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TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION AND THE ARAB SPRING

The causes of demonstrations and revolutions have always been the same throughout history. These reasons are usually social ones like the absence of equity and justice, economical like the rise of prices and low salaries, or political such as the absence of democracy and restrictions on freedoms. Those have been the common causes of revolutions since the dawn of history; however, the revolutions of modern time differ in their reliance on technological devices including mobile phones together with the internet and its services.

The use of technology was an effective factor in these events because the social networks led to the formation of virtual gatherings which broadcasted ideas opposing to regimes and facilitated the organization of demonstrations through the Internet.

Whatever the different views we have on this issue, we are facing an eye catching phenomenon that needs to be closely monitored regardless of the degree of its effectiveness, and this is the major reason for writing this article. Since no one could ever expect the scenario of what has happened, some people likened it to the earthquake of September 11th; others viewed it as an example of the French Revolution, while some others considered it as an alternative version of the anticipated Islamic Revolution.

The scientific technological aspect was one of the main reasons for the success of revolutions in the developing countries where the technological developments removed the barriers set up by governments to isolate their peoples by blocking communication and the exchange of information. Modern technology not only enabled people to communicate and bring about new patterns of getting organized which exceeded those created by the different sects and political parties, but it also increased the awareness of young people who started to influence and be affected by what is happening in the street; needless to mention their interaction with the issues of their countries. This was expressed by an Egyptian young man who said, "TV watches me nowadays, while I used to watch it at earlier times".

Although the countries, where the revolutions emerged, controlled the Internet, blocked websites and satellite channels, and monitored telephones, the contemporary generation which was relatively open to the outer world and realized that it was part of an underdeveloped society that was lagging behind the contemporary life, could only use the available technology to express their legitimate demands and opposition to the corrupted regimes which failed to achieve social justice for their peoples. Such autocratic regimes didn't pay attention to the importance of technology which escaped the notice of the people in power and their imposed censorship; thus paving the way for the freedom of communication and exchange of views which spread all over the world.

The military revolutions used to take years to influence the neighboring countries, whereas the contemporary revolutions whose impact is faster can be transferred within months or weeks thanks to technology which facilitated the organization process in addition to the lack of need for money as was the case at the time of coups and military

revolutions. Unlike the old military revolutions which were far from the aspects of individuals' daily life and catered for liberation from colonialism and Zionism, the revolutions of young people present the daily life requirements and signify their real suffering. Such peaceful revolutions, which are watched on TV hour by hour by the whole world, are claiming public support and maintaining ongoing follow up; unfortunately, these nations are still unable to invest their revolutions in establishing a dynamic democratic regime that can protect itself. However, the revolutions of young men will be ongoing to keep their societies on the edge of a permanently eruptive volcano till they have the ability to build a contemporary individual who can move smoothly over time without revolutions, bloodsheds or losses to achieve a new Arab spring that is more coherent and able to continue in light of a different kind of revolution, a revolution of technology.

These revolutions of people will not stop at the geography of the developing countries, but their influence will, due to the digital information revolution, extend to every part in the world to achieve freedom, social justice and democracy which ensures equity and provides scientists and creative people with the opportunities to achieve the welfare of humanity.