**Social media favouring a biased vision of news**

“We are not a media company“. Though Facebook’s CEO refuses to acknowledge it, social media have changed our way to be informed, which is precisely what this dossier epitomizes. Composed of three press articles from *Skynews*, *The Economist* and *Quartz* from 2018, it analyzes the way social media spread news – fake or real– and the impact they have on their users. Construing these documents, we will see that social media give us only the news we want, limiting our worldview.

1. **With social media, news is just a click away.**

* They offer their users unlimited access to information, by publishing it on their feeds (all documents)
* The network’s algorithm looks for articles that might interest you, based on what you have already clicked on (clickbait : when you click, social media make money) (all documents)
* 62% of Americans get their news from Facebook. (doc 3)

1. **But it leads to a biased vision of reality.**

* The algorithm presents you only with elements you might like. (doc 1-2)
* People are more likely to click on what confirms their previous beliefs (confirmation bias) (doc 2), so they only get one side of an issue
* This makes you believe that people who think differently are wrong (doc 2)
* It could also lead to a manipulation of opinion (ex : Russian meddling in US presidential election) (doc 1)

1. **What solutions ?**

* More transparency regarding fake news, by making sources more visible (doc 1 -3)
* Stop presenting fake news in the same format as real news on social media. (doc 3)
* A better selection of information imposed by law (doc 1-3)
* Vary the sources of information to make sure to have a complete vision of facts (doc 2)

Eventually, until social media companies decide to act more reponsibly, it comes to users to be aware of potential manipulation and to ensure they see all the aspects of an issue : only then can social media be a tool to help democracy.

(348 words)