Role of Technology in Middle East Revolutions

Only a Reading/Browsing/Viewing Assignment
No Submission Required.

Watch the following videos, interview and browse the websites to understand how technology was used innovatively to disseminate information and galvanize political action in spite of concerted efforts by authorities to shut down the internet.

**Wikileaks** incites revolts by releasing documents
-- In Tunisia, release of diplomatic documents documenting corruption helped inspired revolt against dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali

**NY Times Wikilinks Video** 5:07-5:53
-- In Egypt, documents were released concerning police torture

**Wael Ghonim Interview** 2:30-4:40

**Facebook and Twitter-organized resistance movements** and protests in both Tunisia and Egypt
-- In Egypt, social-network connected professionals organize protests using anonymity of internet, mobile and internet connection shut off, severing ties to outside world, ways to release information without the internet are developed:
-- Large corporations such as Google and Twitter get involved; Both team up to provide a voicemail-to-tweet service, Google creates dial up crisis hotline

**Google Crisis Response**
-- Rouge internet groups like “Anonymous” and “Telecomix” helped to disseminate information from Egypt through means other than the internet; Telecomix used fax machines to allow news to leave Egypt

**Telecomix InterFax**
Proxy servers, apps, and VPNs used to access blocked sites

**Bypassing Blocked Sites in Egypt**

Libyans respond to internet shut-off by distributing flash drives and CDs with war videos; Libyan organizers used common interest sites to capture attention and communicate anonymously; **Dating sites were used by rebels in Libya** to communicate

**Dating Site Revolution**

Acknowledgements: This summary was prepared by Alessandro Voto (in consultation with the instructor) using the online contents prepared by Robert Cormia and Paula Schales,

[http://fgamedia.org/faculty/rdcormia/COIN83/lesson11.htm](http://fgamedia.org/faculty/rdcormia/COIN83/lesson11.htm)