

EDITORIAL PREFACE: CYBERSPACE AND DICTATORSHIP

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present to you the eight issue of the *Cyberpolitik* Journal. It is a great honor for all of us to continue our journey that we started four years ago without interruption. As the digital world grows every day and every second, new developments and new technologies emerge, we are trying to read and understand this domain within our limitations.

This volume deals with a number of topics ranging from social media to e-dmocracy, realism and cybersecurity to borders in cyberspace, from human rights in cyberspace to a liberal approach to cyber domain.. There are also rich content in this issue and research that will increase the question marks in our minds. But in this brief discussion, I would like to discuss the issue of proxy wars through cyberspace. But in this issue I would like to discuss the possibility of cyberspace to be used as a tool for a dictatorial order in the future.

The concepts of digitalization, cyberspace, cyber domain or cyber technology, which are largely identified with the Internet, have been used extensively in almost every field from social sciences to science, from medicine to computer science. Cyber technology, which has become popular day by day, is essentially neither good nor bad. Like any tool, good results can be achieved if used for good, and bad results if used for evil. Thus, cyber technology can be used as a tool to consolidate democracy in the political sphere, as well as for the deepening of the dictatorship or for the formation of a surveillance society.

In the early days, the internet was perceived as a means of liberation, democratization, transparency, freedom of expression and the creation of an open society. Wikileaks, which opened millions of documents to the world from war crimes to censorship, from secret agreements to perception operations; Snowden incident, which deciphered the online intelligence activities of different countries, especially the US and UK, and the positive role played by the social media in the Arab Spring fostered this perception. What a beautiful tool



that empowered the individual, compelled governments to transparency and served the open society. Was the open society utopia that the Democrats dreamed of for centuries? The global optimism about this issue gave hope to the masses. But over time, this optimistic perception has weakened, and almost in the broader sense of the Internet, digitalization has become a means of surveillance society.

With the spread of cyber security studies and activities, it was realized that this journey also extended to a dystopia. In short, while dreams were open society, the facts pointed to dystopia. Online intelligence activities, the fact that the right to private life can be easily violated, the censorship, the restriction of freedom of expression with the touch of a button, the creation of a surveillance society instead of an open society in many places has prompted political scientists to ask different questions and raise new concerns.

Today, 85% of the online intelligence activities are carried out by state bodies to intelligence institutions. Only 8% is for commercial purposes and the remaining 7% is for entertainment, theft, etc. In short, if the adware that comes to your phone constitutes a small proportion of the surveillance activities, the extent of online intelligence will be better understood.

The second, you should forget about the principle of privacy when connected to the Internet. Nothing is hidden on the Internet. Yes, maybe our information is not public, but it is open to someone else. Some of them are software companies, code developers, intelligence and hackers.

Third, the use of digitalization and big data as a means of forming a surveillance society by some authoritarian regimes can provide clues about the future of digital dictatorships. Some of the countries developed through social media and security cameras to monitor the community, design, scoring the behavior and rewarding individuals as a result of this evaluation activities may help to explain it more clearly. The Black Mirror series, which has made a name for itself in the field of digital sci-fi, provides important hints for the future in this field.

As can be seen, cyber technology is an instrument that empowers the individual, but also has a function that weakens the individual against socially organized structures. More precisely, this technology strengthens the individual and other social actors such as companies,



organized structures, states and social-organized movements. These actors, who are more powerful than the individual, can naturally obtain more power in the cyber domain as well. This makes the individual relatively weak. Thus, it is not wrong to claim that the process of forming a surveillance society instead of an open society is developing. The dark face of cyberspace drives world society 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 others as well as their own rights and freedoms. Otherwise, artificial intelligence does not have to wage war on us, we will wage war on ourselves. Robotized brains will fight free brains, robotized individuals will fight free brains and serve the digital dictatorship. The remedy is again ethics.©

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