

Through internet advancements and innovations social media has been created and it has had a profound impact on our modern world and the lives of many people. Social media enables interaction between people by allowing users to present pictures, videos, and posts to share ideas and information. Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are types of social media that allow for interaction between users. Social media locally and around the world have had negative effects on the people, the society, and the culture of nations. Social media has affected and influenced local and global nations on an economic, and cultural levels through protest, riots and uprisings.

In the District of Columbia social media has played a large role in covering the Occupy DC movement. A group named Adbusters began opposing large companies and the government's use of taxpayers money, which became to be known as the Occupy DC movement as the unemployment rate continued to grow. The Occupy protest began on Wall Street, New York and began to spread all around the globe. The use of social media in the Occupy movement kept it going for as long as it did. Without the use of Social networking sites such as Twitter, Youtube, and Facebook, the Occupy movement would not have able to gain momentum and popularity that helped spread its message of what the protesters called themselves, the 99 percent. Protesters used social media in order to organize and even protest the businesses over the internet. Although the protesters are using social media in order to voice their frustrations using social media, business leaders have also expressed their disdain with the protesters and how they protested by camping out for months without leaving K Street and mcpherson square “McPherson Square will be a toxic waste dump for the next couple of years to clean that park up.”

<http://www.quintonreport.com/2011/12/10/business-leader-blasts-occupy-dc/>). Social

media's role in the Occupy movement, was also familiar in the violence that came with the release of a new type of shoes.

The issue of social media has had an impact locally in the state of Maryland as riots have taken place in certain areas. In December of 2012 avid shoe collectors and those familiar with vintage shoes gathered at the Francis Scott Key mall in Frederick, Maryland for the release of a pair of retro Air Jordan Bred 11's. These particular shoes were worn by Michael Jordan on Father's Day of 1996 when the Chicago Bulls won the NBA championship. The crowd of customers waiting to obtain a pair of the historical shoes gradually became more restless and according to Englar (2012) "kind of rowdy," as time passed. (Englar) There were around a hundred customers that were waiting to buy a pair of the Air Jordan's when the crowd grew chaotic due to law enforcement that closed the doors of the Foot Locker to maintain order. This led to a riot outside the shoe store as individuals shook the doors of the Foot Locker that followed with customers running through the mall to attain a pair of the retro Air Jordan Bred 11's. The riot incident at the Francis Scott Key mall in Frederick, Maryland was influenced by Facebook social media users. Members on Facebook shared description, images, videos, and even prices pertaining to the vintage Air Jordan's that made them highly sought after by enthusiastic shoe collectors. In the riots about shoes and the Occupy DC protest, the social media has deeply affected each event both positively and negatively, and in the role of social media in these local areas have been reflected on a global scale in the London and Arab spring riots.

The London Riots were a string of violence and chaos caused by young adults due to several factors including increased college tuition and what some consider a racially motivated shooting death of a black male named Mark Duggan. The riots included mass vandalization and looting. The use of Social Media in the London Riots kept the riots going. Although the use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter were common

mediums, the BlackBerry Messaging system was extremely popular among the rioters because the messages sent from the system were hard for authorities to track due to the pin number needed to send someone a message. Social Media in the London riots had benefits and flaws. Social Media could have been used to help civilians caught in the crossfire of the riots, but could also help rioters gather and cause chaos.

In India sex crimes have been a growing issue and recently two rapes and deaths have released the anger of India's people. According to Aljazeera (2012) a rape that took place in India's capital, New Delhi, which has been called "rape capital," and later death at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore of a twenty-three year old physiotherapy student named Damini. According to CNN (2013) In addition of the New Delhi rape incident another took place in the Patiala region of Punjab where a seventeen year girl was sexually assaulted and later committed suicide by taking poison. These rapes have sparked all out protests by Indian resident especially women and mothers who are demanding for better protection against sex crimes. According to the Washington Post (2013) information about the New Delhi rape flooded the internet through the use of Facebook and Twitter social mediums to let others know about the tragedies that taken place in India.

In all four events the use of Social Media spread the message of revolution around the world. Although there much of the events were protesters vs the government, but the people caught in the middle and the general public also affected by the disputes. During the Occupy DC protest the rate of tourism was affected due to the camping and unhealthy environment that the protesters had set up in Downtown DC. "People are reluctant to go downtown. ... This is tourist season and you want to attract people to the downtown area, not repel them.". In the London Riots the London Olympic games were affected because the environment was still not considered safe although the riots had decreased for roughly a year. "The image of London burning doesn't send a good message globally," said Eugene

McLaughlin a professor of criminology at City University London who has written extensively about crime and police-community relations.”

In Cairo, Egypt people started to rebel against their government because of high unemployment and inflation of daily necessities and social media has made rebellion and riots that much easier. In the riots in Cairo, Egypt was accelerated by Facebook and Twitter social mediums that each had different roles in overthrowing the former president Hosni Mubarak who forced the Egyptian people to live in inhumane conditions. Facebook was used to gather people to rise against the government within Egypt and Twitter was helpful in spreading the news to the larger world according to Wired (2011). The events that took place in Cairo, Egypt were just a smaller portion of the larger Arab Spring uprising that originated in Tunisia. Mohamed Bouzazi witnessed the unfairness of the Tunisia government first hand according to TIME Magazine (2011) Bouzazi was confronted by the police for selling vegetables without a license to feed his family of eight where he is the main source of income. The police then went on to publicly assault and mock him by spitting in his face and ridiculing his dead father. and he drenched his body in petrol and set himself ablaze as a way of protest. This act by Bouazizi started the uprisings and revolutions across Middle Eastern countries known as the Arab Spring. Middle Eastern countries used Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube social mediums to gain support and to share the awakening with the world.

Social Media's role in all of these events was so great that in most of them the government considered blocking Social Networking sites in a way to address the issue. Although the blocking of Social Media would benefit the government in helping to stop violent protest and uprisings, but it would also interfere with the rights of the people. The limitation of Social Media in a democratic Society such as America or London would not only go against the

Student Sample 10

Constitutional rights of the people but may even cause more riots and uprisings that would defeat the purpose of the government limiting social media. Addressing the issue of Social medias misuse locally, would involve informing our peers and fellow students about the power of social media and how it could be used for more than connecting with friends and family. To inform students about the power and dangers of social media we can make this information a part of our quarterly advisory sessions or groups. With a brief overview of the dangers of social media students will be more aware of material that is safe to post. Unfortunately some people would misuse the information about Social media and use to to abuse their privileges; such as cyberbullying and using it to gather and cause chaos.

Student Sample 10

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