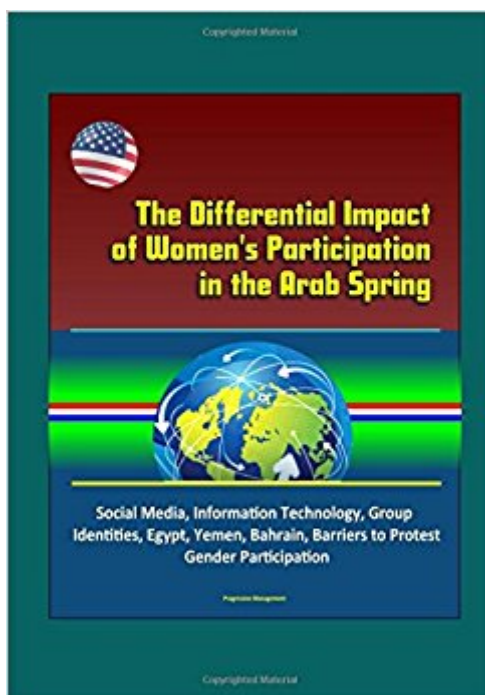


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The Differential Impact Of Women's Participation In The Arab Spring - Social Media, Information Technology, Group Identities, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Barriers To Protest, Gender Participation



Synopsis

The Arab Spring protests in 2011 uprooted regimes, challenged authoritarian leaders, and provided protesters new tools for mobilization. The use of social media and the involvement of women in public protests indicated changing protest repertoires and movement demographics in many countries. When women protested in 2011, they mobilized both physically and virtually. Assessing the influence women exert in social movements through social media can provide insights into factors that make a social movement successful. This thesis ascertains that women physically mobilized to participate in the Arab Spring protests in Egypt, Yemen, and Bahrain. In Egypt and Bahrain, women also mobilized virtually using social media, while in Yemen women participated through traditional forms of social mobilization. An assessment of Twitter data in Egypt and Bahrain indicates that women communicated out to others more than their male counterparts, while men received more information from others. Data also indicates that women followed significantly more sources of information than men, thus contributing to the diversity of online protest networks.

Notably, women represented nearly fifty percent of the most connected users in the Egyptian Twitter data, communicating to nearly twice as many users and following four times as many information sources, as their male counterparts.

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The book gives very good statistical data on women's involvement/ participation in the Arab Spring. There were excellent sources useful to those of us interested in the role of women in the Arab world. It was good to have data on women's participation verified by factual data. Women's roles in the Egyptian Revolt was very impressive. Given the brutality of these three regimes, Egypt, Bahrain, & Yemen it was informative to learn how women worked around their repressive governments and cultural norms to actively participate in the Revolts in their respective countries. The book would have benefitted from vignettes or short stories about individual women who participated in the protests. Not having such stories made the book dry and not as engaging as it could have been. As a scholar focused on Islam and women, the book is useful as is the bibliography.

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