Politics, Relief, and Reform
John Joseph Wallis, Price V. Fishback, and Shawn Kantor (eds)
in Corruption and Reform: Lessons from America's Economic History
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This chapter discusses the efforts of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt to control corruption and political manipulation. It describes the types of corruption involved with relief during the New Deal and presents a brief overview of the New Deal programs. This chapter traces how political influences shaped the administration of relief programs and documents how relief administered by the national government differed from relief administered by states. It concludes that the transformation of public relief in the United States occurred because of the political interests of President Roosevelt and his administration.

Computational Propaganda
Samuel C. Woolley and Philip N. Howard (eds)
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Computational propaganda is an emergent form of political manipulation that occurs over the Internet. The term describes the assemblage of social media platforms, autonomous agents, algorithms, and big data tasked with the manipulation of public opinion. Our research shows that this new mode of interrupting and influencing communication is on the rise around the globe. Advances in computing technology, especially around social automation, machine learning, and artificial intelligence mean that computational propaganda is becoming more sophisticated and harder to track at an alarming rate. This introduction explores the foundations of computational propaganda. It describes the key role that automated manipulation of algorithms plays in recent efforts to control political communication worldwide. We discuss the social data
science of political communication and build upon the argument that algorithms and other computational tools now play an important political role in areas like news consumption, issue awareness, and cultural understanding. We unpack the key findings of the nine country case studies that follow—exploring the role of computational propaganda during events from local and national elections in Brazil to the ongoing security crisis between Ukraine and Russia. Our methodology in this work has been purposefully mixed, we make use of quantitative analysis of data from several social media platforms and qualitative work that includes interviews with the people who design and deploy political bots and disinformation campaigns. Finally, we highlight original evidence about how this manipulation and amplification of disinformation is produced, managed, and circulated by political operatives and governments and describe paths for both democratic intervention and future research in this space.

Introduction
Samuel C. Woolley and Philip N. Howard

in Computational Propaganda: Political Parties, Politicians, and Political Manipulation on Social Media

Computational propaganda is an emergent form of political manipulation that occurs over the Internet. The term describes the assemblage of social media platforms, autonomous agents, algorithms, and big data tasked with manipulating public opinion. Our research shows that this new mode of interrupting and influencing communication is on the rise around the globe. Advances in computing technology, especially around social automation, machine learning, and artificial intelligence, mean that computational propaganda is becoming more sophisticated and harder to track. This introduction explores the foundations of computational propaganda. It describes the key role of automated manipulation of algorithms in recent efforts to control political communication worldwide. We discuss the social data science of political communication and build upon the argument that algorithms and other computational tools now play an important political role in news consumption, issue awareness, and cultural understanding. We unpack key findings of the nine country case studies that follow—exploring the role of computational propaganda during events from local and national elections in Brazil to the ongoing security crisis between Ukraine and Russia. Our methodology in this work has been purposefully mixed, using quantitative analysis of data.
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Freedom from Fear
Frank Costigliola

in The Four Freedoms: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Evolution of an American Idea

FDR knew about fear firsthand. Polio left him paralyzed, with a near paralyzing fear of the consequences of his disability. He knew fear could be a useful political and rhetorical tool as well. Roosevelt’s ordeal sharpened his appreciation of the political utility of fear. While shapeless fear was paralyzing, he knew that focused fear, the kind he experienced after contracting polio, could mobilize action. He put this knowledge to good use. Roosevelt as president underscored dangers, indeed exaggerating them, in order to drive Americans to combat the Depression and the dictators. Cold War presidents would similarly manipulate fear in order to get Americans to accept their national security agendas. Freedom from fear, then, was more than merely one of Roosevelt’s four aims outlined in 1941; it underlay his entire call to arms in response to the growing Nazi threat, a tactic employed, repeatedly, by American presidents ever since.