perfect network emergency mechanism, timely and proper response, as far as possible to minimize the impact it may bring. However, China's current network emergency mechanism is not perfect, in the face of the network crisis, lack of effective measures to deal

with. Therefore, in order to promote the development of electronic democracy in an orderly way, China needs to improve the network emergency mechanism and resolve the network public crisis in time.

(1) Establish and improve the network emergency management mechanism

At present, the construction of China's emergency management system has been continuously improved. The government collects information through public opinion survey, and its ability to study and judge the direction of public opinion has been continuously improved. However, in the face of specific network public crisis, the government is always ineffective in dealing with the situation. Therefore, the government should improve the mechanism of prevention, response, disposal and reflection. On the one hand, the government optimizes the multi-subject interaction mechanism. Based on the benign interaction of multiple subjects, the effective combination of government governance and network participation. Through communication, coordination and cooperation, cultivate and strengthen the consciousness and ability of the main body to participate in the interaction, so as to realize the effect of resource integration, complementary optimization and joint governance. According to the functional advantages of each subject, the task of governance action is decomposed and allocated to the most suitable subject to form a state of coordination and interaction.

On the other hand, innovation of organizational operation mechanism. Facing the trend of integration and synergistic development, we should innovate the operation mechanism of the organization, attach importance to cross-department cooperation, and strengthen coordination from top to bottom and horizontal contact. To change the passive response mode of the publicity department as the "fire brigade" in the past, and make the management of network public opinion more professional and refined by standardizing the organization setup and professional personnel allocation. At the same time, reasonable work flow design, quickly and effectively to meet the needs of the public. In this way, not only help to reduce the occurrence of network public crisis. It is also helpful for the government to calmly deal with, properly deal with and reflect on the Internet public crisis in a timely manner.

(2) Improve the management mechanism of information interaction and release platform

Accurate and timely information is the basis of rapid response and handling of the network crisis. Interaction and good communication is conducive to the successful solution of the network crisis. At present, China has not done enough in

the information interaction and release when the network public crisis occurs, which needs to be improved from the following two aspects:

First, to establish the information sharing mechanism. We will make full use of the advantages of big data and other advanced technological reforms to improve decision-making. To break the information barrier and realize the information resources co-construction and sharing of government departments. At the same time, a multi-channel and multi-level "feedback-negotiation" information release mode should be established to build a reasonable dialogue platform and promote the formation of linkage mechanism between the government and the public. The smooth channels of coordination and communication form a "centripetal force" among multiple platforms of government information communication. The subject of responsibility shall timely and continuously release to the public the latest progress of the event and the measures taken, and respond to the public's concerns in a timely manner. The continuous release of information not only satisfies the public's right to know to the greatest extent, but also increases the transparency of the event and avoids the public falling into the blind spot of information. It can also produce a superposition effect, strengthen the government's actions, thereby eliminating public doubts and concerns, leading the information flow of crisis events, giving play to the leading role of public opinion, and creating a good and consistent public opinion atmosphere. The nature of network emergencies determines that they will become the sensitive issues concerned by many netizens. The attention of netizens will naturally produce many doubts and appeals. Continuous and intensive information release can ensure information symmetry, strengthen the official voice and maintain the official discourse right. Of course, we must pay attention to the caliber of information, so busy without confusion, prepared to fight. In the case of insufficient preparation, must not simply to create the "continuous release" of the momentum, on the lie to the public.

Second, we will establish and improve the system of information disclosure and press spokesman. On May 1, 2008, China formally implemented the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Disclosure of Government Information. In the face of the Internet crisis, the government's information disclosure should avoid becoming a passive "squeeze the toothpaste". On the contrary, the government should release detailed and up-to-date information to the public in a timely and continuous manner to satisfy the public's demand for the truth. Once a public crisis attracts the attention of network public opinion, we should not only delete posts or block the news to deal with it, but pay more attention to the problem itself that causes

network public opinion. Therefore, the government needs to establish a sound network crisis event information disclosure system. Of course, information disclosure should also be measured. When some cyber crisis events involve sensitive issues such as national security or political stability, government information disclosure should be strictly related to laws and regulations, selectively conduct information disclosure, and do a good job of public opinion guidance.

### 3.3.3 Improvement the network supervision mechanism

In a narrow sense, network supervision refers to the supervision and management of network business activities by network supervision and management departments. But now, we accept its broad understanding, that is, the content of supervision is not only the network business behavior, but also the main body of network participation and network performance. In a broad sense, Internet supervision focuses on purifying cyberspace and creating an environment conducive to the healthy development of the Internet. The development of electronic democracy also needs a healthy network environment, which is in line with the purpose of network supervision. Therefore, the orderly operation of electronic democracy can be promoted by improving the network supervision mechanism.

(1) Improve the coordination mechanism among the subjects of network supervision

Wilson III(2005) believes that network management is a consultative process. The parties involved in the consultation include governments, research and development institutions, the private sector and the public. Combined with the reality of China, the main body of network negotiation can be understood as government departments, network industry organizations, network operation units, mass media and netizens. Electronic ordering development of democracy, not only rely on the government play a role of coercive power, as the main body, electronic democracy participation in the public, including netizens, network news media, network industry organization is to enhance self-discipline, therefore needs the government and the public mutual cooperation, set up the concept of cooperative work, build the atmosphere conducive to electronic democracy development together.

(2) Improve the online real-name authentication system

The network real-name authentication system, as the name implies, is a network management system in which netizens need to prove their real identity when using the Internet. At present, China's real-name authentication system has not been

fully implemented, leading some netizens to express their opinions freely on online platforms. Both emotional and rational opinions are prevalent on the Internet. Some lawbreakers even take advantage of the anonymity of the Internet to deliberately spread rumors on the Internet to defame the Party and the government. In addition, the anonymity of the Internet makes it more difficult to detect some network crimes such as network fraud. Therefore, China needs to gradually implement the network real-name authentication system in key areas. In this regard, China can learn from the real name authentication system of South Korea. One of the successful factors of Internet regulation in South Korea lies in the implementation of its Internet real-name authentication system. South Korea's implementation of the background real-name system not only effectively protects personal privacy, but also helps to curb the Internet uncivilized writing and fight against cybercrime. China can also learn from South Korea's key areas to promote the network real-name authentication system in an orderly manner.

(3) Strengthen online public opinion research

It is necessary to strengthen the detection and analysis of network public opinion in order to prevent or deal with the phenomenon of group polarization that may appear in the development of electronic democracy. The first is to improve the information collection and classification system, classification of network information and ensure the true reliability of the information. The second is to improve the information processing and feedback mechanism to quickly deal with and respond to the relevant content of network information and feedback to the public. In this regard, special staff can be arranged to classify, identify and feedback the network information, so as to improve the efficiency of the government in handling and responding to the network information.

# CONCLUSION

At present, the economy and politics of our citizens are gradually diversified. Electronic democracy provides a feasible channel for Chinese citizens to express their demands, which is helpful to realize their democratic demands. As a new form of democracy, electronic democracy has incomparable advantages over traditional democracy in safeguarding people's rights, realizing equality and freedom, and promoting diversified development of society. With the increasing attention of the Chinese government to e-democracy, e-democracy is bound to become an important force to promote the process of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics. The Chinese government can use e-democracy to build a new bridge of communication with the people, so that the policies of the Party and the state are close to the people and in line with public opinion. However, the development of electronic democracy in China still faces many dilemmas. The theoretical research on e-democracy in China is not mature enough, the public spirit of Chinese citizens needs to be improved, and the platform for the practice of e-democracy needs to be perfected.

Although "e-democracy" isn't perfect, but it is an inevitable democratic practice in the information age, we can only develop "e-democracy" in the process of overcoming its negative. Indeed, "e-democracy" offers unprecedented opportunities for democracy in the information age and the possibility of greater consensus among different forms of democracy.

First, the value carried by information technology itself makes the emergence of "e-democracy" both inevitable and significant. Chadwick, citing Christopher May, notes that many interpretations of information technology have "embedded values like freedom, community, equality, altruism and democracy." Chadwick himself believes that the Internet has eight aspects of political significance, namely decentralization, participation, community, globalization, post-industrialization, rationalism, governance and liberalism. Among them, the first three subjects are closely related to electronic democracy. Decentralization is the direction of political power transfer, which not only means the spread of political power from the center to the surrounding areas, but also means the spread of power from the upper to the lower level. Participation and association are the practice of democracy, and with the help of information technology is the practice of "e-democracy". In Chadwick's words, the above democratic themes revolve around political loosening, while rationalism "stresses the role of the Internet in producing new and more effective

social controls". Governance, on the other hand, broadens the meaning of politics and is no longer limited to power struggle. "The main advantage of the governance approach is that it recognizes that networks, interaction and participation are becoming more and more important features of contemporary politics". Manuel Castells also points out that information technology always carries value. He analyzes the development of information technology in the United States. In the 1970s in the United States, mainly in California, a group of scientists pushed forward the development of information technology. Information technology triggered institutional, economic and cultural changes. By the 1980s, the role of information technology had become more evident, for example, in giving rise to the deregulation and liberalization movements of the 1980s.

While there are social determinists who argue that technology is neutral and there is nothing special about information technology, "social determinists argue that there is nothing special or novel about the Internet... Technology is another policy area like transport, health or agriculture ", but the impact of information technology on politics is undeniable. Technology determinists affirm that information technology carries with it values, such as freedom, equality and democracy, that drive the development of "e-democracy". Even for social determinists, there is no denying the changes in political ideas and practices brought about by information technology.

Second, "e-democracy" echoes the shift in subject identity. We divide subject identity into three stages, namely, consanguinity identity, economy identity and identity. Consanguinity identification is the main identification mode in agricultural society. It takes consanguinity as the central axis to construct the relationship between close and distant, and people find their social position in these relationships. In this relationship structure, although the individual's sense of freedom is somewhat lacking, the sense of security is high. Economic identity is the main identity mode in industrial society. The most classical representation of economic identity comes from the Marxist concept of class, which is divided according to whether people possess the means of production or not in their relations of production. Class relations and class identities are equally deterministic, which is determined by the possession of the means of production. Identity takes place in what Daniel Bell calls a "post-industrial society". Information technology accelerates the coming of "post-industrial society", and defines the connotation of "post-industrial society" by "information technology", replacing the vague concept of "post-industrial society".

Identity breaks the fixity and certainty of kinship identity and economic identity. In consanguineous identity and economic identity, the individual is in a strict structural framework, and the individual's identity is given by the structural framework. For example, in consanguinity identity, individuals exist as parents and children, and their value is also given by the roles they assume. Without this role, the individual is reduced to nothingness and the value of its existence disappears. In economic identity, individuals exist as proletarians or property owners, and the proletarians try to break through their proletarian status and cross over to the ranks of the property class, while the property owners try their best to cling to their class status and prevent the occupation of the proletariat. Therefore, class relations are conflict relations. However, with the impact of information technology, the original fixed social structure is broken, who has a new information technology, who has a new identity.

It is worth emphasizing that the changes brought by information technology are not only for the owners of information technology, but also for the consumers of information technology. In the Internet world, individuals break through the inherent framework of social structure and achieve a liberation of identity. In social media, for example, everyone has the same voice, whether you are a father or a son, a leader or a citizen, rich or poor. The residual hierarchical order of consanguineous identity and economic identity has been completely destroyed in the online world. Moreover, young people at a lower position in the hierarchy tend to be more skilled in using information technology and have more say in the online world, which completely subverts the traditional hierarchy and forms a new identity. This new identity is obviously mediated by knowledge, which, thanks to the popularization of Internet technology, has become more convenient and cheaper to acquire, which will further promote the change of social identity. At the same time, a new sense of identity is being formed and strengthened, and young people no longer take the social hierarchy for granted. When their consciousness is freed from the fixed social framework, they become atoms that can be freely assembled. These "atoms" become an important part of the main body of "e-democracy".

Finally, we should see that "e-democracy" offers the possibility of consensus for different forms of democracy. As a new democratic practice, "E-democracy" downplays the ideological characteristics of democracy and provides elements for the complementarity between different democratic forms. For example, the "listening" of public opinion in meritocracy can compensate for the dominant tendency of elites in competitive electoral politics, while the tolerance of pluralism

in the latter can balance the overemphasis of the former on the dominant consciousness. Of course, the consensus between different forms of democracy may also occur in a negative aspect. For example, the fear of the new social protest movement strengthens control, which makes the originally open government become conservative, and makes the originally conservative government become more conservative. If the consensus of the negative aspects into the mainstream, between the elite and the public will form a larger gap, but this situation does not last long, because too big gap may cause more serious conflict, once the conflict is accumulated to a certain extent will implode, even some within the government are not willing to take the initiative to avoid this kind of situation, so after the implosion of gap will be temporarily removed. And it is reasonable to assume that many governments will actively avoid exacerbating the conflict. In this way, the consensus evoked by "e-democracy" may not be limited to negative regulation, but may also be positive regulation. It will become the consensus of more and more governments that the government should take the initiative to build an information platform in order to better obtain public opinion.

To sum up, there are still many problems to be solved in China's electronic citizen participation. As an auxiliary paradigm of socialist democracy, electronic democracy is helpful to promote political democratization in China. However, we need to clearly realize that electronic democracy is not an independent democratic form all the time, but a political means characterized by more direct political participation with electronic technology as the medium, which is not direct democracy itself. Only by realizing this, can we give electronic democracy a proper position. It is believed that with the continuous advancement of China's comprehensive deepening reform, the accelerating of the democratic process and the continuous innovation of the government's governance concept and practice, the development of China's electronic democracy will surely follow the standardized and orderly path!

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