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| Tallwood high school |
| The Media Relationship Between the U.S and Egypt |
| GSWLA Global Connections |
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| **12/1/2011** |

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The media relationship between the United States and Egypt goes further than just the Internet. It compares the usage of Egypt’s media to the United States’ media, and researching how well the media connects the two countries. Brief documents and articles provide information on how important the Internet, newspapers, telephones, and televisions can be for the United States and Egypt. In order for both countries to remain a good relationship, the media must be involved. The main source of the media used by the U.S and Egypt would be the internet. Egypt, In the city of Cairo, had a major disconnection with the Internet. It resulted in chaos and a desperate need of the United States help. Egypt was held on a tight overlook by the Government and came to find out that the United States gave the approval of the shutdown of the Internet. The U.S keeps in contact with Egypt so that Egypt’s government can soon go back to an “under control” one. The media plays a major role in both the United States and Egypt. Without it, Egypt would still consists of riots and protesting.

Global Media

The media attributes to different means of communication. People in developed countries, surf the internet constantly. This means web access has become an important factor in people’s lives. Without the use of the Internet and besides the telephone, people would not have any way to communicate with each other, in a fast way that is. Just think about it, people use the media every day in some sort of way. People use not just the Internet, but cell phones, telephones, newspapers and magazines. Bottom line, the media is the communication key to the outside world.[[1]](#endnote-1)

Why is the media so important between the United States and Egypt? The United States and Egypt have a close relationship, so it is important to discuss why they use the media so much. In the news they discuss Egypt’s problems and it’s good for the United States to know because the U.S gives aid to Egypt. Without the media, the United States wouldn’t be knowledgeable to this information. The media just gives the U.S and Egypt that connection that both countries need to communicate. With the media, it is a faster way for the United States to help Egypt. So, the main point is to focus on how each country uses the media, why it’s an important factor, and it’ll discuss the reason why Egypt had disabled their access to the internet and the thoughts that the United States had on the situation.

The United States and Egypt’s Relationship

Today, the United States and Egypt are allies. This has not always been the case. Many of the reasons as to how Egypt got through some of its major problems were due to the fact that the media was involved. It was through the media how the United States figured out the troubles going on in Egypt. U.S- Egyptian relations are meant to improve the economic stability in Egypt.[[2]](#endnote-2) The relationship between the two countries economically has been expanding and developing rapidly over the past twenty years. “The United States has provided Egypt with an annual average of over $2 billion in economic and military foreign assistance since 1979”. The United States is the number one trading partner for the Egypt’s economy. Fortunately that the relationship between the U.S and Egypt is good because, because of it Egypt’s military has been renovated. Having a military based country makes Egypt a trustworthy partner with the United States. Without the relationship that the United States and Egypt hold, the Middle East would be very weak. Egypt is one of the most powerful voices in the Middle East world. Since the 1970s Egypt and the U.S have been close. Both countries were close because of Egypt’s president back in the late seventies, Anwar Al-Sadat. President Al – Sadat kept this relationship close because the United States sends aid to Egypt and helps keep Egypt financially stable. Egypt and the U.S stay in touch through presidents but how the presidents keep in touch is through the media. By media, this means Facebook or Twitter. Most social websites are used for communication. It’s fortunate for the Egyptians to have such a great relationship with the United States because Egypt really needed the aid from the U.S and help in a later problem , which will be discussed later in a different section.[[3]](#endnote-3)

Egypt’s Media

Egypt has multiple media outlets including newspapers, magazines, television, and the internet. Before the year 2005, Egypt’s media was slowed down due to restriction rights and policies. Even though it is a guaranteed right in the constitution, Egyptian laws still tried to restrict them. After 2005, new President, Ahmed Selim, declared an era of free, independent media. This allowed citizens of Egypt to become closer as one, national and international, and be more understanding on what’s happening around them. It also allowed the U.S citizens to be more informed about what is going on in Egypt. However, in January 2011, all of the Internet access in Egypt was shut off due to riots and protesting being held by the citizens of Egypt. The riots occurred due to the way the government was being handled. Egyptian citizens were not happy with the way they were being ran. The riots lasted for days and the Egyptian government had enough of it and did not know how to handle the situation. Because the relation between the United States and Egypt is so well, the Egyptian government connected with the U.S government and had discussed what they were going to do to solve the rioting and protesting. [[4]](#endnote-4)

The Egyptian government finally came up with a solution and had decided that it would slow down the rioting by shutting off all access to the internet. To them it was a good idea, to which the United States agreed, only because the U.S wanted to stop the violence, but really it only made the situation worst. The U.S felt that rioting was hurting Egypt’s economy. The citizens of Egypt were in chaos and demanded for their Internet access back. In addition, their Internet was not the only thing they were unable to connect with, some cell phone companies had been shut down as well. After the shutdown, it was impossible for the United States to stay in consistent contact with the Egyptian government. President Obama was warned about it because President Obama wanted to stop violence. Then soon after, the government shut down Egyptian lines to the internet service. The only organizations allowed access to it were the stock exchange and most banks. The lesson they were trying to teach was to realize that if the protestors did not stop and the rioting had not come to an end then the government was just going to keep denying what the citizens wanted. Ninety- three percent of the people in Egypt do not have access and it is said that evidence shows that a governmental official called Egypt’s biggest internet providers and told them to shut down the internet. [[5]](#endnote-5)

This entire situation was so drastic because it’s casual for government officials to slow down a process of the internet or limit phone access every so often but when they completely shut everything down, it was like the world had ended for the Egyptians. It basically was because just like us, the media is what gets us through our days and without it we wouldn’t be doing much without lives. Ever since the shut down, U.S officials think that it would be a good idea to shut down the internet if the United States, ever needed a problem or situation solved. The question now is will the United States ever do that in reality?[[6]](#endnote-6)

The U.S media

Of course it is known that the United States uses the media for everything and a U.S citizen knows for a fact that we are involved in mostly everything. The Internet changed many things. Among those things was learning. Before, people did not use the Internet for stuff that it is used for today. A prime example would be test taking in schools now a days. From Facebook to Twitter, and even Tumblr, the U.S uses it all in our everyday lives. More than 50 percent of the people that make Facebook accounts use it.[[7]](#endnote-7) Egyptian citizens know about some of the news going on around their country but as for some news, Egyptians are being closed out of it due to restriction sites. Some sites are not allowed to be processed but here in the States, it is totally different. Since our media is so broad and advanced, the United States was informed with the news that Egypt’s media was being shut down and that Egypt was not getting the proper use of it. Just last year, in 2010, the internet was being used by over seventeen million users and the usage was actually allowed. Citizens of the U.S explain how important the internet is and how much they have learned and read about in Egypt and concerning the internet access issues. Some say that because of the things happening now in Egypt, it could possibly shape our attitude of having access to it. This just comes to show how much the internet has influenced us and how much of a difference it makes in our lives.[[8]](#endnote-8) Teenagers in Egypt, who are making the peak of their life now, are really taking back the actions that occurred during the riot. It was a deciding factor between President Obama and President Mubarak, Egypt’s current president.

Once the rioting was all settled out, Obama told Mubarak that if the only way to stop the violence was to shut off the internet then so be it. This seemed to be only way because they felt that this was the best way to stop hearing from all the citizens. Like I mentioned before, the U.S government officials stated that the Egyptians made a good decision to cut off the internet and now they are deciding whether or not they should use this discipline action towards us. To even think about cutting off the internet access here in the U.S is crazy. The United States communicates with the outside world every day. With the threat of Egypt’s internet shut down, Americans are fearing the governments ideas. Computer security expert with iSEC partners, Alex Stamos, said that he believes that the United States officials could never follow through with something that drastic but what the U.S officials do want is for U.S citizens to stay away from enemy countries. So basically, instead of shutting down the internet, they would just limit some of the communication access Americans have and just monitor the things Americans do. “Shutting down the internet within U.S. borders would be almost impossible, and it’s unlikely that the government would be able to force every small ISP and college to stop their peering, and corporations and other customers with multiple ISPs would still have connectivity” (Stamos) All the scare and fear of the internet ever being shut off in the United States is just peoples imagination. It is impossible to ever technically shut down the access to the internet. To make a network, such as AT&T or Verizon, cut off their customers’ ability to access them is illegal. For now that is. If the president never makes a law about it, then the internet access could never be completely shut down. It could change though! Multiple bills have been passing through congress and trying to reach out to president Obama to get him the proper access to kill off the internet. If the law is passed, it is then that president Obama is allowed to legally shut off the internet.

There have been times before that the U.S media has come across problems with the media such as plagiarism and fallen websites but never has it come to the point where the entire media was going to be shut down. United States media could never be entirely shut down, even if problems like this occur. The United States are too much involved in the media to ever shut it out. It could be said as many times as it wants to be said but the media will never be erased from our lives. Look at it like this, there are approximately twenty-five to twenty-eight million teenagers in the United States. That’s almost, or at least, half of our population. Teenagers use the media for more than half of their day. Recent studies show that teens watch T.V for more than 3 hours a day, use the internet for about the same amount of time, and during those times as well receive and send over 95 texts a day. Seventy seven percent of teens have their own phone to text from, eleven percent borrows someone else’s phone to text, and only twelve percent of teenagers do not have a mobile phone to even text. Knowing that that is the case, how could anyone even consider shutting down the media here in the United States? It’s become our life to have the media. Not just recently but it’s been like that for years. We live in a society where we depend on the media to make our decisions and lead us in the right path. It should be obvious to the world why the U.S use the media so much. For example, now a days in schools make students use the media for different sorts of projects they may have including test taking. In the past, tests were done simply with paper and pencil. The media has taken over and it is all over schools now. The media has so much influence on teenagers now a days that teens basically make decisions based off of what is seen on the television, hear on the radio, or what is read in newspapers or magazines. People hear that their favorite person is wearing this or wearing that and they will go out and buy what that certain celebrity had on. That’s how teenager’s decisions were made.[[9]](#endnote-9)

Comparing Both Media’s

Like it was mentioned earlier in the paper, the United States and Egypt’s media’s are no different from each other. Both countries consist of newspapers, televisions, magazines, mobile devices, and of course the internet. The internet is the biggest media source used by both countries. Popular websites such as Facebook and Twitter are commonly used by citizens from both countries. Facebook users have surged due to the internet shut down restoration. “"Since access was restored, we have more users than ever," said Facebook spokesperson Andrew Noyes. Facebook has about five million users in Egypt. A fifth of those users are mobile users. Egypt has the number one twitter hash tags in two thousand eleven. Prior to the shut down, Facebook was being used by the Egyptians to create and organize protest. Comparing those uses to American’s usage of Facebook and/or Twitter is almost double the use. United States citizens “post” and “tweet” constantly. It’s a fact that, people under the age of twenty-five tweet more often than those that are older than that age. Forty-eight percent of people said that they check their social media networks in bed, at night time, and as soon as they wake up. Sixteen percent of the people saying that they check it in the morning say that this is how they receive their daily news. Studies show that people that have iphones use Facebook and Twitter much more than anyone else with another mobile device.

When comparing social media, Americans use the media more than Egyptians. Recently, Egyptians have been using the media more because of their internet fall back and that causes them to kind of celebrate the fact that their internet is back on. Some people might think that Egyptians are using it more than the United States does and say that Egyptians use it more than the U.S does but thinking about it, that’s only because Egypt just got the internet back on. Isn’t that how everyone would respond to the internet being turned on again? Americans have been using the media ever since. Comparing them, over 10.6 million Egyptians go to cinemas or the movies and one million-four hundred twenty –one billion Americans go as well. Thirteen million- six hundred twenty- nine thousand- six hundred Egyptians have mobile devices and two hundred-one million- six hundred fifty thousand U.S citizens have cellular devices. That just shows how much more the United States uses the media compared to Egypt. The U.S was even involved in the shutdown of the Egyptian internet and knew about every move being made. That means more media usage. Also, it is said that the United States use electricity much more than citizens do over in Egypt. Egypt uses one thousand-two hundred ninety four kWH, while the United States uses twelve thousand- four hundred eighty- four kWH. [[10]](#endnote-10)

Technology is a big important factor for both countries because it is not likely for any of the countries to use the newspaper or magazines to find out about the news. Citizens in both countries use the television, internet, cellular phones, and the radio to find out about those things. Basically the only main difference in their media’s is how often each citizen from either country uses the internet, their cell phones, the television, newspapers or the radio. Other than that, the United States and Egypt both share most of the same web sites. The one’s that both countries share are mainly social websites.

Internet Kill Switch

In exception to all of this and knowing what Egypt’s citizens went through, the United States government still talks about how they would kill off the internet if needed. According to some readings, the U.S is preparing to pass a new bill so that President Obama has the right to shut off the internet.[[11]](#endnote-11) It was actually supposed to be introduced last year but the old congress decided not to. With the new congress that the United States has now, the bill was brought back up again. President Obama would hold all the power to the internet, meaning he is capable in shutting down website, and even certain mobile devices. Joe Lieberman, the man who introduced this proposal, said that if the internet were to ever be shut down, it wouldn’t be like how it was in Egypt.[[12]](#endnote-12) Lieberman explains that how in Egypt, their government officials cut off the internet to discontinue protesting and riots but here in the United States, it would be like protection for the states. Shutting down the internet would be like a security and a way to respond to threats. Lieberman says that doing this will give the president emergency powers in case of a national cyber threat. Last year Lieberman said that it was necessary “to preserve those networks and assets and our country and protect our people". Joe Lieberman believes that the internet could be a dangerous place and it’s a possible way for our enemies to communicate with us secretly.[[13]](#endnote-13) This is the total opposite reason to why Egypt shut down their internet. Although it was said that Egypt’s drastic shut down was one of the most major things done in the web history, this discussion of the U.S shutting down the internet access would top that. Many U.S citizens fear this happening to the United States. The government says that they respect every individual’s feelings but in order to pass this bill, they are completely ignoring that. It gives president Obama total control over the internet. How is that respecting the people’s rights? It only took Egypt one day to turn off the internet. Imagine how much faster the U.S could do it. The United States could shut down the internet in an amount of seconds. U.S citizens wouldn’t be so fond of that. It actually raises much more red flags than when they first mentioned this bill being passed. People are hoping that this bill will never be passed and if it is, that it won’t totally shut everything off. To make people’s feelings about this situation worse than it already is, the government explains how shutting down the internet will make it a lot easier on them when it comes to cyber-attacks. It has been known that the government is trying to prevent cyber-attacks and prevent people from chatting online with our enemies. It is kind of strange that the government brings this up now. People know about our enemy countries and if they’re updated on the news then people would know who and who not to talk to. The government just wants a reason or a way to punish the people, if it’s ever needed. It’s really a debate between the government and the people. Some think that they can manage having the internet and still being able to manage the conversations they have and who they talk to online. The government says just cut it off if the U.S ever comes down to that problem.

Cyber attacking is a good reason as to why the government should cut off the internet but just that by itself does not compare to the reason why it should be kept on. The internet being cut off would raise all types of drama in the United States and it would cause riots like there were in Egypt. This “kill switch” that the government talks about wouldn’t even make any sense. If the internet is cut off then how would the citizens be able to communicate? How would the government inform us with the information of it being shut off? The government would be making the biggest mistake if they ever cut off the internet. People need the internet. The internet is what keeps the citizens, of any country, updated and it helps people receive the news. So why shut down the internet now? The government only has one reason to shut it off and they feel that they have so much power because it’s in the hands of President Obama. If the citizens of the United States knew that it was Obama that led the Egyptians in the direction of shutting down their internet, then people would be even more upset. This could be the deciding factor for president Obama’s next term. Then, that would raise tension and anger towards Obama from both countries. Egyptian citizens are already the ones upset because of their internet shut down, now if the United States shut down their internet access, president Obama would be facing a lot of anger. If U.S government officials ever feel that they need to shut down the internet, then it could only be done now while Obama is still president. Our internet access is in the hands of the President.

The Importance of their Communication

"For the past 30 years we have spent American tax dollars to build relationships between the United States and Egyptian military. This long relationship bore at least some measure of fruit during the recent crisis when the Egyptian military remained loyal to the people of Egypt — not its ruler." - Senator Lindsey Graham

It’s very important for both countries to have access to all of the media. The media is constantly being updated with current news and information that is needed around the world. Without the media, the United States wouldn’t have known anything about the riots and new election occurring in Egypt. Egypt wouldn’t be receiving help if the United States didn’t know. Back in early February 2011, Egypt went through a break out period of protestors and constant riots all because of their media shut down. President at the time, Mubarak, had no more patience with all the violence and turned to president Obama. Obama gave Mubarak the approval and decided that it was time that the Egyptian government shut down the internet.[[14]](#endnote-14) The citizens of Egypt became very upset and even more violence broke out. After about three days the internet access was back. It was supposed to be a temporary situation and it was supposed to last longer than just three days but with all of the violence going on, Egyptian governments had to stop it there. Still, citizens and protestors felt that they weren’t being treated right and weren’t receiving their rights. President Mubarak was then over thrown. It was at this moment where Egypt needed help. Senator Clinton was reached out to and was told that Egypt needed help building up their government again. Egypt wanted to contain a liberal democracy and they wanted to make the citizens feel as if they were getting equal rights. The United States is trying to help out as much as they can and just trying to do what they can.

Egypt is under all types of disaster now. Mubarak is over thrown and it’s because of Mubarak that Egypt is back to rioting again. Mubarak promised not to seek another term and now Egypt is trying to see the outcome for the next couple of months without him. The United States learned this news recently. Ten people have been killed because of the riots. The citizens of Egypt cannot even get any sleep due to the fact that they have been fighting for their rights and trying to go towards a different policy than what Mubarak gave them. It is all because protestors threw rocks at the military because the military now holds power over Egypt, for now. The military explains how they will hold power until the presidential election in 2012, but the citizens of Egypt cannot wait that long and want their liberal democracy now. The previous election is where liberalist learned that they were not getting a liberal democracy. President Obama tells the Egyptian government to stay strong and keep every individual protected. Senator Clinton feels that the citizens in Egypt are not safe and that if they are leaning towards a liberal democracy, than it is kind of going towards an unsuccessful outlook.

Above all, Egyptians and President Obama need to work positively together and keep a good communication. In order to do so, the citizens of Egypt need to cooperate and stop all of this rioting. The citizens of Egypt must wait to earn their rights and just have to consider being under the ruling of the military. It will not be until next year where Egyptians will get a new president and hopefully a new democracy. The second polling took place about a week ago and it’s said that it was much peaceful than the first time around. Liberals are hoping to make a better impact this time during the voting. Egyptians need this vote and need it to be a positive outcome because this vote determines how Egypt will look in the future. Many liberals are fearing that they will not receive what they want but at the same time they are hoping for the best. These liberal citizens are hoping that Egypt will become more liberal in the future. With all of this said, the media is how the United States and Egypt communicated with each other and keep one another updated. It shows how important it is to have the media and how the United States and Egypt can help each other out through the media. If it had not been for the media, the United States would not be able to do what they are doing now and Egypt would still be an enormous wreck. What the United States is doing is important for Egypt. The United States is trying to help Egyptian governments out, while trying to keep the citizens of Egypt under control and satisfied. All that is left now is to wait it out and keep both countries full of information and hope for the best. Although United States government officials think that Egypt will not be a liberal democracy, they are still helping Egyptians fight for one. Questions are asked that if the Egyptians do not receive a more liberal democracy, than will the citizens of Egypt break out another riot and more protestors? Or will the Egyptian citizens have learned their lesson and learn to be more civil. It is mainly the youth that feels like they have been let down. The youth say that they are hoping that Egypt will not turn into some religious path.

Conclusions

“ The media’s the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent look guilty and to make the guilty look innocent, and that’s power. Because they control the minds of the masses.” - Malcolm X

It is obvious from this point how important the media is to both the United States and Egypt. Whether it is the internet, televisions’, the newspaper, or the radio, the media is accessed all over the place. Communication cannot get any easier without the media. That is how the United States and Egypt stay in touch. It is how they help one another out. For the questions about the media being shut down in the United States, it is most likely not going to happen. It could be said as many times as it would like but the media is so important that if it were ever to really be shut down, the world would move much slower. Things would be done differently and people would have to adjust to new ways. It would take years for people to get rid of the media. It is just highly impossible. If the media, or any source of the media, were ever to be cut out, it would most likely go towards the radio and/or the newspapers. Not that the radio and newspapers are not as important as the internet or cells phones but being the way the world is today, technological based media’s are much more sufficient than non-technological medias. People go toward the internet, from their cell phones or the computer, to find out about things more than they do if they were to look it up in a newspaper. It all just says that either way, the media is reliable and is an everyday use in everyone’s lives. We cannot just not have the media. People follow the media all the time.[[15]](#endnote-15) The media shapes the lives of the people. Like it was mentioned earlier, we make our daily decisions off of the media. It is how we stay so close with Egypt. Countries that are far away from us like Egypt need the media. In Egypt, the television is the most important and most trusted source of news. It is mostly social media that keeps the United States and Egypt together. If it was not for social websites like Facebook and Twitter, the people of the U.S and Egypt could not communicate. Media, even if it is Egypt’s or the United States’, it is important. So, how does the internet connect these two countries; by giving them the right source of communication to get the information both countries need from each other.

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