



Liberation Technology: Social Media and the Struggle for Democracy (Paperback)

By -

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The revolutions sweeping the Middle East provide dramatic evidence of the role that technology plays in mobilizing citizen protest and upending seemingly invulnerable authoritarian regimes. A grainy cell phone video of a Tunisian street vendor's self-immolation helped spark the massive protests that toppled longtime ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and Egypt's Facebook revolution forced the ruling regime out of power and into exile. While such liberation technology has been instrumental in freeing Egypt and Tunisia, other cases—such as China and Iran—demonstrate that it can be deployed just as effectively by authoritarian regimes seeking to control the Internet, stifle protest, and target dissenters. This two-sided dynamic has set off an intense technological race between netizens demanding freedom and authoritarians determined to retain their grip on power. Liberation Technology brings together cutting-edge scholarship from scholars and practitioners at the forefront of this burgeoning field of study. An introductory section defines the debate with a foundational piece on liberation technology and is then followed by essays discussing the popular dichotomy of liberation versus control with regard to the Internet and the sociopolitical dimensions of such...



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