

## EDITORIAL PREFACE: TOWARDS A CYBER DICTATORSHIP

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present to you the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Cyberpolitik* Journal. It is a great honor for all of us to continue our journey that we started six years ago without interruption. Day by day the interest in this field is growing and we get more and more manuscripts. As the digital world grows every day and every second, new developments and new technologies emerge, we are trying to read and understand this area within our limitations.

This volume deals with a number of topics ranging from social change due to social media particularly change in generation Z to political psychology and from terrorism in cyberspace to cyber deterrence. There are also rich contents in this issue and researches that will increase the question marks in our minds. But in this brief discussion, I would like to discuss the importance of cyber ethics in cybersecurity.

### **Cyber Technology and Dictatorship: Towards a Surveillance Society?**

The concepts of digitalization, cyber, cyber space or cyber technology, which are largely associated with the internet, have been used intensively in almost every field from social sciences to medicine and computer science in recent years. Cyber technology, which is getting popular day by day, is neither a good nor a bad thing at its core. Like any tool, good results can be obtained if it is used for good, and bad results can be obtained if it is used for evil. Therefore, cyber technology can be used for democracy consolidation in the political arena or can be used as a tool for dictatorship or to create a surveillance society.

In the early days, the Internet was perceived as a tool for emancipation, democratization, transparency, freedom of expression and creating an open society. In that sense, Wikileaks, which opened millions of documents to the world from war crimes to censorship, from secret agreements to perception operations, Snowden, who deciphered the online intelligence activities of different countries, especially the USA and the UK are important cases. The incident and the positive role played by social media in the Arab Spring fed this perception. What a wonderful tool it was, empowering the individual, forcing governments to be transparent, and serving the open society. Was the open society utopia that Democrats dreamed of for centuries come true? The global optimism about this issue gave



hope to the masses. But over time, this optimistic perception waned and almost the internet has become a tool of the wider cyber surveillance society. With the spread of cybersecurity studies and activities, it has been realized that this journey also extends to a dystopia . In short, while dreams were open society, reality pointed to dystopia .

Online intelligence activities, the fact that the right to privacy is easily violated, censorship, restriction of freedom of expression with a click of a button, the formation of a surveillance society instead of an open society in many places has led political scientists to ask different questions and new concerns. Today, 85% of online intelligence activities are carried out by state bodies to spy on societies. Only 8% is done for commercial purposes and the remaining 7% is done for entertainment, theft, etc. In short, the dimensions of online surveillance will be better understood if it is considered that the adware coming to your phones constitutes a small proportion of the intelligence activities .

Second, we should forget the privacy when connected to the Internet. Nothing is private on the Internet. Yes, maybe our information is not publicly available, but it is available to some others: Some of them are software companies, code developers, intelligence agents and hackers.

Third, the use of digitalization and big data by some authoritarian regimes as a means of creating a surveillance society may provide clues about the future of digital dictatorships. The activities of monitoring and designing the society, scoring the behaviors and restricting and rewarding the individual as a result of this evaluation , developed by some countries through social media and security cameras, perhaps explain this process more clearly. The Black Mirror series, a well-known digital science fiction, also gives important clues for the future in this domain.

As can be seen, cyber technology is a tool that strengthens the individual, but it also has a function that weakens the individual against socially organized structures. More precisely, this technology empowers the individual as well as other social actors such as companies, organized structures, states and social organized movements. In addition, these actors, who are stronger than the individual, can naturally gain more power in the cyber domain. This can make the individual relatively weak and fragile. Thus, the process of creating a surveillance society instead of an open society is developing.



The dark realm of cyber freedom is dragging the world community towards a digital dictatorship. The only way to prevent this is to establish a moral cyberspace and to raise free individuals who bless the rights and freedoms of other people as well as their own. Otherwise, artificial intelligence does not need to wage war on us, we will wage war on ourselves. Robotized minds will wage war against free minds; robotized individuals will wage war against free minds and serve the digital dictatorship. i.e. we we should afraid of robotisation human beings, rather than humanization of robots. The solution is again in free and moral person... (Nezir Akyeşilmen, Siber Teknoloji ve Diktatörlük: Bir Gözetim Toplumuna Doğru mu?, 13.05.2019, İlkse Gazetesi)

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