Abstract

The aim of the work *The impact of new media on political changes of selected countries in the Middle East on the example of the Arab Spring* is to answer the question: How new media influenced the process of political transition in the Arab world-particularly in Tunisia and Egypt during the so-called Arab Spring? To answer this question the author defines the term of new media and lists the most important social and communication aspects of them that have a significant impact on both the process of political communication, as well as on the functioning of the new social movements and contemporary public sphere. At the same time the author makes the characteristics of the Arab world, because the specifics of this significantly affects the shape of the current media discourse in this region of the world.

As the media system is somewhat the result of political and social system in which it operates, the work presents the political and media system of Tunisia and Egypt before the Arab Spring, also shows the development of the Internet infrastructure and new technologies in both countries. Creation of Internet culture, both in Tunisia and in Egypt allowed in those societies, the emergence of the so-called third opposition, which gathered all of dissatisfied with the actions of the authorities. New media have enabled the formation of the public sphere, in which one can express his views and that could be understood by other Internet users. One of the biggest successes of the new media was to mobilize to act politically apathetic Arab youth, whose commitment to change surprised all the Arab regimes. New media were not the reason for the protests, but they were the reason for the changes in the consciousness of people who, even after the Arab Spring continues to build civil society in their countries.

The work analyses also the role of the new media before, during and after the Arab Spring protests in other Arab countries, to show the full extent of this phenomenon.

Discussions on the political influence of the new media focuses mainly on whether the force protesters societies is sufficient to overthrow the government. According to the author, such narrow theme is superficial approach to this problem. In fact, the real strength of the new media is to support the development of civil society and the public sphere, which will initiate the changes visible in a few years, or even decades.