FACEBOOK POLITICS: IDENTITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

By

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Dedicated To

My Father
Facebook Politics: Identity Through Technological Innovations

Ghazala Abbass Ajami

Abstract

The concept of social networks is undoubtedly entangled with globalization. The term network can simply be defined as a set of unified nodes which has contributed greatly in creating social associations in the current world. The ties established from the users of these websites are normally very strong that it is hard for one to miss an account. Social networks are immensely contributing towards globalization by connecting people with one another, who would otherwise not have known each other. The diffusion of culture or national identity through social-networking has been facilitated by people’s desire to utilize such diverse tools in communicating and collaborating in a global organizational framework. In turn, the empowerment of such innovative technologies provide a framework for inter-state social networking to help crowd-cooperation excavate individuals supporting organizations such as political parties engaging in political trans-national relations and activities.

This research develops a framework that draws the political boundaries of globalization to argue that online social space can create and maintain social and political ties among members of a community. Examples will be provided to show how social networking can foster better assimilation to the culture an individual belongs to, even if he/she is not physically at the same location where his/her community of origin resides. Focusing on trans-nationalism and the use of inter-state social networking to assist engage in international relations and activities, this thesis discusses issues such as the impact of de-territorialisation on identity and political practice of Lebanese in Diaspora.

Keywords: Social Networks, Trans-nationalism, Innovative Technologies, Online freedom, Webvolution
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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The current world is full of technological advancements and these innovations drew a thin line between culture and national identity among different groups of people. There are several factors that have influenced the spread of innovations among various societies or nations in general. This whole process has been known to result into what is being referred to as globalization which encompasses complex communication systems. These systems range from fields such as culture, business, economics and many others. The world wide spread of such concepts is what results into diffusion. Global communications and internet technologies (IT) are at the core of the new world information economy and politics. Their rise and global spread at cheap or considerably attainable value has added new players to the decision-making process which often forces decisions to be taken more rapidly.

Living as a foreigner in a country necessitates immigrants to assimilate in this new political environment which often creates a sense of isolation and being different. Therefore, to overcome this change they look for ways to socially connect to those who are indifferent to them. When moving to another country, individuals run across barriers to communication and encounter difficulties in forming new relationships. Globalized technologies provide common environments of social networking sites such as facebook, Myspace, and Twitter that help make social connectivity easier. Such networks help individuals associate to groups whom they feel a sense of belonging. Environments as such can help individuals establish new relationships by sharing similar thoughts and backgrounds. Collaborate thus fosters personal growth and development (Conceicao, Weber, & Baldor, 2009).
Political interactions have become fairly common in our current society, as it has been made possible by many factors. Therefore, many people are travelling to other countries education, business and other related factors. It becomes rather difficult for an individual to maintain their culture when they keep on interacting with people from different cultures (Orchard, 2002). This has caused many individuals to assume cultures that do not belong to them. The social networks are said to be big contributors in affecting the behavioral aspects of the users especially the political aspects. However, as mentioned earlier the cultures are changing the negative aspects into positive prospects by engaging in the social network sites as well (Huang & Deng, 2008). This gave the individual chances of equal access to his/her culture and traditions despite the fact that he/she is not physically available in the location of their origin. One example is that in Taiwan, where people embrace the new technology in the social networking sites rather than rejecting it. This example describes Taiwan’s residents claim that their social interactions have greatly increased especially with their counterparts who are not in the country as the contact is still maintained. Results of previous study showed that one of the most important political activities observed in Taiwan is the tea drinking activity (Huang & Deng, 2008).

This political aspect is known for its great social interaction in the community. Individuals are encouraged to observe it despite their location and this is well communicated through the social networking sites. The activity is recorded and later uploaded in the various blog spots open for political interaction aspects (Boyd & Ellison, 2007). Therefore, members of the community residing in other countries can be able to share and observe the same political traits as their community keeping them acquainted with their identity.
Communication is one of the social barriers for an immigrant and it might be quite difficult for the adjustment routine (Huang & Deng, 2008). The formation of new relationships becomes quite difficult and the social networking sites make this process quite easy. Through the sites, the immigrants are able to meet other immigrants residing in the same country and this becomes a good political ground for the individuals to be associated in (Orchard, 2002). The group formed enables the individuals to share the same political background and this helps maintain their political trait.

Politics as an interactive process, requires different means of communication to channel messages between politicians and people. Whether to demand a need, deliver a message, or call out a cause, the political arena is continuously seeking new means of communications and channels through which the message being passed from one party can be understood effectively by the other party within the shortest time possible. Political settings differ from one region of the world to another. The politics in Africa is not the same as the politics in the Middle East, Europe, or even the American regions. Politics is such a unique aspect of the society that even in close countries, the political arenas are completely different. Communication is one of the factors that differentiate the different political systems.

This paper is aimed at presenting the relationship between politics and the social media in Lebanon. Here, Facebook, being my main social media tool, will be of great importance in the analysis of political communication. Lebanon has a unique political system as well as political arena. The country is a parliamentary democratic republic with a little bit of confessionalism and consociationalism. The interplay between these two aspects has transformed the political arena into a continuous battlefield between shifting alliances of the many political parties that
constitutes the parliament. Although the constitution, the most important political
document in any nation, has granted the people the ability to choose who they want
to be their leader, the country has been filled with civil wars for decades.

Using facebook as a social media tool to conduct my research on the
Lebanese political integration is unique and relevant to today’s trends of
communications through innovative technologies. Social media has proved to be one
of the best ways to communication within the Lebanese political arena. Employing
social media as a research tool has more than a handful benefit. Here, as a
researcher, I’m provided with a communication platform where private matters can
be easily handled, screened, and exposed to public. Through a social media website
like facebook, I was able to collect information, views, and reviews about Lebanese
users using this social media tool to reflect the different political groups they are
affiliated with and the opinions they share concerning political events taking place in
their country whether they were physically there or in any other country across the
world.

In the event of using quantitative methods to collect statistical records on
facebook, other methods such as interviews or questionnaires were partially
disregarded because the information collected was less effective compared to using
the social media due to its subjectivity. Although there have been a number of
similar researches conducted on facebook and politics, there is no single research
that has looked into the Lebanese political integration through employing the social
media in the methodology. Before, there was little or vague information with regards
to the integration of Lebanese politics and the social media, however, this research
led to the collection of large quantity of information. This research has brought to
light the knowledge with regards to the impact of social media on Lebanese political
integration and has proven that Facebook is widely entrenched in Lebanese politics. Some of the findings show that people come together and identify each other’s political preference through the social media, call for change, as well as other political integrations is also being done through Facebook.

### 1.2 Claim and Rationale For This Research

Introducing innovative technologies such as social networking websites, to the open world society allowed domestic and international communications at national and international levels to unleash significant informational revolutions. It increased the influence of the multitude and altered intelligence gathering leaving its impact on foreign policy and ruling governments. It also allowed activists and cyber terrorists to build informational networks that gave influence and as one of its consequences lead to military conflict. Moreover, national identities through these innovations have been facilitated by people’s desire to utilize such diverse tools in communicating and collaborating in a global organizational framework. This research develops a framework that draws the political boundaries of Globalization that trace political aspects of identity to provide that online social space can create and maintain social and political ties among members of a community.

In turn, the empowerment of such innovative technologies provide a framework for inter-state social networking to help crowd-cooperation excavate individuals supporting organizations such as political parties engaging in political trans-national relations and activities. My research aims to discuss social space and political ties in a community in which the diffusion of culture and national identity because of innovations entails the spread of conceptual ideas and actual practices within a social system. The spread can be through communication and manipulation of these social systems. Concepts of diffusion have been used by researchers to
assess global political and economic expansion. The analysis has involved the diverse processes and determinants that have resulted into diffusion of cultures and national identity. Accordingly, social transformations can be determined by exploring processes of globalization (Hall, Neitz, & Battani, 2003). Focusing on trans-nationalism and the use of inter-state social networking to assist engage in international relations and activities, examples will be provided to show how social networking can foster better assimilation to the culture an individual belongs to, even if he/she is not physically at the same location where his/her community of origin resides.

1.3 Conclusion

Most immigrants have been known to abandon their political affiliation and integration once they adjust in the foreign countries. This has been a major issue for most cultures as they are unable to pass on the community’s traditions to their children as they are affected by the political aspects of living in foreign countries (Foley, 2008). However, communication is major barrier for the immigrants and adjusting to a different language may take time. The time is utilized in the social network sites and this gives the immigrants a fresh approach to culture (Ward & Kennedy, 2002). The social network sites have been able to allow an individual to participate in the political activities of the community they belong to without the need of physical appearance (Huang & Deng, 2008).

Aspects of political differences presented are addressed through the help of the media and the social sites. There is an obvious strain between countries and the differences in the political aspects present (Ward & Kennedy, 2002). Through the social sites, the interaction between individuals creates an understanding that helps acceptability of the diverse cultures. This creates a learning base where different
cultures may arrive at the same understanding despite the fact that the political backgrounds are quite different.

This thesis entails issues such as the impact and de-territorialisation of identity and political practice in Diasporas of the Arab Spring, the Diasporas of Lebanese politics, and the compression of time and space or the killing of space by time. Thus, the thesis examined the impact of social networking via communication technology on people actively participating in such shared systems showing that online social space can create and maintain social and political ties among members of a community.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Social Networking Websites In Innovative Technologies

Technological developments are indeed exciting but when individuals do not have the skill to operate and fit in these systems they can be equated to those in the dark ages. The new innovations and globalization has altered the meaning of liberty such that everything is becoming complex and the society is expected to be at par with the many changes in order to fit (Sandars, 2000). Sources of information have become extremely diverse and there is a likelihood that the future is going to be even more complex.

Social networking Websites (SNWs) provide a medium for users to express themselves beyond physical features and labels, to share experiences, discuss interests, and influence one another in a selective network. In addition, social networking websites are not constrained by the same geographic boundaries as real life networks; allowing users to make and develop relationships with individuals of similar interests around the world. Lastly, SNWs provide an optimal format for users to keep a “personal narrative going” in which they “integrate events which happen in the external world, and sort them into an ‘ongoing’ story about the self.”

Social change has been a gradual process with one development resulting into the progress or discovery of the other (White, 2010). The research of this study explores how users of SNWs such as facebook are prone to emphasize particular aspects of their identity and have the choice to “remove tags” from areas inconsistent with their constructed being or those they prefer to keep unpublicized allowing only what they want to expose as being part of their identity. In the recent century, individuals have experienced changes in their culture and identity, which
has been because of advancements in technology. The manner in which society members have accessed and exchanged information through different medium such as the internet has modified many aspects of culture and identity.

Engaging in online identity construction allows users to define themselves by more than just their actual identity schemas. It gives users the opportunity to share interests and ideas, amongst a public network. Innovations are cultural and political aspects and they form part of the current social societal processes such as relationship forming. Human nature is flexible in the sense that it can easily be influenced by latest developments in society. Without the numerous innovations, people’s culture would be different and it is hard to view the globe without computers for instance.

2.2 Facebook as a Social Network

Facebook users employ a number of features including notes (blog), games, chat, joining fan pages, starting groups, posting statuses, and writing on other’s walls. Through these experiences, users develop their self-concept and affiliate identities to create their image, and to produce their own spotlight through recruiting political members or audiences as followers or supporters on facebook. This study extends prior research of computer-mediated environments to develop theory of how people contempararily define themselves in their social online space.

Let me give you a brief explanation of some major functions of features found on facebook. Facebook contains many applications and features that help the user interact efficiently and effectively to communicate with other users over the web across the world in no time. First, each individual that registers on to facebook will create a “facebook Profile”; each user has his own profile, which includes a picture he/she chooses to display along with customized information. Its virtual
functionality on the web is similar to that of a real life identity card where age sex location and marital status is displayed along with additional information provided by the user. A facebook user’s profile would look like the following figure:

Facebook “wall” is a space on each user's profile page that “allows friends to post messages for the user to see while displaying the time and date the message was written.” Facebook "events" feature gives users a way to let friends and other members to “know about upcoming events in their community and to organize social gatherings. In order to create events on Facebook this requires an event name, network, host name, event type, start and end time, location, and a guest list of friends that are to be invited.” As Facebook developers explain, “These can be open, closed, or secret.” When setting up an event feature, the user can choose to allow friends to upload photos or videos (Social Design, 2011). Below is a sample screenshot of a Facebook user’s profile that shows how each user has information about him and about the networks this person is engaged in along with the friends he/she is connected to through Facebook.

Figure 1 FACEBOOK USER PROFILE
The News Feed is an alternate home page in which users see a constantly updated list of their friends’ Facebook activity. News Feed highlights information that includes profile changes, upcoming events, birthdays, and many other updates. The News Feed also shows conversations taking place between the walls of a user's friends. An integral part of the News Feed interface is the Mini-Feed feature that shows a news stream on the user's profile page with updates about that user (Social Design, 2011).

Another feature found on Facebook and other social networking sites is called "status updates" (also referred to simply as "status"). This feature allows users to post messages for all their friends to read and friends can respond with their own comments, and press the "Like" button to show that they enjoyed reading it or to show their interest in what have been posted. A user's most recent status update appears at the top of their profile. The main the purpose of the feature is to allow users to share with their friends their current “status.”
Facebook Page is built for fan trafficking. Pages can be for individuals, such as authors, political figures, or celebrities, or for non-human entities such as products, companies, organizations, and campaigns. Usually pages are used in many cases to promote something. You become connected to a page by becoming a fan of this page. In addition, this my turn takes place by just clicking the like button feature. After that, you can start posting and sharing in the page’s wall itself. The Lebanese American University (LAU) Facebook page is an example of a Facebook page and as you can see in the below diagram the number of users who like this page is basically the number of users whom joined this page network. This screenshot shows the fan trafficking of members joining this page by just clicking the “like” feature.

FIGURE 2 LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PAGE ON FACEBOOK

A Facebook Group looks very similar to Page. However, it is used to build a community and thus it is more bonding with deeper discussions involved than just commenting or sharing a link. More debates and back and forth feedbacks on particular issues that bonds to the group’s actual reason of creation. To connect to Groups you either request to join or you are sent an invitation to become a Member.
Going back to the “open, closed, or secret” features of facebook, below is an example of a group made on facebook calling for anti-sectarianism in Lebanon where users were first invited by creators and when you join you can invite more friends (users on your network) to join this group.

Figure 3 A GROUP CALLING FOR ANTI-SECTARIANISM IN LEBANON

Because Facebook is still a relatively recent phenomenon, the literature on groups using the technology for political purposes is limited. By facilitating the formation of social networks, facebook provides movement entrepreneurs with an accessible audience from which to express political views (Lenhart, Pucell, Smith, & Zickuhr, 2010). A major concern in the minds of researchers, academics, analysts, and many others come to pass due to consequences resulting from such access. How political activity on facebook translates into the real world put many researchers in haze. As a result, researchers attempt to find out the effects. For example, the sight of the Egyptian young revolutionary leader “Wael Ghunaim” crying is a case in point. He started on the facebook to soon discover that reality is different and greater than the virtual call he initially made on the facebook for a protest. In 2011, Wael
Ghunaim became an international figure and energized pro-democracy demonstrations in Egypt after his emotional interview following 11 days of secret incarceration by Egyptian police—during which he was interrogated regarding his work as the administrator of the facebook page, "We are all Khaled Saeed", which helped spark the revolution (Google worker is Egypt’s Facebook hero, 2011).

Facebook has various site features that allow members to access and share their political views and interact with friends on the site, as well as other users to whom they connected with through shared use of political groups and pages. Some scholars suggest that facebook use had some positive effect upon political engagement. Researchers discovered that there is a complex relationship between young people’s use of facebook and their political participation. Researchers found that while young voters participate in political activity, the degree of this participation is somewhat superficial (Vitak, J.Zube, Smock, Carr, & Ellison, 2011). The most common forms of general political participation tended to be informational and low in resource intensity (e.g., watching a debate), whereas political actions that required a greater commitment of resources (e.g., volunteering) were less frequent. Quoting some researchers of such claims, “This finding in isolation lends credibility to the concern that young citizens are becoming “slacktivists,” engaging in feel-good forms of political participation that have little or no impact on effecting change, (Vitak, J.Zube, Smock, Carr, & Ellison, 2011).”

Other researchers suggested by line of reasoning, “that any political activity, whether occurring on facebook or in other venues, facilitates the development of civic skills, which in turn increases political participation.” One advantage to the more lightweight political activity enabled via facebook is the opportunity to “practice” civic skills with a minimal commitment of time and effort. Not only is
facebook accessible at any time of the day, but activities such as joining a political group or sharing a link can be accomplished with a few clicks of the mouse. In a study, Feezle found that participation in a political facebook group was associated with higher levels of political engagement (Feezell, Jessica, Conroy, Meredith, & Guerrero, 2009). However, Feezle and his co-workers also found that participation in facebook groups was not associated with greater levels of political knowledge than those not involved in facebook groups. The upshot of this early scholastic study is that facebook might aid in mobilization, but not necessarily in citizenship development (Feezell, Jessica, Conroy, Meredith, & Guerrero, 2009). These site characteristics create unique opportunities for participants to develop skills in their own time, representing a lower threshold for informal civic-engagement education. Such studies found that as the number of political activities people engage in on facebook increases, so does political participation in other venues, and vice versa (Vitak, J.Zube, Smock, Carr, & Ellison, 2011).

Moreover, some researchers traced back a strong negative relationship between facebook intensity and general political participation. The negative relationship between facebook Intensity and general political participation has alternative explanations. What is more important is that such studies revealed that political activity on facebook is significantly related to more general political participation. According to a study found in Cyber psychology, Behavior, and Social Networking July 2010 issue, Social networks, including facebook, allow young citizens to experiment with political opinions and beliefs furthermore simulating their peers interest and awareness.

2.3 Summary
Earlier studies of political Facebook groups have not by far paid attention to its impact on identity maintenance (Marichal, 2010). Taking these in context, my thesis is devoted to take a step further in studying social networking and have the Lebanese political Diaspora as a case study to argue that political participation is as much about presenting a political self as it is about affecting broad scale social change and broadening political ties. This research develops a framework that draws the political boundaries of Globalization that trace political aspects of identity. To provide that online social space can create and maintain social and political ties among members of a community, examples will be provided to show how social networking can foster better assimilation to the culture an individual belongs to, even if he/she is not physically at the same location where the major mass of this political community exists. Globalization has resulted in the need to bring various cultures together so that the world can become unified as ‘e-village’. Historical factors such immigration, has increased levels of economic activity and the movement of people across international borders thus making significant contribution to globalization process. People migrated to various destinies in 1800s, and the need for social networking grew as social-groups’ diversity instigated the desire for political-identity among the immigrants (Wellman, 248).
CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODS, PROBLEMS, AND FINDINGS

3.1 Approaches to Methodologies Used

The desire to negotiate a political self through discourse as a form of expressive rationality independent of instrumental or communicative modes of discourse is discussed in Svensson’s article, E-participation and iCitizens: The Expressive Turn of Political Participation and Citizenship in Convergence Culture (Svensson, 2009). Increasing digitalization and globalization transforms societies’ accessibility to the public sphere and by turn agenda setting is challenged as communication become increasingly digital, global and personalized as political participation take on different meanings and citizenships are enacted differently. In revisiting the instrumental-communicative dichotomy, it is discussed that the deliberative turn in political philosophy brings forward the well-known dichotomy between these rationalities. Svensson believes that if we add new political practices online together with a sociological understanding of the late modern subject, then, “expressive account rationality is more accurate for understanding citizenship practices and political participation today (Svensson, 2009).” To better understand the link between identity and political engagement of Lebanese Diaspora, I will expose a brief explanation to the concept of expressive rationality as opposed to instrumental and communicative rationality as presented by Jurge Habermas and Jakob Svensson.

Instrumental rationality is based on a distinct approach where an individual is restricted only to one focal point or activity amongst the competing situations encompassing the affected individual. The optimal focus is identified as the most interesting option available to a given individual. Within political issues, the concept
holds the ground that choices are widely hinged on egotistic perspectives towards achieving own benefits. The general premise attached to this approach therefore attributes political participation solely to the accordance of personal gains, hence diluting the fact that such involvements may bear impetus from the application of the democratic function in according higher social wellbeing by addressing communal problems. The main antithesis according to this perspective is based on the cost and benefit criteria as applied to the nature of public goods with regard to the free rider theory; the theory accords optimal returns to non-participants in public affairs as the cost is allocated for every individual on public revenues. With this assumption therefore, any rational individual would refrain from political inputs, as benefits would be optimally realized.

Communicative rationality is determined by the knowledge aspect as argued that it shapes the position and morals held by an individual though the capability of comprehension. Rationality within this approach focuses on processes that are used to attain knowledge and the manner in which the same is employed for the function of message relaying. In this approach, political participation therefore focuses on the acquisition of both implied and direct messages within the communication process. This therefore undermines that fact that an individual may accord a given message with a view of satirizing or analyzing a given issue. Individual interpretations also lead to information alteration.

Expressive rationality, unlike in the initial two approaches that are mechanical in nature as they ignore the personality aspect, takes into account the position of identity within political activities and involvement. Subsequently, it accords a succinct justification for political associations within the notions of socializing, with a common relating ground established through factors such as
political perceptions. In such settings, individual identities are fostered through the ability of the people to relay their own perspectives concerning a given issue from a subjective position and through this to acquire healthy relation networks. Similarly, in lobbying instances the identity factor rather than political perceptions strengthens the faction through joint power, permitting collective personality growth. This offers a precise reflection on the participation of the Lebanese individuals living in Diaspora as a means towards the achievement of identity as opposed to egotistic gains and the communicative function alone. Situated cognition is defined as a process of enculturation by which “people adopt behaviors and belief systems of their social groups and eventually start acting in accordance with the norms.” A group of scholars came to describe situated cognition as a theory of instruction that suggests learning is naturally tied to authentic activity, context, and culture (Brown, Collins, & Duguid, 1989). Employing the situated cognition theory to analyze how users construct and operate their profiles, we can assess the influence their network has on the creation of their identity and their subsequent behaviors.

Facebook is driven by people relating to one another socially through group-oriented behaviors. By this means, users employ the “like” button to reinforce agreement, join groups to show friendship, and become fans to provide support. Users joining social networking sites, such as facebook, first conform to social phenomena by joining a heavily used site, and further conform to societal and group pressures as they operate profiles and target specific audiences with communications.

The theory of situated cognition is prevalent in studies of both identity and group conformance. Whether offline or online, to become a member of a social network one must adhere to its pre-constructed social norms. “Identity is
characterized by the tension between of how a person defines themselves as an individual and how they connect to others and social groups, in affiliate relationships (Schau & Gilly, 2003).” The presentation of self is contextual, based on a specific setting and a definable and anticipated audience, users operate their profiles within the norms of a given Website and audience (Goffman, 1978).

3.2 Methods and Limitations

Methods used to collect data were first based on a survey instrument used on facebook. A sample of members voluntarily contributed in my research by providing me with feedback based on a survey questionnaire. Later, with further developments of my study it was found that the results of these surveys were not reliable enough to support my argument that online social space can create and maintain social and political ties among members of a community. This survey remained opened online for volunteers to join and contribute by answering few general questions that focused on the participant’s knowledge and attitude towards certain features found in social networks specifically ones found on facebook. Questions first targeted the matter of online identity and then moved to their network affiliation and political group activities informants engage in. Some questions required informants to provide short feedback on facebook experiences, compiled and analyzed to develop the theme targeted.

The basis of discussion for interviews (influence, identity, and network) is a subjective topic in which each user is open to their own interpretations. For example, when respondents were asked whether they are judgmental, based on the information they see of others and their fueled presumptions, many of them were hesitant to admit to this behavior originally. On the other hand, some people were blatantly open to judging others. This finding has provided that informants had the
potential ability to provide inaccurate information in their interviews in fear of being judged themselves. Although interviews involve “direct contact with consumers, and when conducted in comfortable settings are likely to be more personal as well as productive,” (Hoyer & MacInnis, 2007) when discussing influence and judgment, some of the users were prone to offer socially acceptable responses. While informants were told that their information would not be directly represented in the analysis, informants could have been untruthful or exaggerated in some of their responses.

Therefore, quantitative statistical data collection was used as an alternative method for my conducted research. Data collected was calculated and analyzed in different ways through the use of data filtering targeting features found on facebook and monitoring activity of users found on these pages. Two major ways have been used for my data collecting process. The first way was using the facebook search tool bar where I manually typed in the names of the political groups I was concerned with and transfer all the found results to my desktop and manually count the results and filter the keywords that are consistent with these agents (political groups found). The second way of collected data was through a website called the Social Report. As per definition and explanation, the “Social Report is a social network analytics solution that allows you to track your social network accounts just the same way you would track the performance of your websites. The best comparison would be to Google Website Analytics. Just like you can track visitors, time on site, keywords, geography and many other aspects of web performance there with Social Report you can track membership, demographics, interests, geography, education, employment and many other aspects of your social space.” Data collected through this analytics were thus exported to my data basis and analyzed accordingly.
The main criterion in this study was based on chosen Facebook groups linked to or have any association to Lebanese political parties. Since “qualitative methods are particularly useful for revealing the rich symbolic world that underlies needs, desires, meanings and choice (Kozinets, 2002),” and to ensure the quality of information provided, I made sure these groups are not limited to ones found in my personal Facebook network. Subscribers found in Facebook groups belonging to few major political groups/parties (ex. Lebanese Forces, al-Tayyar al-Watani al-Hurr, Amal, Hizbullah, and Kataeb) were recruited on a random basis irrespective of aspects such as gender, occupation, and age. Data collected have thus examined the impact of social networking via communication technology on people actively participating in such social networks. Graphs and tables exposed in the following chapters show the results and analysis based on the main argument of my thesis to show that the empowerment of such innovative technologies does provide a framework for inter-state social networking between individuals with political ties to a community engage in political trans-national relations and activities.

3.3 Conclusion

Among other online social networks, Facebook stands out due to its high membership level and quality of information provided. Facebook is useful to researchers due to its impact on the behavior of users and the advantages and risks it offers (Acquisti & Ralph 2006). Just like other social networks, Facebook is Web-based and provides ways in which users can connect with one another via the internet. To the many users, it has granted them an opportunity to broaden their horizons and to get acquainted with other cultures (Ralph, 2006). This technology has in turn had an influence on individual’s culture and distinctiveness.
In an online environment, facebook users are driven to the site to employ their influence, ignite their curiosity, and seek adventure as they communicate and learn from their networks. In this interactive experience users have been able to share more than ever before, and will continue to improve online communications by making online identities more intertwined and reflective of real-life relationships.

The methodology in this study was based on Corbin and Strauss’ (1990) redefined steps of grounded theory. Grounded theory is a “well-developed research method explicated in 1967 to provide a theoretical explanation of social phenomena collected in qualitative research.” As described by Corbin and Strauss (1990) “analysis is necessary from the start because it is used to direct the next interview and observations.” Concepts, categories, and propositions are the three basic elements of grounded theory explained by Corbin and Strauss. Concepts are “the basic units of analysis” in which theory is developed. Categories, as defined by Corbin and Strauss Categories are the ”cornerstones” of developing theory. They provide the means by which the theory can be integrated. Categories are more abstract than the concepts they represent the third element of grounded theory are propositions, which indicate generalized relationships between a category and its concepts and between discrete categories. Another term that may be used for preposition is Hypothesis. A slight difference is that propositions involve conceptual relationships whereas hypotheses require measured relationships (Corbin & Strauss, 1990).

The sample of this research nevertheless was and will always be subject to change due to more groups formed and other groups closing down due to political events occurring and others coming to an end. However, more or less these slight changes do not dramatically affect the net result of my findings. Also, the time
restraint of this project was a limitation to the amount of data that could be collected and analyzed in this study.
CHAPTER FOUR
FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

4.1 **Trans-Nationalism and the Use of Inter-State Social Networking**

Trans-nationalism is a concept that has emerged out of the increased interconnectivity between people from diverse regions across the globe. Economic trans-nationalism otherwise termed as globalization involves aspects such as wireless communication where operations are organized in the most effective way irrespective of social and political borders. The main aim of trans-nationalism is to facilitate the flow of ideas and commodities between people from different locations. Technology advanced at a rate seemingly impossible following the Second World War, with many countries in Southeast Asia dashing forward, with those who hesitated having been left behind. Those countries that have chosen to participate in the process of globalization have realized a rise in income alongside a general shift from agrarian to urban societies. The interconnectivity of countries through commerce and trade brings about advanced developments in regards to political relations as well due to the inter-dependence established between economies.

Just like trans-nationalism, inter-state social networking also involves engaging in relationships and activities with different cultures. This chapter will study Trans-nationalism and the use of inter-state social networking in the context of social media and more particularly the engagement of Lebanese Diaspora in homeland politics through the facebook network.

4.2 **Lebanese Politics in Diaspora**
Starting with a brief summary of Lebanon’s main political groups, the Lebanese Government Post-Doha Agreement has been structured as follows due to the 1943 National Pact, which has ended with an unwritten agreement. Under this pact it has been agreed that the President must be Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister Sunni Muslim and the Speaker of the House Shia’ Muslim. Lebanon in a modern sense comprises 18 officially recognized sects, or religious groups. Though fellow citizens unified in a state, these 18 separate groups were never unified as a nation.

In Benedict Anderson’s imagined communities the feelings of nationalism or patriotism come from imagining one’s national group as being a distinct community. Even in small states like Lebanon, no citizen could ever meet the rest of their fellow citizens, but they may nonetheless claim to share a primordial bond with them (Anderson, 1983). Though nationalism may be all in the mind, it may at least benefit the people by, for instance, presenting a unified front in the of external aggression. However, in Lebanon, the imagined community was not Lebanon itself but one’s own sect. The Lebanese are ostensibly categorized along religious lines, but religion, in effect, was little more than a label of identity, like ethnicity.

Anderson illustrates the need for unifying moments with the tomb to the Unknown Soldier. To Anderson, Lebanon has not gone through any such impediment representative of modern nation states and nationalist culture (Anderson, 1983). Anderson says that a sense of journey together creates a “consciousness of connectedness” and makes nationalists feel like “traveling companions” (Anderson, 1983). The Lebanese never felt this way before Lebanon’s independence, or in the barely three decades journeying together afterward. From the beginning, they would be kept apart from each other. The founding pact that
created Lebanon was made behind closed doors by a small collection of confessional elites.

The National Pact or National Covenant was an agreement between the leaders of Lebanon’s two biggest confessions, the Maronite Christians and the Sunni Muslims (Petran, 1987). The Pact emphasized Lebanon’s independence and neutrality, so that Muslims would put away any thoughts they may have had of reuniting with Syria, and Christians would not try to separate or forge special ties with France, their erstwhile colonial protector (Petran, 1987). Allotment of parliamentary seats would be split between Christians and Muslims along six to five ratios. This ratio was based partly on the supposed relative number of Christians to Muslims in Lebanon, but at least as much on Christians’ “perennial fear of losing a Christian homeland (Goria, 1985).”

Transnationalism comes about after nationalism and the nation-states become a second priority. Putting a decade of international cooperation on fast forward, State nationalism will fade and give way to a “de-territorialized” nationalism, with cooperation ensured through organizations such as the World Trade Organization, which interlaces countries not in regards to their national pride, but universal desire to make money and increase the bottom line. Likewise, we have international organizations such as the Arab League, the NATO, European Union, and the United Nations etc. whose function is to allow such cooperation available across borders of a state. Trans-nationalism establishes new power relationships with states engaged in the process of globalization through economy and culture. Transnational nationalism will challenge the aged and establishes historical notions of both territory and national boundaries. As nations are drawn closer to one another, the equity of both cost and benefit will come about, reducing the advantage
of one country over another in favor of a more global situation of equality. The group of figures below shows some country activity of 996 users connected through the Lebanon facebook network. Further details about their integration will be discussed in following sections.

**FIGURE 4 USER’S COUNTRY ACTIVITY THROUGH LEBANON NETWORK**

The term Diaspora has been common in the last decade because it encompasses the aspects of current social belonging (Sheffer, 2003). The Diaspora social relations formed are because of displacement from home. In the contemporary society, the term Diaspora entails the need for an individual to return home but is unable due to aspects such as politics or history. Lebanese Diaspora entails all
diverse senses of exile and it was brought into existence because of dislocation of people due to the nation’s wars. The Diaspora experience of the Lebanese therefore is the outcome of displacement and demolition of social worlds (Nahas & Tabar, 2010).

The refugees experience a sense of loss of culture ad identity with the past and these aspects are being shaped by the impacts of globalization. The loss of culture and identity is not just across generations but within age brackets as well. The experience of social change because of globalization makes renewal of ethnicity problematic. Social continuity is being perceived as the foundation of identity hence these occurrences are being celebrated as de-territorialization or rather exile. Individuals are being categorized with regard to which social groups in which they find themselves.

Through my conducted research, taking the Lebanese Politics Diaspora as such, ascertainably, diffusion of culture or national identity through social-networking has been facilitated by people’s desire to utilize diverse tools in communicating or collaborating in global organization framework. From the advanced theory, ethnicity and race plays an indispensable role in connection decisions made by various users. Certainly, people in Diaspora will tend to connect with their colleagues via particular Social Networks regardless of geographical or political boundaries imposed by any country’s leadership.

4.3 Lebanon in Two Camps

4.3.1 March 8

After the assassination of Rafik Hariri on 14 February 2005, frequent political protests called for an end to the Syrian presence in Lebanon. These protests occurred primarily because sections of the Lebanese population deemed the Syrian
government directly responsible for the assassination of Hariri. On the other hand, in response to these protests, Hezbollah organized a mass political rally on March 8 thanking Syrian support of the resistance, Hezbollah, and their opposition of UN resolution 1559; the resolution calls for disarming all armed groups in Lebanon. Those who participated in the March 8 movement generally have strong links with Syria and/or Iran (Deen, 2009). The main members of the March 8 Alliance are:

- Amal Movement
- Hezbollah
- Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party (SSNP)
- Marada Movement
- Lebanese Democratic Party (LDP)
- The Free Patriotic Movement (FPM)
- Progressive Socialist Party (PSP)

General Michel Aoun, the leader of the FPM, did not return from exile until May 2005 but was supportive of the March 14 rally. Disagreements between Michel Aoun and parties that formed the March 14 Alliance regarding the allocation of potential seats among the FPM, PSP and Lebanese Forces in the Ba’abda-‘Aley constituency resulted in the FPM shifting their political alliances. Subsequently, Aoun aligned with parties from the March 8 alliance, while also maintaining autonomy from it. The Armenian Tashnak party is also a strong ally of the FPM (Deen, 2009).

4.3.1 March 14

The March 14 alliance is a coalition of parties that formed after the assassination of former President Rafik Hariri on 14 February 2005. On March 14, 2005, a huge protest was led by the Future Movement, and son of Rafik Hariri, Saad Hariri; the protest called for an international inquiry into Hariri’s murder, a complete withdrawal by Syria in line with UN resolution 1559 and the firing of Syrian-backed security chiefs in the Lebanese government. The March 14 alliance also calls for the
full implementation of UN resolution 1701, issued after the July 2006 war that calls for the “…disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon.” Those in the March 14 alliance generally have strong links with the US and Europe; the Future Movement has particularly strong links with Saudi Arabia (Deen, 2009). The members of the March 14 alliance are:

- Future Movement
- Lebanese Forces (LF)
- Kataeb Party
- Democratic Renewal Party
- Democratic Left Movement

4.4 Analysis of Results

A Facebook feature that has yet to obtain scholarly study is the groups feature. My statistics are based on the search for groups on facebook related to some Lebanese political parties. Thus agents of this study are several Lebanese political parties that have been monitored and analyzed through detecting certain keywords. The below table shows how I have labeled these agents and created a set of keywords that I used as key indicators in order to optimize my search for the Lebanese political groups created on facebook.

**TABLE 1 AGENTS MONITORED ON FACEBOOK PAGES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Keywords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Patriotic Movement</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>pages, groups, free patriotic movement, Michel Aoun, fans, politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hezbollah</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>politics, groups, pages, fans, hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanese Forces</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>politics, groups, pages, fans, lebanese forces, Samir Geagea,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amal Movement</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>politics, groups, pages, fans, amal movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Movement</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>fans, politics, groups, pages, Future Movement, Saad Hariri,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kataeb</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>politics, groups, pages, fans, kataeb, Amin Gemayel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive Socialist</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>pages, groups, fans, Progressive Socialist, wald jumblatt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The below diagram shows the monthly appearances and daily activity of some political parties found on Facebook pages, groups, wall posts, and fans. According to Metcalf’s Law, the utility of a network is equal to the square of the number of users (O’Hara & Stevens, 2006, pp. 38-9). In simpler words, the more users that a network has, the more useful it is.

### TABLE 2 MONTHLY OCCURRENCES OF POLITICAL AGENTS FOUND ON FACEBOOK

The “Groups” feature found in Facebook lets you create instant private or public spaces for your friends, co-workers, fellow hobbyists, organizations, and what have you to bundle into packs. Through such “groups” you get to form your own communications networks and as a result, you are able to collaborate and communicate more effectively. Groups feature in its old design had categories to help serve the purpose of creation, new groups created under the new design has somehow changed.
In its new design, there are three types of Facebook Groups. Closed (default setting), meaning only the people invited by the group members can join. Secret, meaning no one but the people in the group can see it, and finally open, in which case anyone feeling like it can join the group and start posting. This was made to add privacy to users’ preferences. Prior to this feature, individuals would either be invited by administrators, directly join if they wish to, or in some cases, request a group’s administrator to join.

As Facebook has been used to articulate the activities of various interest groups, it makes sense that national aspirations are also articulated as part of the nation-building process. Monitoring the Facebook pages we find the Lebanese Forces political party has 726 groups found on this social networking site. Different groups sharing the same affiliation to that particular political party joined a group different from another group depending on the interest. Categories of interest varied from Music and Entertainment to Politics and Business. Members of these groups are not located only in Lebanese boundaries. The following diagrams show two major political parties group’s availability.

**FIGURE 5 LEBANESE FORCES GROUPS FOUND ON FACEBOOK**

![Bar Chart: Lebanese Forces Groups on Facebook](chart.png)

Other political parties have also been measured on the same basis as we see further on in my discussion Benedict Anderson noted in his "imagined
“communities” that nationality, nation-ness, and nationalism, are political artifacts of a particular kind (Anderson, 2006). He argues that the creation of these artifacts towards the end of the eighteenth century was the spontaneous distillation of a complex ‘crossing’ of discrete historical forces; but that, once created, they became ‘modular,’ capable of being transplanted, with varying degrees of self-consciousness, to a great variety of social terrains, to merge and be merged with a correspondingly wide variety of political and ideological constellations (Anderson, 2006). In order to address these problems Anderson defines Nation as an imagined political community that is imagined both inherently limited and sovereign.

We can summarize the conclusions to be drawn far thus by saying that media technologies represent an important role in shaping the national consciousness, generated through facebook and newspapers that share a common language. This is driven from his argument that “the convergence of capitalism and print technology on the fatal diversity of human language created the possibility of a new form of imagined community, which in its basic morphology set the stage for the modern nation. The potential stretch of these communities was inherently limited, and, at the same time, bore none but the most fortuitous relationship to existing political boundaries, which were, on the whole, the high-water marks of dynastic expansionisms (Anderson, 2006).”

A contemporary look at this emerges with the increasing use of the Internet. In addition to communicating between each other, Diaspora communities use the Internet, to present the successes in the history of their community, artistic efforts, scientific achievements, language learning, encouraging demonstrations and campaigns, writing letters on issues that are important for the community (Gillespie, 2000).
Modern communication technologies strengthen Diaspora identification and connections, whether they are based on real or symbolic connections around certain popular political products (Meden, 2009). As we seen in the two graphs these groups are not only adding up for purposes of politics but also for means of businesses associations and socializing with other people sharing same political integration.

**FIGURE 6 FUTURE MOVEMENT GROUPS FOUND ON FACEBOOK**

![Graph showing groups found on Facebook](image)

Popular culture in the postmodern era is a self-relating formation and is subject to its own recycling. In addition, if so, then we can deduce the position of the individual and the development of his identity at this time. Identity is no longer a homogeneous whole, but is a set of different identities, which are the product of different relations in everyday life (Meden, 2009). Political identity addresses us, that the question of who we are or from where we are coming is not so important, as the question of what we can become, how we have been represented, or how we would like to represent ourselves (Meden, 2009). The table below shows groups found in different countries belonging to the same political ideology they follow back in their homeland. By typing in the specified labeled agent in the search box that is found on facebook, a large amount of created groups with the optimized searched label appears. Taking these groups and manually recording data found I
have managed to create a database of the Lebanese political groups that were found active on facebook. Some titles of such groups include:

Figure 7 SAMPLE OF LEBANESE FORCES GROUPS FOUND ON FACEBOOK SEARCH

Further to my data collection and record keeping. These groups that were found either stated where the group was created or the country was stated in the title of the group’s name. Below is a table that shows the countries of which the Lebanese forces groups have been created.
### TABLE 3 GROUPS AFFILIATED WITH LEBANESE FORCES CREATED ACROSS THE WORLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lebanese Forces Group Location Identified Outside Lebanon</th>
<th>Number of Members in each Group Found</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
<td>16 members 10 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>12 members 48 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>4 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode island</td>
<td>40 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
<td>10 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>59 members 47 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>12 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>21 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>64 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>53 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>186 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>154 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>16 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>73 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>108 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>137 members 102 members 8 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>146 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>100 members 15 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>16 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>252 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>42 members 97 members 74 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>25 members 77 members 207 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>103 members 25 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavia</td>
<td>14 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bologna</td>
<td>88 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>84 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>87 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>11 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSA</td>
<td>13 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>112 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>106 members 14 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>22 members 14 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>42 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>42 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In The World</td>
<td>2,777 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abroad</td>
<td>669 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign countries</td>
<td>57 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>1,298 members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on tracking 1000-1050 users interconnected with one same user in at least one common network (i.e. university network) and at least a common friend, a geographical report had been analyzed to show a summary of the most reported activities and connections available along trans-national borders. With the help of the Social Report website, a social analytics that allows you to track your social network accounts, the following report has been analyzed and with a range of tools to help with reporting, conversion tracking as well as with semantic analysis of the selected social network data.

Following the country activity of these 1000 users connected or linked to Lebanon network, the geographical analysis reported the highest percentage with 53% of users Country activity to be in Lebanon. Furthermore, in order to have a better idea about the characteristics that presents those 1000 users under study, I have included the subsequent details comprising subcategories that describe the general culture of these users through pie charts to help see how they are classified in terms of gender, age, marital status, and name origin.
Figure 8 1000 FACEBOOK USERS CONNECTION AND ENGAGEMENT THROUGH 1 COMMON USER HAVING ATLEAST 1 COMMON FRIEND AND ONE COMMON CONNECTION

GEOGRAPHIC REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2006 - MAY 23, 2011

SUMMARY
You have engaged audience in 32 countries, 5 continents, speaking 24 different languages. Most active countries are Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United States. Most frequently spoken languages are Arabic, Persian, German. Most active cities are Beirut, Tyre, Jeddah. Most active states are California, New York, Michigan.

WORLD ACTIVITY

UNITED STATES STATE ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Lebanon</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nablus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Palestine</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janesville Township</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 9 GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MONITORED USERS

As the chart shows, the general characteristics that were recorded in this research on Facebook users that Lebanese network, 16% have claimed politics as an interest on their profile.

This study employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches to develop an in-depth exploration of a social networking community website to investigate if social and political identity of its members was fostered. Facebook website was determined to be my main social network under study to draw links of how people across transnational borders tend to stay in touch with others from their homelands. Five-hundred-sixty-six friends that were connected to at least one group associated with a Lebanese political party were monitored through personal Facebook accounts. Eight-hundred-ten posts were tracked through these Lebanese political party agents. Not only that these users want to stay connected to family and friends but also, results of my study shows how these people politically interact and share ideas that are directly linked to local events occurring in their country of origin or share
political views relatively connected to the community or communities they belong to. Through the framework of this study we trace how people across transnational borders develop sense of belonging, build relationships, and online communities that foster social and political identity of which it represents their real life communities and form of identity.

Analyzing the content of messages found on wall posts of pages, groups, and individual walls clearly showed that community members facilitate this bond of identity mainly the political bond through building informal social and political interactions that may or may not lead to political change depending on the event of discussion or topic of discourse. Most popular trends traced are organized in the following chart. Following these charts I have included Lebanese country activity chart under which these trends are mostly active.

**FIGURE 10 TRENDS IN 810 POSTS OF 566 USERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trends</th>
<th>Posts Found</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>War Conflict</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Medicine Pharma</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Internet</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Accident</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality Recreation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Interest</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion Belief</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Issues</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Finance</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment Culture</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Crime</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of post out of a total of 810 posts**
Below are examples that show some posts falling under selected trends found.

**FIGURE 11 POSTS TRENDING ON FACEBOOK PAGES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entertainment Culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HaHa love it! <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline">Link</a> on May 9, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guys we entered a photo competition and if we win we will sell the prize and donate the money to St. Jude CHILDREN CANCER CENTER-LEBANON: Please like the page then the photo of Ali Haidar and Sandra Jay Atweh <a href="http://www.facebook.com/AUBFreedomClubPhoto">Link</a> on May 9, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manal a 32-year-old women is planning something she's never done openly in her native Saudi Arabia: Get in her car and take to the streets defying a ban on female drivers in the kingdom [Link] on May 29, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War Conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the 15th of May every year Palestinians and the whole world remember how it all started. How the Israelis ethnic cleansing of a people and the destruction of their homes [Link] on May 10, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Electronic Intifada has produced this interactive map that allows you to see information about any of the more than 400 Palestinian cities towns and villages that have been occupied order suppressed and destroyed during the Intifada--the ethnic cleansing of Palestine by Zionists and later Israeli forces from late 1947 into 1 [Link] on May 15, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All I can think of now is Iraq- where a dictator exhausted occupation-exhausted peoples suffer- how different would the Arab world be had the revolution started there [Link] on May 14, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I hate it how advertising agencies Arab and especially Lebanese- are starting to hijack the popular this is a crime- how dare they [Link] on May 10, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whenver there is injustice there are people fighting it with every possible means. We have seen it so many times before: the oppressed rise up the oppress [Link] on May 15, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While the ENTIRE WORLD is CRITICIZING Obama for not being harsh enough in criticism and sanctions on the Syrian Regime- there are daily demonstrations in front of the American Embassy shouting What on earth is this? What's this vulgarity [Link] on May 14, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting Yes on referendum linked to Alzheimer's Disease believed to be behind attraction of some to constitutional amendments [Features Written by [Link] on May 13, 2011 - 16:13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42
Just like many others Middle East states, Lebanon was founded in the 1920s amidst the fall of the Ottoman Empire during World War I. Lebanon’s strategic location in the Mediterranean coast has been seen to act like a bridge between the Arab world and the western world. According to Sorenson (2010), in 1990, patron client relationships within isolated community structures have determined the organization of the public life in Lebanon (Sorenson, 2010). In 1926 the constitution allowed representation in government to follow the main confessional lines of the state major communities namely; Shi’a, Sunni, Maronites, Druzes, Greek Catholic, and Greek Orthodox. The civil war of 1975-1990, saw millions of her citizens driven out of the country. The war resulted from socioeconomic injustices, which grew rapidly during the era and the imbalance in the sectarian representation in administrative and political fronts. The fragmentation was in no way just Christian-Muslims split, but also included other different sects within the two religions. The Ta’if Agreement brought the country to peace officially in late 1989. The agreement called for the abolishment of political confessionalism.

Despite this, the destabilized centralized Lebanese government has proven its incapability of changing its traditional system of patronage. This is evident by the fact that, former insurgent leaders, in recent times have resumed their political endeavors in government following imprisonment for their prior crimes. Because of incessant migration currents, lately Lebanon’s social fabric is not replicated in the geographical proximities, but its dimensions covers almost all continents around the globe. It has been reported that the number of Lebanese in the Diaspora could be in hundreds of thousands to millions but no official figures are available since the country has not had a census since 1936. This is in the interest of political stability bearing in mind the sectarian distribution.
The “push-pull framework” has been majorly attributed with the migration patterns drawn in Lebanon. In 2006, Shaery-Eisenlohr postulated three premises that have supported these migration patterns they are; affinity, information and facilitation hypothesis (Shaery-Eisenlohr, 2008). The social network perspective has been proved fruitful in a variety of context of social science to have the capacity to establish links between individuals, groups, as well as structures. According to Labaki in 1990, various characteristics bring people together and they include; political ideologies, ethnicity, age, gender among others. It has been documented that the extended family is the main source of set of connections for political survival of individuals in Lebanon (Labaki, 1990). The social networks are and have continued to play a key role in linking Lebanese residence with their transnational emigrants and the reverse is true.

On the political front various Diaspora network with homeland exist and they include; overseas branches of main political parties and movement, political media and lobbying groups among others. Transnational political practices are live in Lebanon and they play key role in shaping the politics of the country. From the time in memorial, which dates back to the Ottoman era, the Diaspora has played a key role in seeing a free and independent Lebanon. This has been through lobbying international bodies and government allies (Bauböck & Faist 157). Among the key organization in Diaspora with political interest in Lebanon are; the American Lebanese league, the American task force for Lebanese, the Association Franco-libanaise in France and Confederação das Entidades Líbano-Brasileiras in Brazil among others. The Lebanese Diaspora is diverse in political view. That notwithstanding, many Lebanese emigrants of great influence have utilized their status in social and political power to persuade parliaments, senators and presidents
worldwide to support Lebanese sovereignty. For example though political lobbying in their host countries, societies and before international organization the Lebanese Diaspora managed to get the Canadian parliament and the US congress in the adoption of a resolution by the UN Security Council, which subsequent saw a declaration by the Amnesty International in support of the Lebanese and the autonomy of Lebanon.

Substantially, the magnitude of the Diaspora influence and impact on the politics of Lebanon, by 2005 the percentage of migrants in the Lebanese parliament stood at 19.53% and by 2007 one out of five Lebanese deputies was at one time a migrant (Labaki,2006.) These figures are very likely to rise as political changes continue to be a frontier by the Diaspora. Taking a few steps back to the event that transpired after the 2009 parliamentary elections in Lebanon, one cannot neglect the role that the multimedia social networks played in shaping the politics of Lebanese people opinions. It is apparent that, more than ever before the Lebanese people are using audio file, text and video sharing technology and social networks like facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, to voice their views. This has seen political enemies weakened and preferred political cronies embraced, giving them head start or outright advantage in the political arena in Lebanon.

Just a few lines of ideological comment or a short video footage can morph into a massive political ideology or scandal in no time. Despite the advantages of these social networks a malicious video or comment can constitute electoral foul play, which can be used against political enemies. An example is in the incident that made headline in Lebanon in June of 2009 where a leaked voice recording of member of parliament Michel al-Murr which was aired on pro-Free Patriotic Movement, OTV where the MP revealed damaging information on the night before
the 2009 parliamentary elections among others. The rise of the electronic social network in Lebanon has seen the shift of the political revelation en route for online multimedia (Sorenson, 2010, p. 165).

In November 1991 President George Bush involved a group of Arab-American leaders in the intervention and promotion of peace in the Arab world. The other aspect of transnationalism networking is through remittance. World Bank in 2010 estimated that the Lebanese Diaspora remittances totaled a whopping 8.2 billion US dollars. Some of this money has been used to finance political activities such as political rallies, campaign, and hosting of websites all aimed at influencing or affirming political ideologies in Lebanon (Sorenson, 2010, p. 171). Hence, the remittances have made tremendous impact on the political field. The Lebanese-Trans-nationalism social network shows that Lebanese in the Diaspora some of whom have resided out of their home nation for generation still maintain strong identification with their native country in terms of political and personal identity.

The Lebanese Diaspora varies in characteristics and outlines that is, the well-educated and economically endowed political organization leader to average Lebanese commoners. The political organizations in the Diaspora have strong linkage and policy to political parties in Lebanon, this tends to convey and reproduce the sectarian division in their homeland. However, the economic initiatives tend to overpass the political divide. Diaspora members act as political ambassadors of their home countries in host nations. In 2009, Lebanon had close to a million internet users (Shaery-Eisenlohr, p. 25). This is an indicator that social networking is thriving, since its embracement by the Lebanese from year 2005. Hence, the political arena in terms of sharing of opinion will be centered on this interface. It is also important to note that this channel can prove lethal on individual
basis as described above in the case of Michel al-Murr. That withstanding, Transnationalism concept should be embraced as it has brought more good than bad to Lebanon.

From the shown social network history, it is evident that the revolution in Lebanon was not an overnight activity but a process that has taken many years to plan and degenerate. Perhaps due to the aggression in people that was used to insight more members to join these groups. The presented country distribution of social network users indicates the majority of users are located in Beirut and Tyre at 56% and 28% respectively.

Beirut being the capital city of Lebanon as expected has an extensive coverage in technologies probably enhanced by a rich political and expertise mix from the entire country. Facebook as a social network finds its members through peer influence and from people with the same strategies and aims. As the data show, facebook members in Beirut must have joined not for socialization but to meet a common end. Beirut as a city has a rich base of professionals, being a home to
several universities that channel out many graduates annually. Universities help students not only to be enlightened in academic issues, but also enabling them to perceive political, social, religious and political dynamics in a more critical and informed manner. These factors according to the findings played a major role in the revolution that had its genesis in Beirut.

As well known, the call for political revolution in Lebanon was after the success of the same unrests in Egypt a close neighbor of Lebanon. Though the groups have been in existence for several years, the success of the revolution in Egypt might have worked perfectly as the catalyst the Lebanese social groups required to roll out their strategies. The data portrays few aspects that are clear; most of the members in the revolutionary groups were university students mostly affiliated to American universities. These are American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University having 108 and 64 members respectively. In addition, most of the members in top areas of study were from political science and marketing, finance, and international affairs respectively.

Table 4 top schools attended by monitored users and their areas of study
One aspect that is evident from the information is that, the four areas of study might be defined as liberal disciplines. Political science students were the majority as the study enlightens students concerning political systems and their respective benefits. This might have made the students to form social groups in advocacy of a political system that might be obviously different from the conservative political system. The same case applies to finance and marketing, which are liberal fields in the sense that they advocate for independence in decision making concerning markets and financial systems. The fact that American related universities had more members in these social groups might be because America as the largest democracy in its political science studies advocates for countries being democratic. In fact, most of the top schools attended are affiliated to foreign countries, which reflect their inclination to governance. This was the largest impetus to students in forming the social groups. The groups have suggestive names such as Lebanese Forces Organization, Lebanese Forces Common Interest and others. These names are indicative of the intentions and objectives of the specific groups; to liberate Lebanon from the conservative leadership. The social groups the future movement and Lebanese movement; further portray a common plan that uses facebook as a communication route to strategize a common goal.

The data shows that organizations and common interest groups had the largest following in both groups. Normally, facebook is used for fun and entertainment by the young people or to communicate to young people. Surprisingly, the data shows that in Lebanon, entertainment and fun are among the least interest groups members recorded. This indicates that group members registered in facebook to conceal their secret operations in a forum that could not
raise alarm or suspicion. The innovation in this case was to form groups similar to fun groups found in common facebook fans and from this camouflaging, the members were able to spread their ideologies. Most members of these groups as the data shows either reside or study in the US. These members were the catalyst behind the rapid spread of the liberal ideology. This is evident from the comments posted by a member of one of the groups, who explains that he loved the spirit of the Middle East protest. From facebook those Lebanese in Diaspora launched campaigns to help those affected by the upraising. These campaigns were responsible for making Lebanese in Diaspora to join for the course of revolution or help the affected people while encouraging them to push on.

4.5 Summary and Further Implications

The Lebanese integration in this social network has been motivated by the success of the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia. These revolutions were a revelation to many Lebanese, mostly in the Diaspora who joined groups for a common course; to liberate Lebanon. Facebook was used to conceal the policies of these groups. In addition, facebook was used to incite others to join the revolution that students and other young professionals seem to be the leading brains. As the data indicates, facebook is not a social site for entertainment and fun, but the ideal avenue to plan a liberal movement that the groups believed could be done, similar to the ones in Tunisia and Egypt.

To measure consistency of my study and to omit possible faulty data estimation the same process has been repeated few months later. Similar results have been reached with an updated increase in amounts of participation. This in turn shows the similarity in relevant proportionality of the results found. The wall of silence in Tunisia waged the freedom of expression in general and the internet in
particular creating a new wave of “Webvolution.” After weeks of demonstrations that recorded a number of causalities, on the evening of 13 January President Ben Ali finally stepped down. Notes (blog), games, chat, joining fan pages, starting groups, posting statuses, writing on other’s walls and other cyber-activities started to display flags and comments of political interest replacing the pictures of internet users and dominating material posted on their walls. Although some of these social network sites were censored, once this censorship was released, videos circulated, and thousands of thoughts started to voice out, using all the means available to them. Inspired by the Tunisian blast, motivated by the people’s desire for change, the revolution we have witnessed in Tunisia was followed by a larger wave of revolutionary acts in Egypt. The Egyptian revolution showed how the internet and social media specifically, threatens government and facilitates social change.

The current status of the Middle East, with its numerous protests and demonstrations, can be directly attributed to the authoritarian style of government that has dominated the region for the past 50 years since the opening of the Cold War. The regimes of the area have depended on the use of violence toward their own people, and implementation of draconian laws to keep the populace under control. However, the protests themselves are not a new phenomenon; over the past decades, there have been a multitude of demonstrations, with each one either having little actual results or being crushed by the government forces sent to quell them.

Over the course of the past decade, there have been a wide number of attempts to bring peace and democracy with limited results. With the advent of mass communication and the internet, the people of these countries, especially young professionals and college students, have been successful at organizing demonstrations and protests much more effectively than was previously possible.
Taking this wave starting from Tunisia, in response to numerous government abuses, and quickly spreading throughout the region affecting other neighboring countries, the protests are remarkable because of the variety of both the reasons for them, and the countries in which they are taking place. The main causes of the demonstrations still are not fully understood, but range from lack of human rights, government abuses, freedom of speech, and the advocating of free and fair elections. The people of the Middle East are motivated by the government(s) responses to the protests, and have used the funerals of civilian victims as opportunities for additional demonstrations.

There is no single reason or meaning to the protests currently sweeping the Middle East, but instead they are the result of an “awakening” that has been simmering for generations. This “awakening” is an overall desire for less corruption, more freedom, and a more efficient equal distribution of wealth, in countries where governments have used corruption and violence as part of their political strategy for decades. It is appropriate though, that the people who may finally bring democracy and peace to the region will be the Middle Easterners themselves.

The protests in Middle East, or Arab Spring as it is called by many media networks, can be traced back to the Tunisian protests that began in December of 2010 and led to the overthrow of the Tunisian government. The protests that crippled Tunisia over the next month evolved from protests centered on police brutality and human rights, full-scale demonstrations that encapsulated a wide variety of discontent. Workers and labor union members began to organize expressing their displeasure at the current economic conditions and high cost of living, while other demonstrators joined to protest government censorship and
rampant corruption. The government response only exacerbated the current dilemma and helped to incite further demonstrations aimed at government officials.

The media failed to report on the events, but outrage quickly spread over social networking sites like facebook and through the uploading of images and videos over YouTube. This technology allowed the protestors and spectators to gain a following by exhibiting the violent police reaction to peaceful protestors. As the demonstrations gained support from all segments of Tunisian society, the President and leading government officials were compelled to placate the protestors and offering solutions, while still implementing heavy-handed tactics against those in the streets. After various attempts to restructure his existing cabinet and reorganize the government failed, Ben Ali announced that he would not be returning to office after his term expires in 2014. However, within days of this announcement Beni Ali fled the country along with his family and a small number of supporters.

The Egyptian revolution of 2011 drew direct inspiration from the Tunisian uprisings during the same period. This inspiration was primarily because of the fact that Tunisia is geographically close to Egypt, with a similar political background, and a government that was in many ways comparable to the government that ruled Tunisia for an extended period.

The Tunisian protests helped to serve as an inspiration to the Egyptian people, that the population of a country could be successful in the overthrow of a corrupt and authoritarian regime with enough support. The people of the country needed only to be motivated to accomplish the reforms and changes that they so desperately wanted. The spread videos documenting various cases of government abuses, as well as other evidence proving police brutality and torture has given credence to the alleged victims that have testified to abuses by the Mubarak regime.
Egyptian protests began with the self-immolation of various Egyptians, drawing inspiration from Tunisian Mohamed Bouazizi, in their bid to protest police brutality and corruption rampant within the Egyptian government. On January 17, exactly one month after the self-immolation of Boazizi, an Egyptian man burned himself on the front steps of the Egyptian parliament (Jones, 2011). By January 25, numerous groups had organized to protest National Police Day, an Egyptian public holiday (Jones, 2011). The opposition groups extended their protests to include requesting the resignation of various public officials, the institution of a minimum wage law, political change, and the lifting of the perpetual state of emergency. A variety of public figures and opposition groups joined in the protests and coordinated their efforts by utilizing social networking sites like facebook and Twitter. Within hours, large-scale protests spread from Tahrir Square in central Cairo to other major cities throughout Egypt, targeting both the Mubarak regime and various government institutions. The protestors focused on mainly non-violent activities and depended on the internet for most of their organizational needs. Within days of the first protests, the Egyptian government shut down internet access within the country and deployed the military to various “hotspots” in an attempt to regain control and bring order.

As the Mubarak era of Egypt, drew to a close protestors across Egypt organized themselves and called for a number of reforms to be implemented across the country. These reforms are aimed to counteract the human rights abuses, political freedoms, censorship, and other limitations imposed over the course of Hosni Mubarak’s 30-year rule (BBC News, 2011). Before the resignation of President Mubarak, the protestors organized once again in Tahrir Square to agree on a list of demands highlighting the changes they desire. The demands listed are in
some instances are very well thought out, and in others are highly unreasonable, given the current situation in Egypt. For example, the elimination and dismantling of a police force, without any type replacement would be disaster in terms of social order and public safety. A nation without an effective police force would most likely have rampant civil unrest and various challenges keeping social order. However, the list presented by the Tahrir Square protestors helps to give insight into the group, and what changes are motivating those demonstrating. The demands are separated into immediate reforms and later transitional reforms. These demands are not representative of all protestors at Tahrir Square but helps give a general overview of the demands requested.

Wael Khalid, a prominent Egyptian blogger, posting updates of the current events taking place in the country, posted the list on his blog in order to give the world a better understanding of what changes the demonstrators are attempting to institute within the new government. Some immediate opposition demands from the blog posted by Wael Khalid include the following:

1. President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak to resign
2. Emergency Law Cancelation
3. State Secret Service dismantlement
4. Official statement to be announced by Vice-President that he will not run in the next presidential elections
5. Dissolving the Parliament and Al-Shura Council
6. Releasing all the prisoners of January 25 demonstrators
7. Ending the curfew
8. Dismantling the university guards system
9. Referring officials responsible for the use of violence against the peaceful protesters to an investigation committee
10. Stopping the attack on protesters in government owned media through threats and calling protesters traitors, and ending the spread of hate against foreigners in the streets
11. Reimbursing losses during the curfew
12. Announcing the demands above on government television and radio
After the implementation of these immediate changes, the protestors requested that other changes be initiated to further aid in the transition to a democratic government (Amira, 2011). Again, Wael Khalid posted these demands on his blog as they were drafted by protestors at Tahrir Square. The demands listed by Khalid are as follows;

1. Drafting a new constitution
2. The right to set up newspapers and open television and radio stations without a prior permission
3. Putting the minimum wage of 1,200 Egyptian Pounds into effect
4. The right to set up political parties, by notification
5. The right to set up associations and unions, by notification
6. Achieving a real autonomy and independence for national newspapers and television and radio stations, through new legislation and the reformation of companies, establishments of ministries
7. Cancelling the national service in the police force
8. Ending the security clampdown on telecommunications and the internet

It is interesting to note that many of the demands developed by the Tahrir Square protesters serve to increase the personal freedoms of Egyptians, while implementing immediate changes throughout the government, and compensating those individuals affected by the protestors themselves (Amira, 2011.) This is important in that the protestors acknowledge that damage and losses were incurred by certain businesses in the area, and those business owners should be compensated due to the activities of the demonstrators themselves, but the protests should be viewed as a “necessary evil” needed to bring about change in a government entrenched in power since the early 1980s. The majority of the demands listed seek to completely dismantle the government policies and institutions of the Mubarak regime, while opening Egypt to both free speech and right to assemble. These changes can be seen in the request of implementation of trade unions, opposition newspapers, and various internet freedoms, that were the main form of communication used by demonstrators.
The reasons for the current rise in number of demonstrations are as numerous as the countries in which they are taking place. The governments in these countries have the same basic type of government across a wide spectrum. Some of these governments are more authoritarian than others are, but most depend on the suppression of dissent and formation of internal security forces, to hold the population in check. The countries of the Middle East have developed into kingdoms, socialist republics, sultanates, and even an Islamic republic in the case of Iran. The governments have different ideologies and a variety of institutions but maintain authority using armed forces, like the police and the military to keep order. The overthrow of various monarchies in the area, resulted in many situations where one absolute ruler was exchanged for another, sometimes more modern than the previous, but still operating under a similar system. These countries are notorious for their wide variety of abuses ranging from outright corruption, torture, and murder, to simple propaganda and carrot/ stick reward systems for loyal followers. This reward system was evident in the regime of the Baath party in Iraq under Saddaam Hussein where supporters were given rewards in exchange for loyalty while disloyalty and mistakes were met with severe repercussions. Until the invasion of US led troops in 2003, this system was entrenched in the Iraqi political arena. As the standard of living increases throughout the Middle East and the Arab world in general, the populations becoming further aware of the issues the world and what types of freedom people possess in other countries throughout the world. The utilization of mass media and the internet has allowed people to communicate thoughts, ideas, and experiences from a world away and an increasing number of people are aware of this. We are losing the “old world” where one standard of living will suffice in one particular region, while people in another area suffer and are treated as second class
citizens. We are quickly entering an era that will have a standard level of human respect and dignity that is the same from the Amazon Basin to the Himalayas, where every person deserves the same rights and freedoms, as well as the same level of respect. People should begin to believe to which certain freedoms are a basic human right that all people are entitled. The protests taking place throughout the Middle East are not protests toward a particular regime or individual, but instead a protest against the lack of rights and freedoms for people in those countries. The reasons for these protests are varied, but all consist of a respectable standard of living and a fair and open government. These people are simply trying to accomplish the same form of government and basic rights that those of us in the Western world have enjoyed for centuries.

These changes come at the cost of temporary stability in some cases but the freedom and democracy that is gained by the demonstrations are overwhelmingly more valuable than any price paid in the conflict. In many instances, individuals in the countries have sacrificed themselves through self-immolation to protest the current regime and make a statement about what is important. Since many individuals were even inspired by the sacrifices of others, this says a lot about the mindset present in these demonstrators. These people are saying through their act of self-sacrifice that they are giving themselves up toward a greater cause, no matter what the price is. The unbearable pain and agony, at least according to those protestors, is nothing compared to bringing personal freedom and democracy to their respective countries. These students, protestors, and others give themselves to further the goals and objectives of these opposition groups. They are becoming a martyr for a political cause rather than a religious conviction. In addition, with that
sacrifice and martyrdom they may be able to inspire others while continuing the progress of the opposition.

The protests that have affected the countries of the Middle East are not only limited to the countries of North Africa, however the variety of outcomes that have developed because of the protests are representative of the numerous possibilities of possible outcomes. Countries such as Syria, Iran, and Oman have seen major protests since the “Arab Spring” began in late 2010, and with a variety of different outcomes. Violence in Syria continues as government troops try to gain control of strategic areas, while limiting the protests taking place. The Syrian opposition parties have continued to strive for nonviolent demonstrations, while the government forces utilize more violent methods to put down the rebellion. Other countries like Oman have given the protestors numerous concessions while relatively few violent incidences occurred throughout the country. In the case of Oman the government agreed to a number of reforms aimed at giving the elected legislature more powers regarding the creation of laws, the granting of various economic concessions and the dismissal of unpopular ministers. These concessions and major government changes were granted to the population with relatively little bloodshed and the using non-violent protest methods. However, countries like Syria have implemented strict curfews, military operations, and the use of snipers after curfew in certain areas. The reaction of the government to the political demonstrations is in many instances just as important as the protests themselves. The strong-arm era of the Middle East is ending, and a new era of democracy and human rights is on the horizon. Governments that resist these changes may hold onto power for a few more years, or even a few more decades but regardless of the period, the outcome will undoubtedly be the same. Governments exist to serve the
people not vice versa. Either these authoritarian regimes change with the times and modify their style of government or the peoples will change the style of government themselves.

A very recent Facebook phenomenon has taken place in Lebanon while just about every Arab nation appears to want the same kind of results that Egypt and Tunisia have had from their protests organized on Facebook. In Lebanon a similar act has been active but this time it demands for change and not a revolution. This group was created under the title that calls for ending the nation’s so-called Confessional system of government, in which representatives of religious communities hold the highest political offices. Demands by Lebanese activists seem insignificant compared to what their counterparts in other Arab nations have been calling for (Cohen, 2011). Thousands of people of all ages marched from Beirut’s Daoura area to the city’s electricity ministry, demanding a secular Lebanon. As of its day of its creation the group have reached on May 17, 2011 total of (15107) members. In addition, from this date with its most recent update members of this group are planning a boycott on Thursday the 19. What results would that hold we shall see in the coming few days and measure the consequences of its development. The call for this boycott announces as follows “people please don’t judge on something didn't happen yet. What is going to happen on Thursday never happened before. In addition, what happened before was in the power of the leaders not from the civilians them self. Please give us a chance to prove to those who control the civilians that we can change what we want and have what we want from our rights.”

Tracking members interact on its wall posts; we can see that not all are physically located in Lebanon. This is one way to provide support to people who are relatives and to the ideology they believe in. New post modernity is emerging and
the signs are already present. It is evident that activities in most aspects are being conducted at a high speed for instance goods are being transported from one region of the world to the next in a split of a second. It is significant to note that this was not the case in the past. There is a great need for rapid access to information and technological innovations and social relations are producing an increasingly harmonized global space. It is becoming clear that time is gaining more power than space and with the current de-territorialized world, where an individual is no longer matters.

It is significant to understand that space can become problematic at the same time especially in cases where information provided results into an overload other accurate rational choices. Despite the many innovations, the actual world must still be engaged in the many transitions taking place. Globalization, business, and production are not only just about the rapid flows of information but how this exercise fits into the existing patterns of economic development. The economic geography of the world has been for a long time a product of globalization pressures according to system theorists (Korte, 2002).

In February 2005, Kamil Saqr exposed an important report, which includes a confrontation between both the supporters and opponents of Syrian Regime. In his report, Saqr announces Syrian president Bashar Al-Asad supporter’s rejection to calls of demonstration put forth by Syrian Regime opposition parties. Other supporters, on the other hand, see the importance to take such measures and further set dates for demonstrations to take place. Furthermore, Saqr points out certain pages created on facebook. Some of these pages call for protests in the Syrian capital, Damascus. Some of these page’s titles read, “The Syrian Day of Anger,” and “The Syrian Revolution.” Saqr also notes that some pages are the exact opposite;
some pages reject protest and praise the present Syrian president, Bashar Al-Asad. Such group page titles include, “Against the 5 February Sit in,” “Against the Syrian Day of Anger,” and “God Protect Syria.”

Noting the creators of the group called “the Syrian Day of Anger” said: “Our time is on 4 February after the Friday prayers which is our date with change. Participate with us in our peaceful demonstrations until our demands are met.” This group as Saqr adds, made an appeal to those whom it calls “the Free Syrians” abroad to demonstrate in front of the Syrian embassies in the countries they live in on the same day and same time in Jordan, Yemen, Turkey, Qatar, Iraq, Lebanon, London, the United States, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, France, Canada, Norway, and the Netherlands.

This trend is not only found in the Tunisian, Egyptian, Libyan, nor the Syrian case. This phenomenon is spread worldwide under many means. We see different groups carrying different headlines depending on their political stanza despite their physical absence in their homelands where the actual event is taking place. On Friday, February 4 2011, Yemen Times Online posts a report by Shatha Al-Harazi, “facebook and Twitter News” exposing how Yemenis turn to social networking sites to promote “Country-Wide” demonstrations. According to Shatha, “Yemenis have been paying more attention to social networking websites as country-wide demonstrations approach. More groups have been created for political purposes on facebook and Twitter, spreading invitations for Thursday’s demonstrations, whether for anti-government or pro-governments groups. A third grouping to protect public property and to stand against subversion has also appeared.” Political groups or means are not the only trend found active in social networking sites.
CHAPTER FIVE
CONCLUSION

5.1 Media Transformation and Culture

Culture is now enjoying the benefits that are posed by the media and it is even getting highly involved in the participatory aspect of the media. This has been facilitated by the transformation of technology in a manner that it allows its users to participate in the circulation of ideas (Orchard, 2002). This is an opportunity for the consumers where they can be able to get creative and produce their own content. Sites such as YouTube provide grounds for materials of such content where the users mainly upload videos that they have been able to make of themselves and give others an opportunity to view them (Livingstone, 2008). This access given to the consumers provides new opportunities for them especially since the transformation of technology has made it easier for them to upload materials. The availability of communities such as, facebook, flicker, and MySpace enable the users to easily post their content despite the fact that they might not have additional software but rather the internet browser only (Crisscrossed, 2009). This in turn has created a participatory culture from the consumers. Barriers that used to be existent such as money are no longer a problem as the technology provides cheaper ways that do not even consume the time of the users.

The consumers use this participatory aspect to enhance their culture and make sure it is maintained by sharing it with the rest of the users. This way the aspect of identity is respected and the political attributes are exercised through the same means. The involvement of the users in the creation project has created a new culture as well referred to as the participatory culture (Foley, 2008). According to professionals, the quality of media has been enhanced through this culture as the content of the product is tailored according to that with which the public aims to be
associated. Therefore, this stirs an environment of competition in the media houses as they compete to satisfy the consumers according to their expectations (Crisscrossed, 2009). This way the participatory culture has an influence on the social change and this is able to benefit them and their needs of maintaining their culture.

The participatory aspect has granted these effects a new side as the media is being used as a learning platform of other cultures and as an influencing one as well (Orchard, 2002). Therefore, cultures of different people are being kept alive by the social network sites making it rather advantageous (Crisscrossed, 2009). It is also a better way of reaching out to the young generation about their culture since their interests are influenced by technology.

In world-war II era, the diffusion of technologies such as radio, internet satellite and television consequently resulted in diverse exchange of political values. Even though linguistic barriers existed, the English language had globally dominated the scene. Today, through the emergence of globalization, nations have lost their geographical-boundaries as people sharing common ideologies exchange their views by social networking. For example, China known for closed-door policies on culture and information is by threat of transformation as global village players conduct various economic activities within its boundaries. Based on this tenet, globalization through social networking will definitely affect the flow of culture resulting in transformation of national-identity and politics of the country. The major change is in the magnification and abundance of the media circuits for information, as well as in the logics of personalization for each consumer’s habits and preferences.
Internet freedom has become part of mainstream media discourse because of several things that have happened in the past two years, and one that has happened in the past few days, all of which have caused us to question the nature of what “net neutrality” and “internet freedom” mean (Roper, 2011).

5.2 **Political Identity in Social Networks**

Very popular social platforms, like Twitter or facebook, connecting networks of individuals, are inspiring examples about the extent to which the future of the media will be around a one-man social scenario of wired individuals in a network. The readers, formerly known as information consumers, are now invited to act as citizen journalists, critics, analysts, and protestors who freely comment and discuss the day’s agenda in the media. Typing in "Lebanese politics" into the facebook search bar produces an overwhelming 289 groups, the majority of which express fatigue and dissatisfaction with the country's political issues. Groups titled "No Politics ... No Religion ... Just Lebanese," "I hate Lebanese Politics," and "Lebanese Against Politics," are just a few examples (Lowry, 2008).

Lebanon's political divisions are manifesting themselves of the streets and on to the Internet. Facebook has become a host to a diverse politically oriented groups, of which reflect the country's many factions and complex make-up developing competition between supporters of the March 14 and March 8 camps to see which political bloc has the most followers and so forth. Groups, titled "Government vs. Opposition - The race to 100,000", "The 14 March Movement" and 100s of other groups are created facebook as a means to competition, as means of representations, and as means that aim on proving which side has a majority in Lebanon. Other groups participating in the competition were created "for the neutral persons who feel neither group meets their vision of Lebanon"
Barriers to communication are encountered by immigrating individuals. Therefore, they look for social connections to overcome these barriers. Social networking environments become a common environment for social connections for immigrants because they help individuals feel like they belong to a group through the sharing of similar backgrounds. Despite the lack of -to- interaction, users will engage through social space and develop a sense of belonging under which members share with and support their fellow community member in another. A personalized dynamic interactive social space is created online that reflects political, national, and traditional trends these communities create.

The social network sites are being used to maintain the political identity of the people. This is not the only reason behind uses of social networks. However, there has been the emerging concept of maintaining the national aspect as well. This has led to the emergence of political boundaries that have traced the political aspects of identity. Both factors national identity and political identity give an individual a sense of belonging and are viewed to be extremely important. However, the differences are noted on the same grounds as they are approached from political and political perspectives (Boyd & Ellison, 2007). Both sides have been using the social networks in a bid to influence the users based on their interests and this generates a conflict of interests among the public.

The political aspect has been influencing the users on the importance of nation building and the nationalist movements while the political aspect has been focused on the building of social relations according to the political aspects (Livingstone, 2008). However, with time the relationship between national identity and the political identity has been made strong with time. The two relate closely at different levels but aim to achieve the aspect of identity. Therefore, the social
network sites are being used to help the users develop their social relations based on their national identity (Foley, 2008). The changes that have been evident through the social network socially and politically have been quite compelling.

Politics, culture, and need for social order have adversely affected globalized political-identity process. As my proposed-theory posits, some governments have attempted to create social order by regulating social networking environments by scrutinizing any piece of content that is aired from different nodes. This practice reflects back on Marxist theory whereby the bourgeoisie controls the activities of proletariat thus making it hard for immigrants in countries such as China to socially network. The proletariat classes in oppressed countries have resulted in the creation of new technology that could assist in disseminating private information as well as organize new social movements. Currently, restrictive nations towards information sharing risk losing the battle as new technologies tends to defy their political rules with immigrants seeking innovative techniques to enjoy social connections in Diaspora. For example, today’s mobile phone manufacturers are deliberately including ‘community facility’ feature where social networks such as MySpace, Badoo, blogs, Twitter, wikis, LinkedIn, Multiply and facebook, among others, has enabled people in foreign nations make contacts with their friends and families. Seemingly, race or ethnicity affiliation influences the choice of social networks where people living in foreign nations connect. For example, facebook connect whites’ users, while Asian-American and Asian are less likely to connect via MySpace than the case with Hispanic users (Wellman, 231). Focusing on facebook as a tool or a social medium helped me examine social media’s impact on aspects of Lebanese politics with reference to LF, FM, Hezbollah, and Amal.
The opportunities presented to the users of the social networks have raised concerns based on privacy issues. The issue is looked at from different aspects where the aspect of privacy might be a hindrance in the diversification of technology (Papachirissi, 2009). The users of the major social network sites are noted be giving out too much information thus, making them vulnerable to individuals with bad intentions such as; sexual predators (Livingstone, 2008). This is mainly applicable on sites that require an individual to make a profile with personal information. The users are warned to be aware of giving out too much information, data theft, and viruses. However, there are some social network sites such as, MySpace, which have taken precaution against such instances by incorporating themselves with the law enforcement (Huang & Deng, 2008). The privacy threat also lies in giving out too much information that will make it possible for a profile to be made based on the individual; this is applicable in the government bodies and the large corporations.

The control of data has also largely affected the privacy of the networks. There is the possibility of a third party individual getting access to information that the user might have removed (Orchard, 2002). A similar incident was witnessed in one of the popular network sites where user information removed was accessed by other people in the purpose of experimenting. Information that may be difficult to collect from an individual through the traditional methods is easily accessible in the social sites (Crisscrossednet, 2009). The information that the user has displayed on their profile can be easily accessed without them necessarily having given their consent. In other circumstances, this might be viewed as invasion of privacy but one cannot make similar complaints on the social network sites.

Some groups try to maintain a relatively civil and constructive forum by applying some sort of administrative monitoring to their pages, scanning for
disapproving and offensive remarks. The "Free Patriotic Movement" group states their objective is "to provide an atmosphere characterized by respect, tolerance, and knowledgeable discussion. Any form of racism, sectarianism, or discrimination based upon but certainly not limited to religious affiliations, gender, age, sexual preference and even political affiliation is not tolerable (Lowry, 2011). Similarly, a group supporting the Lebanese Forces claims to be "constantly channeling through other groups [especially other political parties, and] any members of this group who tarnish the Lebanese Forces' image in these groups will be banned permanently" (Lowry, 2011).

Users may wish to enhance their privacy factors but this may not be supported by some of the social network sites. This gives third parties access to user information for their own reasons and this may affect the users, as it may be a form of violation (Foley, 2008). Therefore, the privacy of the sites is hindered by many factors making it quite disadvantageous for the users. However, certain efforts have been made by some sites to ensure that privacy is maintained and other factors such as monitoring traffic have been put in place (Papacharissi, 2009). This enables the users to enjoy better services and aspects of privacy are incorporated into the system.

The true worth of social media here lies not in its ability to make time pass in a blur, but in its disruptive potential politically. As described by Chris Roper’s article, Twitter Will `Save’ Africa, “all over the world, social media practitioners is using the power of the internet to fight despots, dictators, corrupt politicians, evil regimes, and cell phone companies.” They’re also using it to bring knowledge and information to places where those essentials for civic action are sorely repressed (Roper, 2011.) The two best recent examples one might give are WikiLeaks and the
“Webvolutions” like that of the most recent Egyptian revolution. These attempts of revolutionary acts communicated through mass media social networks are termed as “WEBVOLUTIONs,” as one can say.

WikiLeaks shows that the structure of the internet must, inevitably, “lead to the ability to disseminate information despite any attempts by governments to prevent it.” It has shown that untrammelled freedom can have results that are harmful, but also that that freedom is challenged by those who are supposedly its guardians. More importantly, it has shown that we need a more sophisticated idea of what that freedom actually is. Currently, according to Roper freedom online is defined, as the ability to challenge the status quo and to promote democracy. Focusing on what is termed to be a “philosophical appraisal of internet freedom.”

We can conclude by saying that there are more mechanical freedoms, and curtailments of freedom, such as the recent attempt by Verizon, a telecommunication services company, to overturn the American Federal Communications Commission’s ruling prohibiting broadband providers from interfering with internet traffic on their networks and Egypt’s shutting down of internet access in the country (Roper, 2011).

Across demographics, there are users who exploit themselves both visually and lyrically with the content that they post. Further research should explore the motivations for users to employ these sorts of behaviors. Analysis from this study would suggest that these users operate in a social network who finds their behavior acceptable, as we are influenced by our network. However, a detailed qualitative analysis would contribute to social science research by examining the motivations and rewards for being socially defiant in an online space, and those two factors differ from real life.
The vast majority of facebook groups seemed to have been created to express political voice rather than to seek an instrumental outcome or to foster dialogue (Marichal, 2010). This corresponds to Feezell’s work on the content of wall posts in political facebook groups. He found that “two-thirds of wall posts on facebook groups were opinion-based and, of those, very few were “quality” opinions (i.e., substantiated by evidence) (Marichal, 2010).”

The revolution in technology in the early twentieth century created somehow a strong foundation of globalization. This does not however mean that globalization began in the really twentieth century but its origin stretches back in ancient times. It simply means that the past decade has experienced an accelerating level of globalization with the aid of advancement in technology and innovations (Langhorne, 2001). It is not possible for globalization to exist without social networks, which drive global production processes, transportation systems and many more. With such global operations, a networked world electronically is essential.

Technological progression within the twenty first century is highly attributable to the internet tool within the communication need. With the growing level of online communities enhanced by the number of social sites available for the users. These online communities have accorded a platform in which both social and political issues have been addressed by individuals within the same or divergent physical locations. Amongst the various social sites existent within the globe, facebook has been quite significant within the political area as evidenced by the intensity of usage in various nations, like within the Lebanon case. Researchers have repeatedly analyzed this function devoid of the identity factor, yet political participation comprises a reflection of both political and social identities, a dual relation accorded to the principle of expressive rationality, overcoming the
limitations accorded to instrumental and communicative approaches towards political issues.

Critics have nevertheless viewed the impact of globalization on culture in a negative such that it has been associated with the destruction of individual’s identity. In addition, globalization has been viewed as another form of political imperialism. Whether such assertions are true or not is a personal decision. Analysis on past historical event reveals that before the error of globalization and innovation, there existed unified connections and political experiences in different geographical regions (University Microfilms International, 2008). These strong connections are what constituted an individual’s identity.

This current somehow vulnerable but at the same time strong world later burst those political identities with the emergence of globalization along with the wide spread of social networks. Conversely supporters of this concept have argued that it has resulted into healthy communities. It is true to say that there is no better word to describe the current world’s economy. Post colonialists view the globe as the same old social structure accompanied by new technologies (White, 2003). It is also significant to note that the difference in global economies among nations is generating political responses where some groups are concerned about its effects. These studies along with previous similar studies provide some valuable foundations and raise new questions towards the study of online political dialogue as more internet technologies of social network sites emerge.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


79


APPENDICES
Facebook

[Chat (Offline)]

- Lebanese Forces Adenis
  Organisers: 29 members

- lebaas-force
  Student Group: 33 members

- lebaas forces idols
  Organisers: 59 members

- lebaas forces community
  Common Interest: 26 members

- 8 Lebanon Forces &
  Common Interest: 22 members

- LAF (Lebanese Armed Forces) "Honor, sacrifice and loyalty"
  Organisers: 54 members

- LEBANESE FORCES - ZGHARTA AL ZAWIEN
  Common Interest: 65 members

- Lebanon Forces®
 facebook
  Organisers: 281 members

- Cell of the LEBANESE FORCES in "ESAE Cran
  Bircays" University
  Student Groups: 248 members

- Lebanese Delta Forces
  Just for Fun: 12 members

- Lebanese Army Forces
  Common Interest: 11 members

- fuck lebaas forces fuck israel!
  Common Interest: 172 members

- lebanese forces never die
  Student Groups: 174 members

- Lebanese Forces (Kfarhata el Koura)
  Organisers: 115 members

- UTS Lebanon Forces Youth Group
  Student Groups: 99 members

- Lebanese forces in Ghana
  Common Interest: 67 members

- LBC For Lebanon Forces
  52 members

  Common Interest: 46 members

- Lebanese Forces, Michigan Chapter
  Organisers: 59 members

- Lebanese Forces - Bankh chapter
  Organisers: 84 members

- LEBANESE FORCES IN CHOUF
  Organisers: 68 members
Facebook

lebanese-forces (Δ)† / SADAM RNEILEH(Δ)†
Organisations
544 members

Lebanese Forces- Tilal Ain Saade
Organisations
19 members

all lebanese forces on facebook
Organisations
17 members

Lebanese Forces Las Vegas Chapter
Organisations
21 members

THE LEBANESE FORCES ARE SUCKS
Student Groups
19 members

(*)lebanese(*)forces(*)fouchino(*)
ASHRAFYIE(*)
Business
18 members

Ban the Lebanese Forces Criminals
Common Interest
19 members

lebaese forces and kateb (marhazir)
Organisations
15 members

Lebanese Forces Khaled-Aley
Organisations
19 members

LBC For Lebanese Forces (Α)
22 members

Lebanese Forces Student Association Ottawa
Organisations
15 members

The Lebanese Forces Official Group -Touwitat El Hareh(Aramic-Syria)
Common Interest
456 members

lebaese forces ( Ain Kooir )
Organisations
12 members

Lebanese Forces and Rate2lib
Organisations
13 members

Lebanese Forces in KSA
Common Interest
13 members

Lebanese Forces Students Toronto
Common Interest
15 members

LEBANESE-FORCES ( SHEILEH)
Organisations
13 members

LEBANESE FORCES USJ 'CSH'
Organisations
15 members

LEBANESE FORCES FOR EVER
Organisations
12 members

Lebanese Forces above FEAR
Common Interest
12 members

Lebanese Forces in Lheded
Organisations
14 members

Join Group

Request to join

Request to join

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Join Group
Facebook

Chat (Offline)

lebanese-forces
Common Interest
4 members

upa lebanese forces
Student Groups
3 members

lebanese-forces
Student Groups
2 members

Antoine Zahra – Lebanese Forces Sami Gemayel-Kataeb Official Group
Organisations
47 members

support abouhaid for lebanese-forces presidniet in 2020
Common Interest
57 members

lebanese forces and lebanese kataeb supporters in monte lebanon
Student Groups
23 members

LEBANESE-FORCES (HAY L SYRIAN) OFFICIAL GROUP
Organisations
22 members

Lebanese forces the martyrs of lebanese forces
Common Interest
24 members

Lebanese Forces - The Greater Washington D.C. Chapter
Organisations
16 members

lebanese - forces
Business
1 member

lebanese forces
Organisations
1 member

108

 Request to Join

 Join Group

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Facebook

Chat (Offline)

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Organisations
194 members

**** SoYaSSe ****
Organisations
415 members

SAD20UNA ENMO LAW JABAYNA NRED FINA NRED MEN HALA2 LA 100 SENE
Organisations
318 members

N.P. Farid Habib - "Suspended: Check The Recent News"
Common Interest
360 members

71-57=14 MARCH OFFICIAL GROUP ©
Common Interest
477 members

Dr Habil Hokayem Official Page
Common Interest
473 members

Noumouz Al Ahmar-
Organisations
418 members

جورف إميل خون... شهيدٌ لأجل لبنان
Common Interest
218 members

COLLECTION GROUP
Just for Fun
210 members

استنادًا للمعركة الإيجابية في سبتمبر 2009: النظام
Common Interest
185 members

I \'v Rafic Al-Hariri!
Organisations
60 members

The Lebanese Citizens Pay The price AND The
Politicians Kiss And Hug.
Common Interest
75 members

Syria & Lebanon are brothers
Common Interest
55 members

Kataash , Sosem Tarchich
Organisations
69 members

Captive State
Organisations
52 members

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Facebook

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Al Kataeb
Page
30 people like this.

Al 2ouwwat wal Kataeb al Loubmaniye. Samir Gnaqqa w Amil Gemayel...
Organizations
249 members

The Lebanese Resistance [Al Kataeb]
Organizations
266 members

Tamer Al-kateb

Kataeb Al-Fidar
Student Groups
194 members

Kataeb Al Qassam
Organizations
34 members

lebanese kataeb-eklim al-koura
Organizations
260 members

kataeb hane al zayoun al mojahide
Just for Fun
17 members

Lebanese Kataeb "al watan-allah-al3a2ila"
Organizations
89 members

Kataeb al Lebnaisieh Eklim Al Koura
Internet & Technology
15 members

Sarri Amine Gemayel

kataeb hane al zayoun al moujahide
Just for Fun
1 member

Vote Against Al Ts2f Agreement
Common Interest
148 members

Kataeb (moham Ibrahim) OFFICE.
Organizations
288 members

Zilla Nawalla Wi Da7ye Killa (HACKED BY KATAEB HACKER PIERRE HAY FINA)
Common Interest
265 members

Kataeb Al Qassam

Kataeb furr elchobbak
Organizations
221 members

KATAEB - Roumieh
Organizations
17 members

Kataeb Toronto
Common Interest
11 members
Facebook

Chat (Offline)

Hezeb El Ouwet El Lebnaalye ©
Organisations
6,252 members

kateeb 2008
Organisations
7 members

Jariss 14 march......al shahid al sheikh pierre el gemayel
Organisations
1,527 members

Sami Gemayel, Nayia Tuenijour dream came true
Organisations
313 members

Kataeb Al Aksa

Kataeb fans in tripoli and the north
Organisations
13 members

كتاب و سرائنا
Organisations
188 members

8+ 14=22 (We7de Watanie)
Organisations
152 members

الكتاب اللبناني - إقليم لبناني
Organisations
150 members

LEBANESE FORCES Kas-el-Rim
Organisations
110 members

14 march
Geography
166 members

MISS CHEIKH BASHIR GEMAYEL...
Organisations
111 members

SAD2GUNA ENNO LAW 7ABAYNA NRED FINA
NRED MEN HALAJ LA 100 SENE
Organisations
368 members

القوات اللبنانية 14
Organisations
392 members

You might be a a popular... IF?
Organisations
425 members

14 shbat 2010 Kina nezlin w el sama zar2all!
Organisations
342 members

الزعيم علاش المرعي
Organisations
116 members

الكتاب اللبناني - دائرة المدارس وال النووي - خان كنها و
Organisations
167 members

مستر وزير الصحة ياب صاحب الحرية
Organisations
167 members

Antoun Saade
Organisations
419 members
Facebook

Chat (Offline)

12 members

Lebanese Phalanges
Organisation
5 members

Tomsk Pripiask

Just click

Request to join

Add as Friend

Web results

Lebanese Kataeb - Lebanon News
Kataeb.org is the official portal of the Lebanese Kataeb party providing round the clock news coverage in Lebanon, Middle East and the World, as well as updates on the party's unfinished business.
www.kataeb.org

Kataeb Party - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
The Lebanese Social Democratic Party – LSP (Arabic: حزب Kataeb al-Isamugiya) was better known in English as the Phalange (Arabic: Kataeb), a right-wing Lebanese political party.
www.kataeb.net

See more results
Chat (Offline)

- حركة أمّ
  - Student Groups
  - 23 members

- طلاب الإصلاح في أمّ
  - Organisations
  - 23 members

- حركة أمّ المهجرين
  - Common Interest
  - 1,417 members

- Chie7
  - Just for Fun
  - 1,613 members

- حركة أمّ
  - Geography
  - 11 members

- عن حركة أمّ
  - Common Interest
  - 15 members

- لن يمرّ حركة أمّ
  - Geography
  - 10 members

- حركة أمّ
  - Organisations
  - 14 members

- حركة أمّ شعبة الجامعة الإسلامية
  - Student Groups
  - 8 members

- الموقع الرسمي لشبّان حركة أمّ شعبة الجامعة الإسلامية
  - Common Interest
  - 4 members

- نبهواً رجل لكل المثقفين
  - Common Interest
  - 4 members

Facebook © 2011 - English (العربية)
Facebook

total 88 groups
found under
"Amal movement"

Facebook

Join the Movement, See the Future.
133 members

THE MOVEMENT FOR THE EMERCIATION OF A BETTER FUTURE FOR NIGERIAN YOUTHS
109 members

TayyarAlmustaqbal (future movement) San Diego
2 members

Lebanese Future Movement Voice Forum
1 member

We will be voting for Future Movement. LAU Elections 14-11-08
18 members

Women Affairs Future Movement Australia NSW
8 members

future movement in letters fac@lebanese university-1
7 members

Youth sector of the Future Movement in the Lebanese University Faculty of S
11 members

HAYA 2010 - join d movement 2 a greater future!
17 members

Liberal movement for the future of Nigeria
26 members

Movement For Brighter Future
7 members

Movement for the Future
2 members

Futur Movement - Université Libanaise, Faculté Des Sciences
4 members

Futura Movement Australia (Victoria)
1 member

Freedom for Future Generations of America Movement
9 members

Summis who are against Future Movement and Sanooze Government
7 members

Future Movement Danmark / Tayyar Mustaqbal
1 member

future movement a l'étranger
e
1 member

(Positive Plays Movement) Positive Hip-Hop is the future
21 members

Movement
50 members
Facebook.

- نادي المستقبل - نادي الشيخ سعد الدين الجبر Monterey
  Common Interest 106 members

- منشأة نادي المستقبل في الجامعة الليبية كتلة العلوم
  Student Groups 1.9 members

- شباب نادي المستقبل في الفلبين
  Organizations 80 members

- قطاع الشباب في نادي المستقبل برما
  Organizations 69 members

- مكتب نادي المستقبل لدعم الشيخ سعد الدين الجبر
  Common Interest 431 members

- Future Movement England official website
  Organizations 46 members

- نادي المستقبل مسogie جبل لبنان الجنوبی اقليم الحolvency
  Student Groups 465 members

- نادي المستقبل Just for Fun
  681 members

- نادي المستقبل
  Common Interest 645 members

- لنشأة نادي المستقبل كم صبر راح يتحمل
  Business 212 members

- نادي المستقبل في الكويت
  Organizations 41 members

- نادي المستقبلإقليم الحolvency
  Organizations 32 members

- Future Movement (Nabi AlMaqdis)
  27 members

- نادي المستقبل ينادي باحترام مشاكر النص
  Organizations 426 members

- جเทคนينات كناب نادي المستقبل
  Student Groups 454 members

- تجديدات كل من جمعية نادي المستقبل ان الجمع
  مجموع للكتاب بيع 100.000
  Common Interest 141 members

- شباب نادي المستقبل: قبطان حرة والمدن المحبلة
  Organizations 171 members

- Future Movement Australia (FMA NSW) نادي المستقبل - أستراليا
  Organizations 145 members

- نادي المستقبل في جامعة النجاح
  Organizations 136 members

- شباب نادي المستقبل في جامعة النجاح
  Organizations 136 members

- هؤلاء نادي المستقبل في جامعة النجاح
  Student Groups 136 members
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<td>نيار المستقبل في إيطاليا</td>
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