

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE ARAB SPRING**

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This paper examines the political upheavals in the Middle East which began taking place in early 2011, looking specifically for a relationship between social media (such as Twitter and Facebook) and the organization of these social movements. The paper begins by examining social media and how they are used to inform and influence the public. It then proceeds to detail the social movements within the Arab World and why previous movements which were organized without social media were unsuccessful. The paper then examines specific instances of the use of social media during the Arab Spring of 2011 and whether they have been particularly important. The paper concludes by noting that social media has clearly been used as a tool for the protesters but that further research is required to know whether or not its use was a necessary condition for the uprisings.