Chapter 14

Bridging Between Cyber Politics and Collective Dynamics of Social Movement

Kazuhiko Shibuya
ROIS, Japan

ABSTRACT

The author argued that the advent of social media summoned the collective dynamics of democracy of the citizens, by the citizens, and for the citizens. Such patterns using social media can readily alter the form of social movements, allowing their mutual interconnection and shaping the enclaves of networked clustering. Social media offer a new paradigm of democracy that encourages engagement and participation in both cyber and actual political actions for ordinary citizens. Nevertheless, little is known about co-occurrence and linkages between cyber and real-world actions by numerous participants. Consequently, this issue should be investigated with open questions related to the following points: 1) social institutional matters related to legitimation crises caused by social movements, 2) co-occurrence and linkages of collective dynamics between cyber and actual political actions, 3) enlargement of participants in social movement, and 4) systemic risks from local to international affairs.

INTRODUCTION

This era of social media extends the bounds of traditional politics to '*Cyber-Politics*' (Hill & Hughes, 1998; Jordan, 2001; Choucri, 2012). The advent of social media summons *the collective dynamics of democracy of the citizens, by the citizens, and for the citizens*. Such patterns using social media can readily alter the form of social movements, allowing their mutual interconnection and shaping the enclaves of networked clustering. Social media offer a new paradigm of democracy that encourages engagement and participation in both cyber and actual political actions for ordinary citizens.

Nevertheless, little is known about co-occurrence and linkages between cyber and real world actions by numerous participants. These are not limited to voluntary support for elections, donations, public

discussion, and other collaborations, whether online or not. Especially, many observers have noted that ordinary citizens are apt to cope with social media as a bridge linking virtual and actual political activities.

Consequently, this issue should be investigated with open questions related to the following points.

1. **Social and Legal Background:** Social institutional matters related to legitimation crises caused by social movements
2. **Social Media and Its Relative Background:** Co-occurrence and Linkages of collective dynamics between cyber and actual political actions
3. **System Thinking and Simulation:** Enlargement of participants in social movement
4. **Beyond Borders:** Systemic Risks from Local to International Affairs

BACKGROUND

Certainly many reports have described that social media easily raise social movements or anti-autocratic revolutions by ordinary citizens. Those media have eagerly inspired ordinary citizens to participate in vigorous discussions as well as actual social movements (Casilli & Tubaro, 2012: Choudhary et al., 2012). It seems readily apparent that participants indeed have shared further motivations and common goals.

In Table 1, although the total population of participants could not be estimated accurately in each case, the entries exemplify serial movements: 'Arab Spring' (e.g. Jasmine and Egyptian revolutions), 'Occupy Wall Street' movement, the umbrella revolution in Hong Kong, and other recent events (e.g., a series of protests against the Charlie Hebdo shooting at France, and a series of protests against policy-making on the national security related bills in Japan and other nations). Those who participated expressed their desires for democratic institutions, freedom of public opinion, socioeconomic chances, and opposition against controversial political issues. They also made other demonstrative appeals.

Especially, the outcomes of the 'Arab Spring' became the trigger of similar actions. Furthermore, in Arab cases, each political regime was overturned by numerous participating citizens using social media. Subsequently, the results spurred regional and global strain (Boening, 2014; Sadiki, 2015). Democratic progress in Tunisia was awarded a Nobel Prize in Peace at 2015, but their activities require more efforts.

Sociologically, those phenomena might be categorized as social movements and expressions of the collective dynamics of behavior by numerous citizens (Le Bonn, 1931a, 1931b; Smelser, 1962). The movements realized social influence and catastrophic collapse of regimes caused by the crowds. Here, the categories of those actions by citizens include opinion expressions, group processes, identification, emotional attitudes, fads, mobs, criminal riots, demonstrations, and politically assertive agitations as well as social change against ancient regimes caused by large groups of citizens in uprisings and revolution (Olson, 1971; Brown, 2000; Rohlinger & Snow, 2003).

Legitimation Crisis Caused by Social Movement

A question arises: *as exemplified by the case of 'Arab Spring', did those movements and revolutionary outcomes caused by mass popular movements have any legal background to subvert their government?*

Principally, liberal democracy requires the freedom of expression for ordinary citizens and their deliberations in community (Mill, 2012). However, democracy has its own specific standards and procedures to deal with somewhat controversial policies (Johnson, 2008). Consequently, social scientists

11 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/bridging-between-cyber-politics-and-collective-dynamics-of-social-movement/215860

Related Content

The Public Library's Role in Enabling E-Government: A View of Two Countries in the English-Speaking Caribbean
Cherry-Ann Smart (2016). *International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age (pp. 18-32).*
www.irma-international.org/article/the-public-librarys-role-in-enabling-e-government/153876

Effectiveness of Social Media in Disaster Fundraising: Mobilizing the Public towards Voluntary Actions
Aya Okada, Yu Ishidaand Naoto Yamauchi (2017). *International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age (pp. 49-68).*
www.irma-international.org/article/effectiveness-of-social-media-in-disaster-fundraising/164957

A Stage Model for Academic-Corporate Partnerships: Using an Advisory Council to Build Bridges Between an Academic IS Program and the Business Community
James R. Coakleyand Craig K. Tyran (2002). *Managing IT/Community Partnerships in the 21st Century (pp. 133-156).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/stage-model-academic-corporate-partnerships/25942

E-Government and Digital Inequality: The Spanish Case Study
Stefano De Marco (2021). *International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age (pp. 1-19).*
www.irma-international.org/article/e-government-and-digital-inequality/290307

Changing the Boundaries of Expectations: MNE Uptake of Universal Principles and Global Goals
Virginia Munro (2018). *Examining the Private Sector's Role in Wealth Creation and Poverty Reduction (pp. 138-170).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/changing-the-boundaries-of-expectations/193145