

and the degree to which people's political views are polarized. Her analysis shows that in the case of each of these correlations, there is evidence that the direction of causation runs both ways. For example, while selective exposure to partisan outlets can lead to more political participation, more participation can also lead people to seek out media that match their politics.

In an era in which partisan outlets are frequently discussed but under-examined, Stroud's *Niche News* does a wonderful job of analyzing exactly what is known about the origins, operation, and impact of selective partisan exposure to media. Her footnotes and appendices provide a roadmap to both a broader understanding of the literature and a deeper understanding of her statistical results. In her final chapter, she offers helpful assessments of the implications of her results, including a discussion of the degree to which researchers could help citizens think about criteria other than partisanship in their judgments about the news. The criteria she posits (p. 179) include "completeness of coverage, clarity of coverage, density or depth of informational content." Stroud's own work excels on these and other dimensions, and offers a reader a comprehensive understanding of the mix of partisanship and politics that affects consumption of many news outlets today.

JAMES T. HAMILTON
Duke University

The Internet Generation: Engaged Citizens or Political Dropouts by
Henry Milner. Medford, MA, Tufts University Press, 2010. 304 pp. \$35.00.

Over the past half-century, Americans have withdrawn from numerous forms of civic participation, from voting, to voluntarism, and everything else in between. A standard explanation for this phenomenon is generational replacement; each generation since the World War II "Greatest Generation" has been less civically active. Henry Milner enters this dialogue by examining the coming-of-age "Internet Generation." Using data sources from different countries, Milner argues that this generation is woefully inactive in politics. He worries that this high frequency of "political dropouts" leaves the Internet Generation unprepared to battle the political challenges they will face over their lifetimes.

Milner's argument is divided into three parts. Part I depicts the Internet Generation as in a state of arrested development compared to past generations. Milner also shows that perhaps as a consequence of this delayed maturation, this cohort is less likely to turn out to vote, and less knowledgeable about politics. As seen in other studies, he also shows that turnout and knowledge are correlated (from a normative standpoint Milner's broader point is that ideally, votes should be cast by informed citizens). Interestingly, Milner finds that Europeans fare better on these scores than do North Americans, perhaps due to political institutions that are more-conducive to turnout and

acquisition of political knowledge (as discussed in Part 2). It is worth noting that these analyses compare the *current* voting habits and levels of political knowledge of older and younger citizens. Since political participation and knowledge are known to increase with age, this analysis might lead readers to confuse generational effects with lifecycle effects.

In Part 2, Milner argues that more-intelligible institutions increase the likelihood of turnout. For example, turnout is higher in countries with proportional representation, a system that Milner views as simple and easy to understand, “especially when combined with unitary, unicameral, and parliamentary institutions” (p. 140). Provocatively, Milner also discusses the merits of lowering the voting age from 18 to 16, under the assumption that citizens aged 16–17 will more easily acquire the voting habit at this more-formative age. While others have made similar arguments, the general point that institutions affect voter behavior is well-taken.

Part 3 shifts the argument from description to prescription. Milner contends that society must intervene *before* younger citizens become political dropouts. This entails implementation of civic education programs. In reviewing studies of such efforts, Milner stresses that these interventions need to embrace politics in order to increase political engagement. For example, in assessing the “service learning” model of compulsory community voluntarism, Milner notes that such programs “embrace a model of citizenship that fosters a commitment to service as a substitute for participation in democratic deliberation and decision-making” (p. 190). Importantly, Milner also stresses that civic education efforts need to be focused on those who are most likely to become political dropouts, specifically students of lower socioeconomic status.

While many of the arguments made in *The Internet Generation* are familiar, this book is a useful contribution to the continuing dialogue about the decline of civil society, the role of generational replacement in this process, and the search for civic renewal. The main point, that young citizens need to become politically engaged in order to maintain participatory democracy, is both important and well-argued. Moreover, Milner’s comparative approach is enlightening, in terms of what is found to be the same and different, about the Internet Generation across the globe. This book is recommended to anyone concerned about the evolution of participatory democracy and the role that those currently entering adulthood will (or will not) play in sustaining it.

CASEY A. KLOFSTAD
University of Miami

The Legislative Legacy of Congressional Campaigns by Tracy Sulkin.
New York, Cambridge University Press, 2011. 232 pp. \$25.00.

The question of representation has long been central to research on the U.S. Congress. Do members of Congress effectively represent their constituents?