



Cyberspaces and Global Affairs

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From the "Facebook" revolutions in the Arab world to the use of social networking in the aftermath of disasters in Japan and Haiti, to the spread of mobile telephony throughout the developing world: all of these developments are part of how information and communication technologies are altering global affairs.

With the rise of the social web and applications like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, scholars and practitioners of international affairs are adapting to this new information space across a wide scale of issue areas. In conflict resolution, dialogues and communication are taking the form of open social networks, while in the legal realm, where cyberspace is largely lawless space, states are stepping up policing efforts to combat online criminality and hackers are finding new ways around increasingly sophisticated censorship. Militaries are moving to deeply incorporate information technologies into their doctrines, and protesters are developing innovative uses of technology to keep one step ahead of the authorities. The essays and topical cases in this book explore such issues as networks and networked thinking, information ownership, censorship, neutrality, cyberwars, humanitarian needs, terrorism, privacy and rebellion, giving a comprehensive overview of the core issues in the field, complimented by real world examples.

Contents

Foreword, Kenneth H. Keller; Preface; Part I: Cyberwar: a real and growing threat, Nat Katin-Borland; From an analog past to a digital future: information and communication technology in conflict management, Daniel Wehrenfennig; Marching across the cyber frontier: explaining the global diffusion of network-centric warfare, Tim Junio; Viewpoint: cyberterrorism: cyber 'Pearl Harbor' is imminent, Emily Molfino; Viewpoint: protecting Google: is an attack against Google an attack against the US?, Nat Katin-Borland; Viewpoint: invisible threats, Jake Perry. Part II: Web 2.0 and public diplomacy, Hannes R. Richter; Call for power? Mobile phones as facilitators of political activism, Fabien Miard; ICT infrastructure in two Asian giants: a comparative analysis of China and India, Venkata Praveen Tanguturi and Fotios C. Harmantzis; Information (without) revolution? Ethnography and the study of new media-enabled change in the Middle East, Deborah L. Wheeler; The political history of the internet: a theoretical approach to the implications for US power, Madeline Carr; US identity, security, and governance of the internet, Ryan Kiggins; Information and communications technologies and power, Jeffrey A. Hart; Social media and Iran's post-election crisis, Lida Khalili Gheidary; Viewpoint: combating censorship should be a foreign policy goal, Hannes Steen-Thornhammar; Viewpoint: an alternative prospect on cyber anarchy for policy-makers, Eddie Walsh. Part III: Digital divide: the reality of information haves and have-nots, Natalya Svenjensky; Using ICT research to assist policy-making and regulation: the case of Namibia, Christoph Stork and Tony Vetter; Leveraging information and communication technologies for global public health, Shriya Malhotra; Knowledge ecologies in international affairs: a new paradigm for dialog and collaboration, Sean S. Costigan and Chris Pallaris; Environmental politics: how information and communication technology have changed the debate, Erica Dingman; Viewpoint: privacy - there's not enough and it's shrinking fast, Hannes Steen-Thornhammar; Viewpoint: information overload: real and growing by the minute, Natalya Sverjensky; Viewpoint: PageRank and perceptions of quality, David Millman; Viewpoint: citizen change: how technology and new media have turned us all into digital freedom fighters, Anthony Lopez; Viewpoint: old and new media: picket fences till the end, Sujit Bhar; Postscript, Sean Costigan and Jake Perry; Index.

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Sean S. Costigan directs MIT CogNet and teaches information technology at The New School, and Jake Perry is an independent scholar.

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