EDITORIAL PREFACE

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present to you the nineth issue of the Cyberpolitik Journal. It is a great honor for all of us to continue our journey that we started five 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 area within our limitations.

This volume deals with a number of topics ranging from cyber-state, US and EU cybersecurity, cyber politics vision documents for political parties, usage of technology in combat against Covid-19 to the usage of body chips. 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 impact of cyberspace on dictatorship.

The concepts of digitalization, cyber, cyberspace or cyber technology, which are largely identified with the internet, have been used extensively in almost every field from social sciences, natural science, medicine to computer science. Cyber technology, which is getting popular day by day, is in essence neither good nor bad. Like every vehicle, good results can be obtained if used for good, and bad results can be obtained if used for evil. Therefore, cyber technology can be used as a tool to consolidate democracy in the political sphere, or it can be used to deepen the dictatorship or to create a surveillance society.

In the early days, the Internet was perceived as a means of liberation, democratization, transparency, freedom of expression and an open society. Opening the millions of documents from war crimes to censorship, secret deals to perception operations by Wikileaks and the Snowden case, which deciphered the online intelligence activities of different countries, especially the USA and the UK, and the positive role played by the social media in the Arab Spring had fed this perception. Internet was a beautiful tool that empowered the individual, compelled administrations to be transparent and served the open society. Was there an open society utopia that Democrats had dreamed of for centuries? Global optimism in this regard gave hope to the masses. But over time, this optimistic perception has weakened, and almost the Internet has become a broader means of cyber surveillance.
With the proliferation of (in)cybersecurity activities and studies, it was realized that this journey also extends to a dystopia at the same time. In short, while dreams were an open society, the reality pointed to dystopia. Online intelligence activities, the fact that the right to private life can be easily violated, censorship, restriction of freedom of expression with a click of a button, the formation of a surveillance society rather than an open society has prompted political scientists to ask different questions and new concerns.

Today, 85% of online intelligence activities are carried out by state bodies to monitor societies. Only 8% is done for commercial purposes and the remaining 7% is for different purposes such as entertainment, theft, etc. Indeed, considering the adware coming to your phones is a small proportion of the intelligence activities performed, the dimensions of online surveillance will be better understood. Second, you need to forget the principle of privacy when connected to the Internet. Nothing can be secretly done on the Internet. Yes, maybe our information is not public, but it is open to some of actors in cyberspace. Some of these are software companies, code developers, intelligence and hackers. Third, some authoritarian regimes' usage of digitalization and big data as a surveillance instruments can give us clues about the future of digital dictatorships. The activities that some countries have performed through social media and security cameras, monitoring, designing, scoring their behaviors, and restricting and rewarding the individual as a result of this evaluation, perhaps explain this process more clearly. The well-known science-fiction series movie Black Mirror, gives us important clues for the future of cyber dictatorships.

As can it is seen, cyber technology is a tool that at the same time empowers the individual, but it also has a function that weakens the individual against socially organized formations. More precisely, this technology empowers individuals, as well as other social actors such as companies, organized structures, governments and social organized movements. Also, these actors, which are stronger than the individual, can naturally gain more power in the cyberspace. This can make the individual relatively weak and fragile once again. Thus, the process of creating a surveillance society is developing instead of an open society.

The dark domain of cyber freedom drags the world society towards a digital dictatorship. The only way to prevent this is through establishing a moral cyberspace and raising free
individuals that bless other people's rights and freedoms as well as their own rights and freedoms. Otherwise, artificial intelligence does not need to wage war against us, we will wage war against ourself. Robotic brains will fight free brains; robotic individuals will fight free brains and serve digital dictatorship. The remedy is again with free and ethical human.

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