THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON NATIONAL SECURITY

A thesis presented to the Faculty of the U.S. Army
Command and General Staff College in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree

MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE
General Studies

by

OTHELLO N. NMAH, CAPTAIN, ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA
BBA, United Methodist University, Monrovia, Liberia, 2007

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
2019

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

1. REPORT DATE *(DD-MM-YYYY)*	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED *(From - To)*
14-06-2019	Master's Thesis	AUG 2018 – JUN 2019

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE

The Effects of Social Media on National Security

5a. CONTRACT NUMBER

5b. GRANT NUMBER

5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER

6. AUTHOR(S)

Captain Othello N. Nmah

5d. PROJECT NUMBER

5e. TASK NUMBER

5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
U.S. Army Command and General Staff College
ATTN: ATZL-SWD-GD
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2301

8. PERFORMING ORG REPORT NUMBER

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)

11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for Public Release; Distribution is Unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

14. ABSTRACT

Social media is a new prodigy that captures the attention of many people especially youths. Its quick access to information and ability to create a quick link between and among people, and promote relationships and businesses far and near serves as an added advantage, that has attracted many users. However, the advantages social media affords has and continue to be misapplied by some malicious individuals such as terrorists and criminals. These individuals use this medium to perpetrate various types of crimes. Most importantly, their actions post severe threats to national security. In view thereof, this research seeks to examine the effects of social media on national security to provide an analytical perspective that may lead to a better understanding of the use of social media. To attain this objective, the researcher will focus primarily on four major issues which are of security concern, and they include terrorism, criminality, communal violence, and the unauthorized release of classified document.

15. SUBJECT TERMS
Social Media; National Security

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT	**b. ABSTRACT**	**c. THIS PAGE**			19b. PHONE NUMBER *(include area code)*
(U)	(U)	(U)	(U)	80	

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98)
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18

MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

THESIS APPROVAL PAGE

Name of Candidate: Othello Nyoundwe Nmah

Thesis Title: The Effects of Social Media on National Security

Approved by:

_____, Thesis Committee Chair
Roderic C. Jackson, M.S.

_____, Member
Roger J. Linder, M.A.

_____, Member
Lieutenant Colonel Rafael E. Linera Rivera, Ph.D.

Accepted this 14th day of June 2019 by:

_____, Director, Graduate Degree Programs
Robert F. Baumann, Ph.D.

The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the student author and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College or any other governmental agency. (References to this study should include the foregoing statement.)

ABSTRACT

THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON NATIONAL SECURITY, by Captain Othello N. Nmah, 80 pages.

Social media is a new prodigy that has captured the attention of many people especially, youths. Its quick access to information and ability to create a quick link between and among people, and promote relationships and businesses far and near serves as an added advantage, which has attracted many users. However, the advantages social media affords has and continue to be misapplied by some malicious individuals such as terrorists and criminals. These individuals use this medium to perpetrate various types of crimes. Most importantly, their actions post severe threats to national security.

In view thereof, this research seeks to examine the effects of social media on national security to provide an analytical perspective that may lead to a better understanding of the use of social media. To achieve this objective, the researcher will focus primarily on four major issues which are of security concern, and they include terrorism, criminality, communal violence, and the unauthorized release of classified document. Finally, the researcher will present some strategies that will help in enhancing national security via the use of social media platforms, the development of social media policy, regulation on the use of social media, and the enactment of laws to punish offenders.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Conducting research is never a one-person affair. It usually involves several individual contributions intellectually, materially and even spiritually. Many people are involved in the successful completion of this research work. The researcher is grateful to the almighty God for His guidance and protection.

The researcher wants to extend his profound and sincere appreciation to the people and government of the United States, on behalf of his Army and government, for allowing him to attend the Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC). It was an exciting and fruitful experience, going through the course. The researcher is also grateful to the College leadership for creating such an enabling environment for human capacity development.

Special thanks go to the supervising staff, LTC Rafael E Linera-Rivera, Ph.D., Mr. Roger J. Linder, M.A., and Mr. Roderic C. Jackson, M.S. whose guidance was very helpful during the conduct of this research. Your immeasurable contribution is reflected in the strength of the research work.

Finally, the researcher would like to thank his wife Mrs. Alfreda S. Nmah, and children, for their support and words of encouragement. Studying away from the family for a year is not an easy thing. Above all, the researcher is grateful to the Almighty God, who watched over him as he strived through this course in health and strength.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISSI	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria

ILLUSTRATIONS

TABLES

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

It is generally accepted that information dissemination is the lifeline of organizations.[1] It is a way of eliminating doubts about the activities of an organization and achieving good governance.[2] However, mischievous individuals and organizations can use information dissemination to undermine a nation's sovereignty and national security by spreading false information via traditional and emerging media.[3] Accordingly, people can use social media to produce positive or negative effects on national security.[4] In other words, the media represents the view of people, which makes it essential to the way free societies function.[5]

---

[1] Snicholls2015, "Communication: The Lifeline for All Organizations," WordPress, April 13, 2015, accessed August 6. 2018, https://iamsandranicholls.word press.com/2015/04/13/communication-the-lifeline-for-all-organizations.

[2] Ibid., 1.

[3] Matthew LaFond and Hayden Gilmore, "Russia is Trying to Undermine Ukraine's Sovereignty," *The Hill Blog*, December 12, 2018, accessed April 25, 2019, https://thehill.com/opinion/international/421499-russia-is-trying-to-undermine-ukraines-sovereignty.

[4] Timothy N. Whelpleh, "The Effects of Social Media on U.S National Security" (Master Thesis, Missouri State University, 2014), 1, accessed August 6, 2018, https://bearworks.missouristate.edu/theses/1492.

[5] Matthew A. Baum and Philip B. K. Potter, "The Relationship Between Mass Media," Public Opinion, Foreign Policy: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis," *Annual Review of Political Science* 11 (June 2008): 39-65, accessed August 6, 2018, https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.11.060406.214132.

Newspapers, radios, and televisions are primary means through which people obtain information.[6] One can debate, however, that the media not only selectively informs about events or society, but it shapes them.[7] Furthermore, the media has exercised real political influence on the public since the 18th Century in Europe.[8] Since its early establishment, it has helped in revolutionizing the social and political landscape of nation states.[9] For instance, Umar Pete and Danldi Musa suggest that such social and political phenomena have helped the media achieved its importance through its robust and outspoken criticism of unacceptable governmental policies that had negative impacts on Nigeria's society.[10]

Note that, before Africa's colonization and the spread of western education on the continent, people used traditional forms of communication such as drums to pass

---

[6] Robert Sylvester, "How Mass Media Affect Our Perception of Reality–Part 1," Brain Connection, December 4, 2001, accessed August 7, 2018, https://brainconnection.brainhq.com/2001/12/04/how-mass-media-affect-our-perception-of-reality-part-1/.

[7] Ibid., 3.

[8] Matthijs Tieleman, "How 18th Century Information Wars Can Solve the Problem of 21st-Century 'Fake News,'" Twins City.Com, February 26, 2019, accessed August 7, 2019, https://www.twincities.com/2019/02/26/matthijs-tieleman-how-18th-century-information-wars-can-solve-the-problem-of-21st-century-fake-news/.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Umaru Pate and Danldi Musa, "Public Relations and Society in Nigeria," *University of Maiduguri Blog*, June 17, 2009, accessed August 7, 2018, https://umarpate.blogspot.com/2009/06/public-relations-and-society-in-nigeria.html.

information with specific messages that were understood by the targeted audience.[11]

Those various means of communication have helped to shape the social and political landscape of Africa.[12] Also, the invention of transistors like the radio in the 20th Century further facilitated the exchange of political ideas and to promote socio-political development.[13]

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) education, which became prevalent in the early 2000s, is another platform that has further enhanced socio-political advancement in Africa.[14] The rapid growth in ICT has made instant links through telecommunications attainable using satellites, eventually turning the world into an 'information' global village.[15] ICT development has transformed the coding of

---

[11] Spirit Tourism, "The Importance of Drums in African Tradition," November 10, 2010, accessed August 7, 2018, http://spirittourism.com/culture/african/importance-drums-african-tradition/.

[12] Andre-Michel Essoungou, "A Social Media Boom Begins in Africa," *AfricaRenewal* (December 2010): 3-4, accessed April 25, 2019, https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2010/social-media-boom-begins-africa.

[13] Marshall McLuhan, "The Medium is the Message," Probe for Answers, May 27, 2001, accessed December 14, 2018, https://probe.org/marshall-mcluhan-the-medium-is-the-message/?print=pdf.

[14] Brian Gutterman, Shahreen Rahman, Jorge Supelano, Laura Thies, and Mai Yang, "Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in Education for Development" (White Paper, Global Alliance for ICT and Development, May 15, 2009), accessed September 23, 2018, http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public /documents/gaid/unpan034975~1.pdf.

[15] Jeremiah Chukwu and Agwu Joy Nneka, "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Its Applications in Telecommunications," *Journal of Environmental Science, Computer Science and Engineering and Technology* 1, no. 3 (September-November 2012): 250-262, accessed April 25, 2019,

information from analog to digital.[16] The transformation from analog to digital resulted in the use of Wireless Frequency, Infra-red, and Bluetooth; thereby enabling cell phones, computer, laptops, iPads, multipurpose communication apparatus, with the capability of taking photographs, playing music, internet communications and even playing of games.[17] Consequently, the world has witnessed a massive increase in the development and use of several social media networking services, especially in this 21st century.[18]

Another aspect of communications and media is the social networking service, that functions like a connected or online service, platform, or site that focuses on enabling the building of social networks or social relations among people.[19] Users of this platform share interests, activities, backgrounds, or real-life connections.[20] The most common

https://www.academia.edu/2093938/Information_and_Communication_Technology_ICT _and_Its_Applications_in_Telecommunications.

[16] Nanda Tamilselvan, Nuah Sivakumar, and Dr. Ramaiah Sevukan, *International Journal of Library and Information Science* 1, no. 1 (January-April 2012): 15-28, accessed September 5, 2018, https://www.academia.edu/2764232/Information_and_ Communications_Technologies_Ict_.

[17] Ibid., 1.

[18] José van Dijck, *The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2013), accessed September 6, 2018, http://groupthree.web.unc.edu /rise-of-social-media/.

[19] Kamal Kannadasan, Dr. Inadu Muthuchamy, and M. Dona Amalorpavam, "Social Media Behavior of Higher Secondary Students in Relation to Certain Select Variables," *Review of Research* 8, no. 4 (January 2019), accessed April 26, 2019, http://oldror.lbp.world/UploadedData/7202.pdf.

[20] Eunjung Lee and Wei Xue, "How Do Online Social Networks Drive Internal Communication and Improve Employee Engagement" (Student Works, Cornell University ILR School, April 12, 2013), accessed August 23, 2018, https://digital commons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1021&cont ext=student.

social networking websites are Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, LinkedIn, YouTube, and

Pinterest.[21] New sites are regularly developing that allow people to connect and interact

over the web.[22] With each of these sites, people connect to new friends, build connections

for business purposes, share information, and videos.[23]

Social media has also become a veritable tool in the hands of criminals and

insurgents for cybercrimes.[24] The rise of cybercrime has risen exponentially, becoming a

national concern that has compelled states to treat cyber threats with increased

seriousness.[25] According to a cybercrime security study conducted by John Mason on

February 27, 2018, cyber-attacks are growing in prominence every day with devastating

effects that a state cannot underestimate–from influencing primary elections to crippling

businesses overnight.[26] Cybercrime involves any illegal activity that employs a computer,

---

[21] Priit Kallas, "Top 15 Most Popular Social Networking Sites and Apps," Dreamgrow, August 2, 2018, accessed September 6, 2018, https://www.dreamgrow.com /top-15-most-popular-social-networking-sites/.

[22] Kallas, "Top 15 Most Popular Social Networking Sites and Apps," 3.

[23] Rohan Jain, "What Is the Purpose of Social Networking Sites?," *DreamTeamMoney Blog*, January 29, 2016, accessed April 25, 2019, http://www.dreamteammoney.com/index.php?showtopic=252585.

[24] Susan Wennermark, *Did Print Media's Coverage of White-Collar Crime Change After the "Bernie Madoff Scandal"?* (PressBooks.com, 2013), accessed September 6, 2018, https://wennermark2013.pressbooks.com/chapter/white-collar-crime-and-the-media/.

[25] Ibid., 1.

[26] Rob Mardisalu, "14 Most Alarming Cyber Security Statistics in 2019," TheBestVPM, April 3, 2019, accessed May 16, 2019, https://thebestvpn.com/cyber-security-statistics-2019/.

networked device, or a network.[27] Most of these crimes are perpetrated for profit making

for the cybercriminals. Some are conducted against computer devices and other apparatus

to damage or incapacitate them, while others use computers or networks to spread

malware, illegal information, images, or other materials.[28] In other words, cyberspace has

become an essential part of the contemporary information society. Enormous information

is available in different layouts for end users.

However, the real concern is not just the spreading of inaccurate or misleading

information, but also the malicious content and intent. The internet is no longer an

exclusive field of people with technical knowledge.[29] User-friendly software and

interfaces enable all types of users, including beginners and youths, to interact with

limited or no skills.[30] User-friendly applications such as social networking sites allow

users to share ideas, activities, events, and interests within their networks.[31] This new

---

[27] Search Security, "Cybercrime," accessed November 23, 2018,
https://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/cybercrime.

[28] Search Security, "Cybercrime," 6.

[29] Tim Leberecht, "What's Happening? Credibility on the Conversation 2.0,"
Slide Share Blog, August 10, 2011, accessed April 26, 2019,
https://www.slideshare.net/tleberecht/conversation.

[30] Ibid., 1.

[31] Bhuvan Srinivasan, "Enterprise Social Networking: The Next Competitive
Advantage," Mack Center for Technological Innovation, March 20, 2011, accessed
September 10, 2018, https://mackinstitute.wharton.upenn.edu/wp-
content/uploads/2013/01/Srinivasan_BhuvanEnterprise-Social-Networking-V6-Mack-
Center-Ford-Fellowship.pdf.

domain contains a tremendous amount of valuable information that is potentially

dangerous to innocent victims.[32]

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research is to deliberate on the effects of social media

activities on national security. The specific objectives are to:

1. Establish the effects of social media on national security.

2. Proffer potential policies and strategies for social media to enhance national

    security.

Statement of the Problem

The world has witnessed in recent times increased activities of criminally minded

individuals to include terrorist organizations in conducting criminal and terroristic

activities. The 2013 Westgate Mall siege where attackers killed 67people including

several children, and the airport attack in Brussels, Belgium on March 22, 2016, that took

the lives of several people and injuring more than 300 highlights the activities of these

unscrupulous individuals.[33] Criminals and terrorist organizations are employing social

media as an instrument to recruit, radicalize, spread propaganda, and conduct their

---

[32] Uzor Uzoatu, "Tackling Cyber Security Threats in Nigeria," *The Guardian*, July 7, 2016, accessed August 10, 2018, https://guardian.ng/opinion/tackling-cyber-security-in-nigeria/.

[33] Charlotte McDonald-Gibson, "Brussels Fear and Frustration Continue One Year After Belgium's Worst Terror Attack," *Times*, March 21, 2017, accessed August 10, 2018, http://time.com/4707414/belgium-airport-terror-attack/; Alex Roberts, "The 10 Worst Terrorist Attacks in Kenya's History," TUKO.co.ke, accessed August 10, 2018accessed 10 August 2018, https://www.tuko.co.ke/28049-photos10-worst-terrorist-attacks-kenyas-history.html#28049.

criminal activities.[34] For instance, extremists use chat rooms, dedicated servers, websites, and social media tools as propaganda platforms to solicit funds through cybercrime.[35] YouTube channels and Facebook pages contribute to the radicalization of young sympathizers. These pages can also serve as a communication medium between terrorist groups and individuals.[36] These scenarios present grave dangers for national security in any democratic and pluralistic society. It is against this background that this study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the relationship between social media and national security?

2. How do social media platforms impact on national security?

3. What strategies can a state adopt to counter the threats of social media on national security?

Assumptions

There are several assumptions that the researcher considered while exploring social media and completing this thesis:

1. Social media use will keep increasing.

2. Technology will keep evolving at an alarming rate and expanding the power and reach of social media platforms.

---

[34] Catherine A. Theohary and John Rollins, *Terrorist Use of the Internet: Information Operation in Cyberspace* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011), accessed August 10, 2018, https://fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41674.pdf.

[35] Ibid., 2.

[36] Theohary and Rollins, *Terrorist Use of the Internet*.

3. The state will increase regulation of social media if there is an identified persistent link to violence that affects national security.

4. There is limited research on the impacts of social media on national security.

Definition of Terms

Communal violence: A kind of violence committed across ethnic or communal lines. The violent parties feel solidarity for their respective groups, and victims are chosen based upon group membership. The term includes conflicts, riots and other forms of violence between communities of different religious faith or ethnic origins.[37]

Cybercrime: Involves any illegal activity that employs a computer, networked device, or a network.

Inroad: An instance of something being affected, encroached on, or destroyed by something else; a hostile attack; a raid; progress; an advance.

Social media: The word 'media' is used throughout this paper as a collective noun in a singular sense. The media is a collective noun used to refer to television, radio, newspapers, magazines, films, and the Internet.

Limitation of the Study

This study has one limitation. The researcher was unable to sample views of social media users concerning this subject. Some sampling or surveying would have added additional context to this thesis. This shortcoming limits information used in this

---

[37] Legal Services India, "Torts Against Secular Communal Group: A Study of Communal Violence in India," accessed August 10, 2018, http://www.legalservices india.com/article/2327/Torts-Against-Secular-Communal-Group:-A-study-of-Communal-violence-in-India.html.

study to primary and secondary sources that include published books, unpublished works, seminar papers, workshops, social media conference presentations, and associated technologies pertinent to this study. Policy documents, magazines, and Internet-based research institutions are also used to enrich this thesis.

Delimitation

This research is restricted to the topics contained in the table of contents. The analysis in this work is not based on views sampled or from distributed questionnaires. Instead, the researcher's analysis is based on information obtained from sources outlined in the bibliography.

Significance of the Study

This study is critical because it provides a deeper understanding of social media's role in promoting terrorist and criminal activities. Since the rapid growth of social media, terrorists, and terrorist organizations, including criminal networks, have increased their activities.[38] Social media platforms give terrorists and criminals easy access to potential adherents and victims.[39] Additionally, this study offers some crucial strategies that decisions makers can employ to enhance national security.

---

[38] Prasant Naidu, "Increased Presence of Terrorist Organizations on Social Media: Challenges for Social Networks," SocialMediaToday, October 2, 2014, accessed March 25, 2019, https://www.socialmediatoday.com/content/increased-presence-terrorist-organizations-social-media-challenges-social-networks.

[39] Law Student, "Regulation and Investigation of Crime on Social Media in the United Kingdom," Law Teacher, April 2019, accessed April 26, 2019, https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-dissertations/social-media-national-identity-9938.php?vref=1.

Conclusion

Chapter 1 provided a background of the study and an understanding of what information is and its importance to society. The chapter discussed how the means of information dissemination has transformed through the ages. Further, the chapter presented a general overview of social media and how this platform easily facilitates building personal relationships in society. It also reviewed the popular social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Pinterest. Finally, chapter 1 discussed how social media has also become a viable tool criminals and terrorists use to commit cybercrimes and spread inaccurate and misleading information.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

To provide answers to the questions in this research, the researcher will review

the literary works by looking at critical points, including findings and methodologies

related to social media. The researcher will explore key variables associated directly with

media, social media, and national security. At the end of the chapter, the researcher will

analyse, review, and discuss potential impacts on this thesis.

Concept of Media

The word media is used throughout this paper as a collective noun in a singular

sense.[40] Media is a collective noun used to refer to television, radio, newspapers,

magazines, films, and the internet.[41] This view only covers some of the means of

communication and does not include the type of information disseminated. It is therefore

not suitable for this study. Denis McQuail, in his book, *Mass Communication Theory*,

suggests that media has significant consequences for individuals, institutions, society, and

culture because of the social power it wields.[42] He goes further to assert that media can

---

[40] Anand N. Shukla, "Media and Social Awareness," *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 1, no. 1 (August 2013): 57-61, accessed August 6, 2018, https://www.academia.edu/4243668/MEDIA_AND_SOCIAL_AWARENESS.

[41] Ibid., 57-61.

[42] Muhammad Yousaf, "Review of McQuail's Mass Communication Theory," *Journal of Media Studies* 29, no. 1 (July 2014): 70-78, accessed August 15, 2018, https://www.researchgate.net/publicatin/297713727_Review_of_McQuail's_Mass_Com.

confer status and confirm legitimacy just as they can be channels for persuasion and mobilization.[43]

McQuail maintains that media is an instrument of social power, and when attention is paid to its various legitimate structures, it can attract, influence, and retain a broad audience. He concluded that the social power of the media could serve the well-being of society, particularly those segments of society that are socially, politically, and economically at a disadvantage.[44] McQuail's standpoint establishes the relevance of media to every segment of society, including national security concerns, but ignored the human component. McQuail's omission of the human component limits his work's applicability to this thesis.

Tonnie O. Iredia in a paper presented at the National Workshop on the Establishment of a Culture of Peace in Nigeria on November 21, 2002, conceives media as an avenue by which the public is informed, mobilized, and enlightened on different issues including, but not limited to, political, cultural, or economic matters.[45] He identifies electronic media, print media, cyber communications, cinema, books, other literary works, and people involved in their production as part of the media.[46] His concept is closely related to that of McQuail, but it is more comprehensive in the sense that it captures the essence of media as well as media operators.

---

[43] Yousaf, "Review of McQuail's Mass Communication Theory," 70-78.

[44] Ibid.

[45] Tonnie O. Iredia, "The Role of Mass Media in Fostering Peace and National Integrity in Nigeria," November 22, 2002, Unpublished.

[46] Ibid., 1.

According to the Nigerian Press Council, media refers to the technical devices employed in mass communication which professionals categorized into print and electronic media. They include broadcasting media such as television, home videos, cinema, and telephone.[47] This definition captures the essence of media and its means of propagation but does not specify the interface between them. Synthesizing the strong points of the various definitions considered above, this study defines media as the generic description for the various means of mass communication. Accordingly, this would include television, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards, and the internet as well as the individuals involved in their production.[48]

Concept of Social Media

Since the advent of the internet, the methods of communication have evolved away from traditional one way or "one to many" process to a dialogue interactive oriented model of "many to many."[49] These developments are still entirely new in media history, and researchers are still attempting to grasp the related consequences. Over the

---

[47] Nigeria Press Council, "The Line Editor as a Gate Keeper. Seminar" (Workshop, Peninsula Resort, Ajah, Lagos, April 9-12, 2006), accessed November 4, 2018, http://www.presscouncil.gov.ng/?p=238.

[48] Jessie Relwani, "What Are the Various Means of Communication Available in Modern India?," Preserve Articles, accessed November 4, 2018, http://www.preserve articles.com/201012251643/means-of-communication.html.

[49] Natascha Zeitel-Bank and Ute Tat, "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and Social System" (Seminar, Management Center Innsbruck, Austria, June 25-27, 2014), accessed November 4, 2018, https://ideas.repec.org/h/tkp/mklp14/1183-1190.html.

preceding two decades, social media has become an essential part of the world.[50] This change resonates, especially with young people who cannot think of communicating without using online-networks like Facebook, Google+, Twitter.[51]

Social Media is widely used and in many ways, has both positive and negative benefits at the same time. Positively it facilitates global communication in seconds, connects isolated areas with civilization, plays a vital role in e-commerce and participates in the democratic process.[52] Andreas M. Kaplan and Michael Haenlein in their work, "Users of the world, unite: The challenges and opportunities of Social Media" defined social media as "a group of Internet-based applications that build on the ideological foundations of Web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content."[53] They stated further that, "Traditionally, consumers used the internet to expend content: they read, watched, and used it to buy products and services."[54] In line with this understanding, there is a clear difference between traditional media like print or broadcasting where users are more passive consumers and social media.[55] New information equipment, varying behavior in how it is used, and the growing anxieties of

---

[50] Zeitel-Bank and Tat, "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and Social System."

[51] Rachel Ehmke, "How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers," accessed August 6, 2018, https://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-social-work/documents/2018/05/.

[52] Zeitel-Bank and Tat, "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and Social System."

[53] Ibid.

[54] Ibid., 1185.

[55] Ibid.

information seekers have further expanded the ways individuals and groups engage in the new era of the "many to many" exchange process.[56] Negatively, with all of the advances, information users have lost control of the information flow and content. One has to react on what "the many," the internet crowd, is demanding, whether he or she is a profit or a non-profit organization, a politician, or a Chief Executive Officer.[57]

Concept of National Security

The traditional concept of national security focused on building a defense and security workforce and amassing weapon systems that a state could use to respond and defeat enemies.[58] This understanding might have influenced the thinking of John Edwin Mroz, founder, CEO, and visionary leader of the EastWest Institute when he conceptualized national security as "the relative freedom from harmful threats."[59] Ian Bellary in his article, "The concept of security and Security Studies," presented the concept as "relative freedom from war coupled with relatively high expectations that

---

[56] Zeitel-Bank and Tat, "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and Social System," 1183.

[57] Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody-The Power of Organizing Without Organizations*, quoted in Natascha Zeitel-Bank, "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and Social Systems" (Paper, Management Center Innsbruck, Austria), accessed July 2, 2018, https://cyber.harvard.edu/events/berkmanat10/2008/02/shirky.

[58] David A. Baldwin, "The Concept of Security, British International Studies Association," *Review of International Studies* (1997): 5-26, accessed July 2, 2018, https://www.princeton.edu/~dbaldwin/selected%20articles/Baldwin%20%281997%29%20The%20Concept%20of%20Security.pdf.

[59] Mladen Bajagic and Zelimir Kesetovic, "Rethinking Security," December 2014, accessed July 5, 2018, https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/Mesko/208034.pdf.

defeat will not be a consequence of any war that should occur."[60] These militarist

concepts of national security are too restrictive for this study and do not show the

linkages between national security and social media.

Oge Samuel Okonkwo a Nigerian scholar, writes in one of his articles,

"Redefending National Security in the 21st Century: A perspective of the contemporary

Nigerian States," that any society that seeks to achieve adequate military security in the

face of food shortage, low level of productivity, low per capita income, among others, has

a false sense of security.[61] The clear message here is that the government must not only

look at the application of security forces in search of national security but must meet the

socio-economic and political needs of the people. Counter to this argument, C. Jaja

Nwanegbo and Jude Odigbo argued that national security could be seen as including

other factors like ecology, politics, economic resources, and social development. National

security is the aggregation of the security interest of the individuals, political entities,

human association and, social groups that make up a nation.[62] The study uses a broad-

based definition of national security that encompasses the positions of Okonkwo and

---

[60] Ozan Ormeci Markaleler, "The Concept of Security and Security Studies," Ozan Ormeci Articles, accessed August 4, 2018, http://ydemokrat.blogspot.com/2010/09 /concept-of-security-and-security.html.

[61] Oge Samuel Okonkwo, "Redefining National Security in the 21st Century: A Perspective of the Contemporary Nigerian State," *Medium Blog*, January 10, 2018, accessed August 5, 2018, https://medium.com/@OS_Okonkwo/redefining-national-security-in-the-21st-century-a-perspective-of-the-contemporary-nigerian-state-3c32c89e293e.

[62] C. Jaja Nwanegbo and Odigbo Jude, "Security and National Development in Nigeria: The Threat of Boko Haram," *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* 3, no. 4 (February 2013): 285-291, accessed August 4, 2018, http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_4_Special_Issue_February_2013/29.pdf.

Nwanegbo, and Odigbo. According to these scholars, national security is the totality of all the efforts taken to protect the sovereignty and cherished values of a nation. It improves the living standards of the people as well as securing the freedom of all citizenry from all forms of threat to life and property. National security also ensures safety from natural or man-made disasters.

<div align="center">Relationship between Social Media and National Security</div>

Social media reports can enhance or endanger the peace and security of a nation. The blogger Bilal Ahmad on March 10, 2016, provided ten ways in which social media can either enhance or endanger the peace and security of a state, on the Techmaich.com blog site.[63] The concepts posted indicate that information management and control are important ingredients of security. Proper management of information could support informing the public on the rationale behind national security-related decision making.

Conversely, national security includes socio-political, economic, cultural, environmental, and technological security, including the well-being of the people, as identified in chapter 2. For national security to thrive, there is a need for balanced and adequate information. Without adequate information, the state cannot effectively execute its principal mandate of providing goods and services to its citizens, with security

---

[63] Bilal Ahmad, "10 Advantages and Disadvantages of Social Media for Society," *Techmaish Blog*, March 10, 2016, accessed September 14, 2018, https://www.techmaish. com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-social-media-for-society.

esteemed as a significant "good."[64] The concept discussed above establishes a direct

relationship between media and national security.

<center>Review of Related Literature</center>

The growing interest in media and national security has resulted in a growing

body of published literature on the subject. For instance, Alwali Kazir observes in his

work "National Security: Theoretical Perspectives" that media coverage of military

operations has often posed dangerous paradoxes between the public's right to know, and

the need to protect national security interests.[65] He stated that "the public's right to know

stops exactly where it jeopardizes the national security interests, and that, all nations,

regardless of the type of government, seek to protect their national security interests."[66]

However, Kazir did not directly link his observations to the media and how they enhance

national security.

In his dissertation, Media Reports and the Issues of the Press, Chiefe Te contends

information that jeopardizes national peace and security must not be broadcasted or

published in the name of press freedoms or freedom of expression.[67] He further stated

that "information that incites one ethnic or religious group against the other or exposes

---

[64] Answer, "Why is Adequate Information Important?," accessed September 8, 2018, https://www.answers.com/Q/Why_is_Adequate_information_important.

[65] Samuel Owrovwuji, "Nigeria: The Military, the Media and National Security: The Way Forward," *All Africa*, June 29, 2014, accessed September 6, 2019, https://allafrica.com/stories/201406300053.html.

[66] Ibid., 1.

[67] TE Chiefe, *Media Reports and The Issues of Press Freedom: The Military, The Media and Nigeria's National Security* (Ibadan: Gold Press, 2010).

<center>19</center>

military personnel to danger, especially during military operations should not be aired."[68] Chiefe concisely brings out how media can jeopardize national security, but he did not examine how media can also enhance national security.

It is essential to highlight that all the above literature examined media and national security separately without establishing the desired linkage between the two concepts. Also, these works did not identify specific salient issues associated with the effects of media on national security based on the perceptions of media practitioners vis-à-vis experts in security institutions. Consequently, some of the strategy's scholars discussed to stimulate media involvement in improving national security did not communicate a holistic understanding of the nexus between national security and social media.

<div align="center">Theoretical Framework</div>

This study used a social theory which was first introduced in 1947 and suggested by the Hutchins Commission on Freedom of the Press.[69] It states that "the media should serve the public, and in order to do so, should remain free of government interference."[70] Social responsibility theory defines guidelines that media should follow in order to fulfill its obligation of serving the public. It claims that the media could be self-regulating by

---

[68] Chiefe, *Media Reports and The Issues of Press Freedom*, 3.

[69] Philip M. Napoli, "Social Responsibility and Commercial Broadcast Television: An Assessment of Public Affairs Programming in JMM, The International Journal on Media Management," *JMM* 3, no. 4 (2001): 226-233, accessed September 6, 2018, file:///C:/Users/IMSD/Downloads/188-429-3-PB.pdf.

[70] Ibid.

adhering to various principles. Media should also have high standards for professionalism and objectivity, as well as truth and accuracy. Additionally, the media should reflect the diversity of the cultures they represent. Further, the theory indicates that the public has a right to expect professional performance from media professionals.[71]

Social responsibility is not only reserved for reporters and producers of media. Consumers also have a responsibility to become media literate and maintain high, yet reasonable expectations of the media. In theory, if these things happen, there is no need for excessive government regulation. Miriam Shuchman, M.D. and Michael S. Wilkes, MD, Ph.D. explained what social responsibility means for the press, and its ability to improve service to society. In their analysis about the effectiveness of communication between medical scientists and health news reporters, they found if journalists failed to act in a professionally responsible manner as members of the media profession, patients are the ones who stand to suffer the most.[72]

The basis of self-regulation in journalism is codified in ethical codes; however, the actual impact of the codes on active professionals in media organizations is at least questionable.[73] Adding to the conduct issue, some journalists are not fully aware of the

---

[71] Braj K. Ravi, "Media and Social Responsibility: Critical Perspective with Special Reference to Television," *SAVAP International* 2, no. 1 (January 2012): 306-325, accessed September 5, 2018, www.savap.org.pk/journals/ARInt./Vol.2(1)/2012(2.1-35).pdf.

[72] Miriam Shuchman and Michael S. Wilkes, "Medical Scientists and Health News Reporting: A Case of Miscommunication," *Annual Internal Medicine* 126, no. 12 (June 1997): 976-982, accessed September 12, 2018, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9182476.

[73] Melisande Middleton, "Social Responsibility in the Media" (Center for International Media Ethics, Oxford University PCMLP, March 2009), accessed

negative impacts of their work. Further, there are no formal structures established to prosecute ethical code violations as such is the case in some countries like Liberia where violators are either warned, fine, suspended or expelled from the national journalism unions.[74] These types of preventive procedures constitute a first step in shaping how media professionals honor their responsibilities and public trust. However, although there should be a clear expectation of how a journalist should act, the debate on regulating what is acceptable remains a controversial issue in the journalism world.

<p align="center">Overview of Social Media</p>

Social media is a part of our daily lives.[75] It has a tendency to promote interconnectedness and interdependence in our culturally diverse world.[76] With this platform, everyone can assume the role of a publisher or a critic. People have the chance to voice views publicly and participate in conversations and dialogue through a universal medium.[77] Social media provides an opportunity where people can communicate with

---

September 12, 2018, https://www.academia.edu/5323416/Social_Responsibility_ in_the_Media.

[74] Accountable Journalism, "Code of Ethics of the Press Union of Liberia," May 19, 1997, accessed September 12, 2018, https://accountablejournalism.org/ethics-codes/Liberia-Press-Union.

[75] Rebecca Sawyer and Guo-Ming Chen, "The Impact of Social Media on Intercultural Adaptation," *Intercultural Communication Studies* 21, no. 2 (2012): 151-169, accessed September 23, 2018, https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cgi/viewcontent. cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1033&context=com_facpubs.

[76] Ibid.

[77] Brandon Tamayo, "Why You Should Take a Political Science Class," *Odyssey Online*, August 24, 2015, accessed September 23, 2018, https://www.theodysseyonline. com/should-political-science-class.

others and belong to different networks via computer-generated communities on the Internet. People use social media to acquire knowledge and learn about different opinions and perspectives on issues, events, and topics.[78]

Most importantly, social media platforms are used for socializing; it is a kind of media that allows people to participate in conversations and dialogue without face-to-face contact.[79] Social media uses Web 2.0 technology, which is a network where every user can produce and consume internet content.[80] Notable examples of Web 2.0 social media include blogs, wikis, Facebook, Myspace, eBay, Flickr, YouTube, Google Maps, Amazon, and Twitter.[81] The most common social media links used universally as of January 2019, ranked by active users are presented in the table below.[82]

---

[78] Sawyer and Chen, "The Impact of Social Media on Intercultural Adaptation," 151-169.

[79] Ibid.

[80] Tim O'Reilly, "What Is Web 2.0: Design Patterns and Business Models for the Next Generation of Software," September 30, 2005, accessed September 25, 2018, https://www.oreilly.com/pub/a/web2/archive/what-is-web-20.html.

[81] Lon Safko and David Brake, *The Social Media Bible: Tactics, Tools, and Strategies for Business Success* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2009). accessed September 25, 2018, https://cmc.marmot.org/Record/.b29314227.

[82] Statista, "Most Popular Social Networks Worldwide as of April 2019, Ranked by Number of Active Users (in Millions)," accessed April 6, 2019, https://www.statista.com/statistics/272014/global-social-networks-ranked-by-number-of-users.

Table 1.	Most Common Social Media Used Universally as of January 2019	
Rank	Social Media Platform	Number of Users
1	Facebook	2271
2	YouTube	1900
3	WhatsApp	1500
4	Facebook Messenger	3100
5	WeChat	1083
6	Instagram	1000
7	QQ	803
8	QZone	531
9	Doyan	500
10	Sina Weibo	446
11	Reddit	330
12	Tweeter	326

Source: Dave Chaffey, "Global Social Media Research Summary 2019," Smart Insight, February 12, 2019, accessed January 5, 2019, http://www.smartinsights.com.

The statistic provides data on the most popular networks worldwide as of January 2019, ranked by the number of active accounts.[83] Facebook, the leading social media network, was the first social network to exceed 1 billion recorded accounts. Currently, Facebook sits at 2.27 billion active users monthly. The sixth-ranked photo-sharing app, Instagram, had 1 billion monthly active accounts at the time the data was captured.[84]

---

[83] Statista, "Most Popular Social Networks Worldwide as of April 2019."

[84] Ibid.

The origin of social media began over two decades ago and has grown exponentially, especially in the last two years.[85] It took a relatively short time for social media to change from an interesting emerging communications trend to a critical part of the media landscape.[86] According to the table above, in January 2019 all social media users add up to over 5 billion people worldwide with Facebook accounting for about 2.27 billion users.[87] In its earliest stage (2000 to 2005), social media started to spread chiefly in more developed countries with advanced technological capabilities. These initial countries excelled in broadband speed, the number of per capita computers and little governmental regulation of freedom of expression. In this stage, social media took root mainly in North America, Europe, Russia, Japan, South Korea, and Australia.[88] Since 2005, the rest of the world has started to catch up as more countries gained access to advanced technologies. Regions such as Africa, the Middle East, China, Southeast Asia, Southern, and Central America have embraced social media.[89]

---

[85] Drew Hendricks, "Complete History of Social Media: Then and Now," Small Business Trend, May 8, 2013, accessed August 23, 2018, https://smallbiztrends.com /2013/05/the-complete-history-of-social-media-infographic.html.

[86] Joe Marinucci, "Five Social Media Trends That Will Impact Digital Advertising," Forbes Agency Council Community Voice, September 14, 2018, accessed August 23, 2018, https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesagencycouncil/2018/09/14/five-social-media-trends-that-will-impact-digital-advertising/#273a290d2f05.

[87] Simon Kemp, "Digital in 2018: World's Internet Users Pass the 4 Billion Mark," *WeAreSocial Blog*, January 30, 2018, accessed August 20, 2018, https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018/01/global-digital-report-2018.

[88] Alexa and Similar Web Traffic Data, "World Map of Social Networks," *Vincos Blog*, January 2019, accessed March 28, 2019, http://www.vincos.it/world-map-of-social-networks.

[89] Farid Shirazi, "Social Media and the Social Movements in the Middle East and North Africa: A Critical Discourse Analysis," *Information Technology and People* 26 no.

Social media continues to spread today at unprecedented rates. Today some areas of the world are no longer marginalized; instead, they are aware of their right to freedom of expression, shared thoughts, customs, and they embrace them.[90] The only discrimination left now relates to social class, race, and religion. Social media builds and strengthens networks in many aspects of life to include professional, family, social, culture, religious, and political. These positive developments have helped develop and defines personal social identity.[91] According to Alfonso Montagnese, in his article, "The Effects of Social Media on National Security (Part 2)," social media is found to have an extremely high level of interaction among the users. This is markedly different from traditional media, which is characterized by a one-way communication flow.[92] Social media users can at the same time act as both senders and recipients of information as well as creators and users of content.[93] The level of penetration of social media into everyday

---

1 (March 2013): 28-49, accessed July 6, 2018, https://doi.org/10.1108 /09593841311307123.

[90] Dave Chaffey, "Global Social Media Research Summary 2019," Smart Insight. February 12, 2019, accessed January 5, 2019, https://www.smartinsights.com/social-media-marketing/social-media-strategy/new-global-social-media-research.

[91] James C. Carafano, "Social Networking and National Security: How to Harness Web 2.0 to Protect the Country," *Backgrounder*, May 18, 2009, accessed October 8, 2018, https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/social-networking-and-national-security-how-harness-web-20-protect-the-country.

[92] Alfonso Montagnese, "Impact of Social Media on National Security" (Research Paper, Centro Militare de Studi Strategici, 2011), accessed December 3, 2018, http://www.difesa.it/SMD_/CASD/IM/CeMiSS/Documents/Ricerche/2012/Stepi/social_media_20120313_0856.pdf.

[93] Raymond J. Pingree, "How Messages Affect Their Senders: A More General Model of Message Effects and Implications for Deliberation," *Communication Theory*

life is soaring, and it is expected to see a marked increase not only in the foreseeable future.[94] The amount of social penetration for these media is strictly dependent on several factors. The most important factors are: "accessibility, bandwidth, and level of familiarity with social networks."[95] The increase in the factors will affect positive growth in social media platforms and users.

<u>Threats of Social Media to National Security</u>

As the internet and social media are continually growing and changing, national security in many states has lagged, especially in most third world countries.[96] National security experts and policymakers must now adapt quickly to emerging threats or face major national security breaches. Recent events around the world show that social media can act as a tool that threatens national security.[97] Social media can serve as a tool for broadening common space, but can also lead to destabilization. Social media is as easily

---

17, no. 4 (October 2017): 439-461, accessed December 3, 2018, https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-2885.2007.00306.x.

[94] Aksel Ethembanaoglu, Tim Sweoijs, George Boone, Kevin Goreham, and Stephan de Spiegeleire, "Social Networking: The Security Shakedown of Shared Information" (Report, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, 2011), accessed December 3, 3018, https://hcss.nl/report/future_issue_-_social_networking__the_security_shakedown_of_shared_information_1.

[95] Ibid.

[96] Objective IAS, "Role of Social Media in Internal Security," June 7, 2018, accessed April 25. 2019, https://www.objectiveias.in/role-of-social-media-in-internal-security/.

[97] Sarah Irani, "Summertime and the Livin's Easy: 20 (More!) Fun Things to Do for Free," EcoSalon, July 28, 2009, accessed December 6, 2018, http://ecosalon.com/20-more-things-to-do-for-free.

adaptable to support diffusing propaganda, prejudicial related speech, and violence-inciting content.[98] Any debate about the role of social media must, therefore, include the broader debate between information flows and the stability of a state. It is amply evident that unconstrained social media could present security risks to nations.[99]

Non-state actors such as terrorist groups and unscrupulous individuals are now using social media to export hate messages.[100] Groups like Boko Haram in the western African region are using Facebook and other platforms as conduits to recruit fighters and increase its support base.[101] In addition to using these platforms for recruitment purposes, these groups and individuals are effectively using this medium for propaganda activities to create panic.[102]

---

[98] Njeru Abraham Kirea, Dr. Bernard Malakwen, and Dr. Masibo Lumala, "Challenges Facing Social Media Platforms in Conflict Prevention in Kenya Since 2007: A Case Study of Ushahidi Platform," *International Academic Journal of Social Sciences and Education* 2, no. 1 (2018): 88-101, accessed December 6, 2018, http://iajournals.org /articles/iajsse_v2_i1_88_101.pdf.

[99] Julius K. Kimutai, "Social Media and National Security Threats: A Case Study of Kenya" (Thesis, University of Nairobi, 2014), accessed December 6, 2018, http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/76667.

[100] The Telegraph Reporters, "How Terrorists Are Using Social Media," *The Telegraph*, November 4, 2014, accessed December 8, 2018, https://www.telegraph.co.uk /news/worldnews/islamic-state/11207681/How-terrorists-are-using-social-media.html.

[101] Homeland Security Today, "Boko Haram Expands with ISIS-Style Social Media Presence," February 18, 2015, accessed December 8, 2018, https://www.hstoday.us/channels/global/boko-haram-expands-launches-isis-style-social-media-presence/.

[102] Ariel V. Lieberman, "Terrorism, the Internet, and Propaganda: A Deadly Combination," *Journal of National Security Law and Policy* 9, no. 95 (April 2017): 95-124, accessed April 26, 2019, http://jnslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04 /Terrorism_the_Internet_and_Propaganda_FINAL.pdf.

Social media platform is also used to conduct criminal activities. Criminal establishments use this platform to share information and coordinate illegal activities.[103] These illegal undertakings include but are not limited to spreading of child pornography, virtual identity thefts, phishing, drug smuggling, the spread of computer viruses, human trafficking, money-laundering, and the transfer of documents from industrial espionage.[104] In addition to these illegal practices, the unauthorized and unrestrained release of confidential and sensitive information such as print, audio, and photo via social media has become a common practice.[105] These acts can compromise national security. An example is the WikiLeaks saga. This platform provides the public with national security-related information without considering the possible negative consequences.[106]

Social media is also essential to social movements or groups seeking non-democratic changes. In January 2011, protests erupted against former Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak. The protests were influenced in part by the revolution in Tunisia.[107] The

---

[103] Intelligence and National Security Alliance, "Cyber Intelligence: Setting the Landscape for an Emerging Discipline" (White Paper, INSA Cyber Intelligence Task Force, Arlington, VA, September 2013), accessed April 26, 2018, https://www.insaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04 /INSA_OperCyberIntelligence_WP.pdf.

[104] Ibid., 1.

[105] Michael McFarland, "Unauthorized Transmission and Use of Personal Data," Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, June 1, 2012, accessed April 26, 2019, https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/internet-ethics/resources/unauthorized-transmission-and-use-of-personal-data/.

[106] Doc Vega, "Wiki Leaks Alleges Secret War with UFOs in Antarctica," UFODigest.com, accessed January 8, 2019, https://ufodigest.com/article/wiki-leaks-alleges-secret-war-ufos-antarctica.

[107] William Little and Ron McGivern, "Social Movements and Social Change," in *Introduction to Sociology*, adapted by William Little (Open Stax College, BC Campus,

protests further inspired demonstrations throughout the Middle East in Libya, Syria and beyond.[108] This wave of protest movements traveled across national borders, spreading like wildfire. Numerous reports assessed that the adoption of social technology from Facebook pages to cell phone cameras helped organize and document activities attributed directly to the wave of protests called the Arab Spring.[109] The movement's leaders leveraged social media's unrestricted nature and tools to organize and agitate the masses during the Arab Spring.

Though social media has the potential to threaten national security, it also can strengthen national security.[110] One of the ways that governments are using social media is as a warning or trend indication tool.[111] As a monitoring tool, the government can recognize the first signs of any hostile or potentially dangerous activity.[112] Through

---

2014), accessed December 14, 2018, https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology /chapter/chapter21-social-movements-and-social-change/.

[108] Ibid., 6.

[109] Ibid., 4.

[110] Marko Papic and Sean Noonan, "7 Ways Local Government Can Use Social Media," Stratfor World View, February 8, 2011, accessed December 14, 2018, https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/social-media-tool-protest.

[111] Ibid., 1.

[112] Kimberly McCullough, "Why Government Use of Social Media Monitoring Software Is a Direct Threat to Our Liberty and Privacy," *ACLU Blog*, May 6, 2016, accessed December 14, 2018, https://www.aclu.org/blog/privacy-technology /surveillance-technologies/why-government-use-social-media-monitoring.

collecting and analyzing messages, governments can attempt to predict events that could negatively impact national security.[113]

Conclusion

This chapter began with a view of the various concepts of media and the types of media. It discussed the opinions of several scholars on the importance of information security. The importance of social media as a public information source was also included in the review. The review emphasized social media's long-term growth, prospects, and its unstructured ability to support both negative and positive activities. These discussions demonstrated linkages between national security and social media. The literature also demonstrated a need for governments to gain a greater understanding and control over this evolving technology.

---

[113] McCullough, "Why Government Use of Social Media Monitoring Software Is a Direct Threat to Our Liberty and Privacy," 2.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objective of this research is to discuss the effect of social media on national security with specific emphasis on four significant areas of concern. These areas are terrorism, criminality, communal violence and the unauthorized release of classified documents. The intent is to highlight how social media used for illegal purposes can negatively impact national security.

Chapter 1 of this research presents the background of the study. The chapter presents a general perspective of social media and its importance in information dissemination. In chapter 2, the researcher reviewed literature related to media, social media and their effects on national security. Chapter 3 contains the research methodology used to answer the primary and secondary research questions. Chapter 4 contains data findings and analysis. These findings and analysis answer the research questions. Finally, chapter 5 concludes and provides recommendations for future research.

Research Method

This thesis uses the qualitative research method. The researcher chose this method because it is suitable for small samples. Additionally, this research method offers an accurate picture and examination of the research subject, without restraining the scope of the research and the nature of participant's responses.[114] According to research conducted

---

[114] Madziwa Munyaradzi, "'Interviewing as a Data Collection Method," Linked In, September 1, 2016, accessed April 28, 2019, https://www.linkedin.com /pulse/interviewing-data-collection-method-munyaradzi-madziwa.

in 2002 by Family Health International on "Qualitative Research Method: A Data Collector's Field Guild," qualitative research is especially useful in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors and social contexts of particular populations.[115]

As a former member and head of the recruiting and vetting team of the Armed Forces of Liberia with experience in sampling views and opinions of people on the conduct of recruiting and vetting exercises, the researcher is familiar with qualitative research method. This familiarity adds to the ease of conducting this research.

Level of Analysis Approach

The researcher will approach this thesis with an analysis of the four areas that assist in developing a holistic understanding of social media impacts. In discussing these areas, the researcher will provide examples from various parts of the world to include Africa and the United States, which will add context and highlight how social media is not just associated with one geographical area. The study will collect and review data from primary and secondary sources. These data will assist in providing answers to the primary and secondary research questions. It is also important to note that the researcher will analyze the data collected in line with the four areas. The first area is terrorism. The researcher shall discuss how terrorists and terrorist organizations use social media to recruit, radicalize, and conduct terroristic activities. The second area is about criminal activities. The researcher shall discuss how criminals use social media to scam innocent

---

[115] Family Health International, "Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collector's Field Guide," accessed March 29, 2019, https://course.ccs.neu.edu /is4800sp12/resources/qualmethods.pdf.

victims financially. The third area addresses communal violence. The researcher will discuss how social media is used to promote communal violence. Finally, the fourth area looks at the impacts of social media on the leakage of classified documents.

The researcher will review and summarize key points in each area. These key points will contribute to answering the primary and secondary research questions. Chapter 5 will offer recommendations and complete the thesis. Below is a diagram that depicts how this thesis moves from theoretical foundations to responses to the questions at the end of chapter 4.

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│              Research Theoretical Foundations                │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
      ↓              ↓              ↓                    ↓
┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌────────────────────┐
│ Terrorism│   │Criminality│   │ Communal │   │  Impact of social  │
│          │   │          │   │ Violence │   │  media leakage of  │
│          │   │          │   │          │   │ classified documents│
│          │   │          │   │          │   │ on national security│
└──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘   └────────────────────┘
      ↓              ↓              ↓                    ↓
┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌────────────────────┐
│   Key    │   │   Key    │   │   Key    │   │  Key takeaway on   │
│takeaway on│  │takeaway on│  │takeaway on│  │leakage of classified│
│ terrorism │  │criminality│  │ communal │   │   documents on     │
└──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘   └────────────────────┘
       ╲                                          ╱
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                  Review of Key takeaways                     │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```
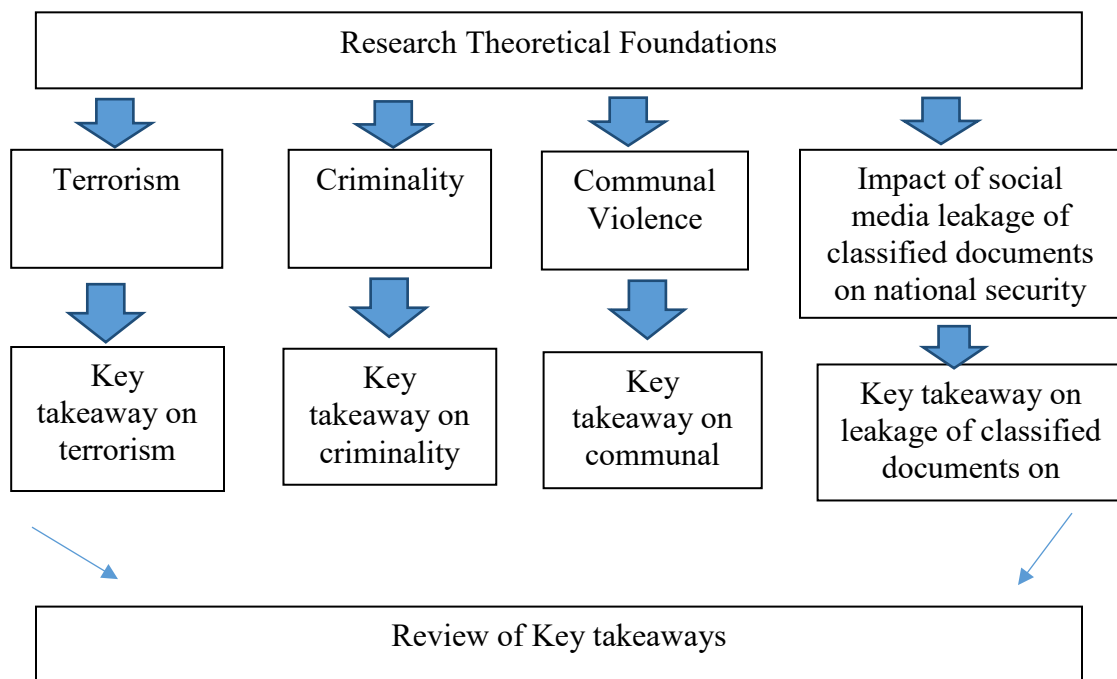
Figure 1.   Thesis Theoretical Foundation Diagram

Source: Created by author with information from Catherine A. Theohary and John Rollins, *Terrorist Use of the Internet: Information Operation in Cyberspace* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011), accessed August 10, 2018, https://fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41674.pdf.

Conclusion

This chapter provided a review of the research method, the areas of analysis, and the approach. Chapter 4 provides a detailed analysis of the four different areas. This analysis will support in answering the research questions and lead to recommendations to improve national security.

CHAPTER 4

DATA FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

<u>Introduction</u>

The purpose of this research is to discuss the effects of social media on national

security. Four areas of analysis are used to discuss this topic. These areas are used to

support answering the primary and secondary research questions. This chapter will also

present recommended strategies to enhance national security

<u>Analysis of Each Area</u>

Terrorism

Terrorist organizations use social media as a tool for ideological radicalization,

recruitment, communication, and training.[116] The usage of social media as a tool by these

organizations is a chief concern of national security authorities worldwide. Some assert

that Twitter, Facebook, and other social media platforms have helped facilitate global

jihad.[117] The use of social media platforms by the jihadist group was one of the main

subjects during a meeting between the former British Prime Minister David Cameron and

the former United States President Barack Obama in 2015, which focused on

cybersecurity and counterterrorism.

---

[116] Maggie Rowland, "Jihad 2.0: The Power of Social Media in Terrorist Recruitment," *HSDL Blog*, February 8, 2017, accessed 6 April, 2019, https://www.hsdl.org/c/jihad-2-0-the-power-of-social-media-in-terrorist-recruitment/.

[117] Yigal Carmon and Steven Stalinsky, "Terrorist Use of U.S. Social Media Is a National Security Threat," *Forbes*, January 30, 2015, accessed April 6, 2019, https://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2015/01/30/terrorist-use-of-u-s-social-media-is-a-national-security-threat/#3ea9cae34761.

Terrorists and related organizations use social media for propaganda purpose. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISSI) understanding the effective strategic use of social media shocked Americans when it beheaded, American journalist, James Foley on August 19, 2014.[118] The barbaric act created an emotional earthquake on social media and the American public. ISSI has also used social media platforms to recruit young men and women into their organization. On New Year's Eve in 2015, Emanuel L. Lutchman was arrested in Rochester, New York, by local and federal agents for planning to attack people at random later that night. He intended to use knives and a machete. Lutchman had made a video to be posted on a social media sites after the attack. He pledged his support to ISIS during the video. Evidence clearly supports that Lutchman possibly was inspired from watching videos posted videos and shared across ISSI-friendly social media and websites."[119]

ISSI has a history of infiltrating and exploiting social media sites in the United States. In June 2015, according to CNN reporter Ray Sanchez, ISSI uses encrypted online communication to spread messages; this report sparked grave concern among members of the security community. The encrypted online communication was difficult to detect at the time of the report. Authorities worldwide remain concerned that terrorist organizations can leverage this tool to encourage old and new members to conduct

---

[118] Carmon and Stalinsky, "Terrorist Use of U.S. Social Media Is a National Security Threat."

[119] Larry Greenemeier, "When Hatred Goes Viral: Inside Social Media's Efforts to Combat Terrorism," Scientific American, May 24, 2017, accessed January 16, 2019, https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/when-hatred-goes-viral-inside-social-medias-efforts-to-combat-terrorism/.

attacks. A typical example is the Usaamah Rahim case. In 2012 Rahim remained in touch

with his recruiter until he was tracked down and killed by state security officers in

2015.[120] State security officers discovered how Rahim's organization used encrypted

online communication in the United States to reach out to new sympathizers. This case

demonstrated how individuals and groups are now sophisticated enough to leverage

social media platform to support their terrorist operations.

In his research work on "Social Media and National Security Threats" published

in 2014, Julius K. Kimutai presents a survey on how terrorist organizations in Kenya use

social media.[121] According to Kimutai's work, respondents were asked if social media

could contribute to acts of terrorism. Table 2 presents the research results.

---

[120] Ray Sanchez, "ISIS Exploits Social Media to Make Inroads in U.S," *CNN*, June 5, 2015, accessed January 16, 2019, https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/04/us/isis-social-media-recruits/index.html.

[121] Kimutai, "Social Media and National Security Threats."

Table 2.	Social Media as a Tool	
	Mean	Std. Deviation
Ideological radicalization	1.21	0.415
Recruitment	1.90	0.778
Communication	1.62	0.582
Training	2.45	0.942
Propaganda	1.19	0.397
Threats of violence	1.55	0.633

Source: Data adapted from Julius K. Kimutai, "Social Media and National Security Threats: A Case Study of Kenya" (Thesis, University of Nairobi, 2014), accessed March 12, 2019, http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/76667.

The 1.2 percent indicates that people agreed that social media is used as a tool for ideological radicalization. In the area of communication, 1.6 percent of the people agreed that social media is used for communication. As for promoting the threat of violence category, 1.55 percent of respondents agreed that social media is used as a tool. Propaganda recorded the lowest score at 1.19 percent. Further, the data indicated that terrorist organizations frequently use social media as a tool for ideological radicalization, recruitment, communication, and training.

Key Takeaways from the Terrorism Area

The most important takeaway is that social media uses sophisticated means to facilitate terrorism. These organizations use social media and other sophisticated media related platforms that continue to evolve in complexity to coordinate, plan, and execute operations. They employ every means possible to reach out to and recruit a broader

global audience to undergo radicalization. These organizations are exhaustive in their efforts to protect their activities from detection by security institutions. The study indicates that more critical security measures are needed to prevent or deter terrorist-related activities on social media platforms institutions like Facebook. The need for authorities to establish rigid security measures to prevent or deter terrorist organizations activities cannot be overemphasized. This security gap exposes most social media users, especially youth to social media predators because of their lack of understanding of the downside risks associated with the numerous platforms available today.

Use of Social Media for Criminal Activities

Mischievous individuals use social media as a conduit to conduct their illicit activities.[122] Social media today is vital in our lives.[123] This platform has converted the world into a small space, or as others would say, "a global village." People are reaching out to one another separated by vast distances and even continents as if they were next to each other. Businesses are moving faster than ever through the use of social media.[124] The business linkages alone have forced most connected societies to embrace some form

---

[122] Joanna Belbey, "Crime and Social Media Law Enforcement is Watching," *Forbes*, August 13, 2016, accessed April 23, 2019, https://www.forbes.com/sites /joannabelbey/2016/08/31/crime-and-social-media-law-enforcement-is-watching /#126eaa2f541d.

[123] Emily Blake. "The Strength Of K-Pop Fandom, by the Numbers," *Forbes*, April 4, 2018, accessed April 27, 2019, https://www.forbes.com/sites /emilyblake1/2018/04/04/k-pop-numbers/#13168b6048ab.

[124] Matt Mansfield, "Social Media Marketing Statistics Important to Small Businesses," Small Business Trend, December 28, 2018, accessed April 23, 2019, https://smallbiztrends.com/2016/12/social-media-marketing-statistics.html.

of social media. However, it is important to note that criminally minded people have also taken advantage of how social media can facilitate nefarious operations. Joanna Belbey, in her article, "Crime and Social Media: Law Enforcement is Watching," discusses the positives aspects of social media in business. She writes that "whether it is financial advisers guiding the importance of saving for retirement, or doctors collaborating across borders, or possibly patients reporting adverse drug effects, or even insurance firms investigating fraudulent disability claims, we see social being used in business for good every day. However, what about the people who use social media for bad? To conduct illegal business?"[125] Joanna understands how criminals use social media as an avenue for illicit activities, and it is essential that we also understand this new and evolving threat.

In Kemutai's work on social media, he asked respondents if social media has impacted criminal activities in Kenya. Most of the respondents agreed that criminal organizations are taking advantage of social media.[126] He further asserted that to date, terrorist groups which make the most substantial use of social media for their purposes, are the Islamic-jihadist who have their operations in Kenya. Table 3 shows participant responses to Kemutai's survey.

---

[125] Joanna Belbey, "Crime and Social Media Law Enforcement is Watching," *Forbes*, August 13, 2016, accessed April 23, 2019, https://www.forbes.com/sites /joannabelbey/2016/08/31/crime-and-social-media-law-enforcement-is-watching/#54f2eeb4541d.

[126] Kimutai, "Social Media and National Security Threats."

Table 3.	Social Media Impact on Criminal Activities	
	Mean	Sta. Deviation
The spread of viruses	2.12	0.739
Trojans	2.07	0.745
Drug smuggling	2.60	0.798
Human trafficking	2.50	0.707
Money-laundering	2.35	0.975
Spreading child pornography	1.33	0.612
Mobilization	1.76	0.790

Source: Data adapted from Julius K. Kimutai, "Social Media and National Security Threats: A Case Study of Kenya" (Thesis, University of Nairobi, 2014), accessed March 12, 2019, http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/76667.

Key Takeaway from Criminal Activities Area

The essential takeaway is that social media is not as safe as most people might think. Additionally, social media users must recognize that other users operate on social media platforms with criminal intent. This awareness will reduce the number of victims that are duped by numerous nefarious actives resident in the social media operating environment. Criminals have taken advantage of this platform for drug smuggling, human trafficking, money-laundering, spreading child pornography, and for other criminal activities. These illicit activities have caused severe security breaches at the individual and national levels.

In summary, it is undeniable that criminals use social media platforms to conduct criminal activities ranging from drug smuggling and human trafficking to money-

laundering.[127] The data and analysis from the research demonstrate how criminals are taking advantage of social media platforms to support their operations.

<center>Communal Violence</center>

The role of social media in the promotion and perpetuation of violence among people is enormous.[128] While it is true that social media platforms, in many ways benefit society, it has some drawbacks. There are numerous instances worldwide involving gang-related and other types of violence resulting from calls to action via messages and social media platforms.[129] These platforms are used to spread hate messages in an attempt to incite violence.

In the research paper, "Social Media in the Domain of Communal Violence: A Case Study of Assam Riot," Sayantani Roy and Aditya K. Shukla evaluated the types of violence occurring in India and attributed this violence to social media platforms that ignite aggressive thought and encourage crime. For example, the violence between the

---

[127] Justin Nix, Michael R. Smith, Matthew Petrocelli, Jeff Rojek, and Victor M. Manjarrez, "The Use of Social Media by Alleged Members of Mexican Cartels and Affiliated Drug Trafficking Organizations," *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management* 13, no. 3 (January 2016), accessed March 16, 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305819557_The_Use_of_Social_Media_by_All eged_Members_of_Mexican_Cartels_and_Affiliated_Drug_Trafficking_Organizations.

[128] Desmond U. Patton, Jun Sung Hong, and Megan Ranney, "Social Media as a Vector for Youth Violence: A Review of the Literature," *Computers in Human Behavior* 35 (June 2014): 548-553, accessed March 16, 2019, https://www.sciencedirect.com /science/article/pii/S0747563214001101.

[129] Desmond U. Patton, Jun Sung Hong, and Megan Ranne, "Internet Banging: New Trends in Social Media, Gang Violence, Masculinity and Hip Hop," *Computers in Human Behavior* 29, no. 5 (September 2013): A54-A59, accessed March 16, 2019, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563212003779.

indigenous Bodos and Muslims in Assam. A posted picture on Facebook ignited alarm

and led to the mass migration of a high number of northeasterners to escape violence.

Additionally, social media was allegedly responsible for violence in Kishtwar in Jammu

and Kashmir after Eid festivities.[130] These incidents highlight the influential power of

social media platforms to incite communal violence.

Key Takeaways from the Communal Violence Area

The main takeaway from this is how the harmful use of social media platforms

threatens peaceful coexistence. This research studied how people use social media to

incite religious, ethnic, and other forms of violence. Interestingly, this violence divides

societies and affects all age levels. Young people especially are the victims, with constant

exposure to violence via social media. The potentially adverse effects associated with the

misuse of social media platforms requires greater government regulation in evaluating

and censoring objectionable messages. Government regulation must also include legal

action against negative actors.

Impact of Social Media on Leakage of Classified Documents on National Security

In late July of 2012, the United States Senate Intelligence Committee approved

bipartisan legislation on anti-leak provisions designed to curb disclosure of national

security information. This law and an ongoing FBI inquiry into intelligence leaks raised

---

[130] Sayantani Roy and Aditya K Shukla, "Social Media in The Domain of Communal Violence: A Study of Assam Riot 2012," *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovative Ideas in Education* 2, no. 2 (March 2016): 51-55, accessed March 18, 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/302273092_Social_Media_In_The_Domain_Of_Communal_Violence_A_Study_Of_Assam_Riot_2012.

severe reservations about the relationship between reporters and sources. Many freedom

of speech advocates, journalists, and even some national security officials say this anti-

leak bill goes too far.[131] Countering this free speech position during a 2012 televised

event, a group of renowned journalists and national security specialists debated the merits

of the new law and stressed the importance of protecting national security.[132]

Although there are anti-leak laws and other legislation against acts that damage

national security, the U.S. continues to suffer from classified national security

information leaks. In November 2010, prior to the anti-leak, WikiLeaks released a trove

of classified diplomatic information from 2007 to 2010.[133] This platform continues to

release damaging information about people and institutions like the October 7, 2016,

video recording that features President Donald Trump boasting that his celebrity allows

him to grope women with impunity. Less than an hour later after the Trump-related

release, WikiLeaks published a large number of e-mail messages from John Podesta's

personal account. John was Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.[134]

The United States is not alone; nations worldwide, businesses, and individuals

have experienced or are experiencing unauthorized leaks of professional and personal

---

[131] Tom Gjelten, "The Media, National Security and Leaks," National Public Radio, August 9, 2012, accessed January 18, 2019, https://www.npr.org/2012/08/09 /158501280/the-media-national-security-and-leaks.%20Accessed%20 on%20January%202019.

[132] Ibid., 1.

[133] Michael Ray, "WikiLeaks Media Organization and Web Site," Encyclopedia Britannica, accessed January 18, 2019, https://www.britannica.com/topic/WikiLeaks.

[134] Ibid.

information that has potentially devastating effects. Although unconformable, it is generally understood that numerous unauthorized classified leaks annually in the United States cause severe damage to intelligence activities and expose its capabilities.[135] The worst case scenario is that this information in the wrong hands can aid them in planning future attacks against the United States and other nations. Therefore, the need to take appropriate actions to protect classified information is essential to ensure and maintain the security of a nation.

<div align="center">

Key Takeaway from the Leakage of
Classified Documents Area

</div>

A significant takeaway from this level is that increased monitoring and control of social media is required to ensure national security. Despite the concerns of journalists and other individuals about the right to information, it is important to stress that state security is a priority. A responsible government must ensure that the state is safe from both internal and external threats, and if the restriction of certain information would safeguard the state, such action should be taken.

---

[135] Peter Hoekstra, "Secrets and Leaks: The Costs and Consequences for National Security," The Heritage Foundation, July 29, 2005, accessed March 19, 2019, https://www.heritage.org/homeland-security/report/secrets-and-leaks-the-costs-and-.

Table 4.	Most Important Takeaway from the Areas of Analysis Study
Areas	Takeaways
Terrorism	Terrorist organizations use social media and other sophisticated media related platforms that continue to evolve in complexity to coordinate, plan, and execute operations.
Criminality	Social media is not a haven, and social media is leveraged by criminals to dupe unsuspecting users and organize illicit activities.
Communal Violence	The harmful use of social media platforms threaten peaceful coexistence.
Social Media Impact on Leakage of Classified Document	Protection of national security is a priority; states must not allow the use of social media as a tool for criminals, terrorists, or other nefarious activities.

Source: Created by author with information taken from Catherine A. Theohary and John Rollins, *Terrorist Use of the Internet: Information Operation in Cyberspace* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011), accessed August 10, 2018, https://fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41674.pdf; Sayantani Roy and Aditya K Shukla, "Social Media in The Domain of Communal Violence: A Study of Assam Riot 2012," *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovative Ideas in Education* 2, no. 2 (March 2016): 52, accessed March 18, 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication /302273092_Social_Media_In_The_Domain_Of_Communal_Violence_A_Study_Of_As sam_Riot_2012.

The researcher believes that all of the points highlighted as critical takeaways are vital to national security. Terrorism, communal violence, criminal activities, and the unauthorized disclosure of classified document are social media threats that equally threaten states' security and require increased policing. This study highlights that responsible governments and social media institutions must take the necessary steps to ensure national security and protect innocent user on social media platforms.

Readdressing the Research Primary and Secondary Questions

In this section, the data collected and findings from chapter 4 are used to address the thesis study questions. Response to the questions are based on this limited study of

the social media environment; additional study is required to prove applicability in all countries and all security environments. The researcher will address secondary questions first, finishing with the primary question last. The questions are restated for convenience in order of response:

1. Secondary: How do social media platforms impact on national security?

2. Secondary: What strategies can a state adopt to counter the threats of social media on national security?

3. Primary: What is the relationship between social media and national security?

Table 5. Summary Responses to Research Questions	
Q1: How do social media platforms impact on national security?	Negative actors exploit social media, which impacts of ordinary citizens. Classified leaks reduce a state's ability to count internal and external threats.
Q2. What strategies can a state adopt to counter the threats of social media on national security?	Establish a social media policy and include measures that support more significant control over social media. See social media recommendations section in chapter 4.
P. What is the relationship between social media and national security?	Information gathering and sharing is a common thread between social media and national security. Authorities must understand and leverage the relationship and how to ensure the highest levels of social media.

Source: Created by author with information taken from William Pelgrin, "Three Reasons Why Criminals Exploit Social Networks, and Tips to Avoid Getting Scammed," *CSO Online*, June 5, 2013, accessed April 12, 2019, https://www.csoonline.com /article/2133563/3-reasons-why-criminals-exploit-social-networks--and-tips-to-avoid-getting-scamme.html.

Question 1: How do social media platforms impact on national security? Criminals (in general) exploit social media platforms to conduct their nefarious activities.[136] Some of the activities discussed in this thesis include spreading child pornography, virtual identity theft, phishing, drug smuggling, the spread of computer viruses, human trafficking, money-laundering, and industrial espionage.[137] Further, evidence showed that criminals have used social media to release confidential and sensitive print, audio, and photo related information.[138]

Question 2. What strategies can a state adopt to counter the threats of social media on national security? Four recommendations support improving a state's ability in response to this question. The measures include the development of a national social media policy to effectively counter the harmful use of social media, regulating the use of social media while respecting the citizens' right to freedom of information, and enactment of enabling laws that would punish social media offenders. Others are use social media as a source of intelligence gathering and an early warning tool for national security. Each recommendation is explained below in the proceeding paragraphs.

---

[136] William Pelgrin, "Three Reasons Why Criminals Exploit Social Networks, and Tips to Avoid Getting Scammed," *CSO Online*, June 5, 2013, accessed April 12, 2019, https://www.csoonline.com/article/2133563/3-reasons-why-criminals-exploit-social-networks--and-tips-to-avoid-getting-scamme.html.

[137] Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice, "Computer Crimes," Encyclopedia.Com, accessed April 19, 2019, https://www.encyclopedia.com/science-and-technology/computers-and-electrical-engineering/computers-and-computing/computer-crime.

[138] Richard Kissel, *Glossary of Key Information Security Terms* (Gaithersburg, MD: National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2013), accessed April 19, 2019, http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2013/NIST.IR.7298r2.pdf.

<u>Develop A Social Media Policy</u>

A national social media policy is needed for states to counter the harmful usage of

social media by people. This policy would enable the state to completely take advantage

of opportunities to protect the state's strategic interests.[139] It would ultimately serve as a

critical enabler that responsibly and effectively leverages social media.[140] The policy

would also allow end-users of social media platforms to understand what is and is not

appropriate. Additionally, the policy would ensure that national security personnel and

others understand how to use and protect government equipment adequately. This policy

would address the use of social media by public agencies and include guidance for

propaganda, monitoring, and censoring activities.[141] Finally, it could also specify the use

of social media for interception of communication for national security purposes.[142]

<u>Regulating the Use of Social Media</u>

Regulating social media is aimed at growing concerns on issues such as the

spread hate messages, fake news, and scams. Regulation will ensure a high level of

---

[139] John Carlo Bertot, Paul T. Jaeger, and Derek Hansen, "The Impact of Polices on Government Social Media Usage: Issues, Challenges, And Recommendations," *Government Information Quarterly* 29, no. 1 (January 2012): 30-40, accessed April 19, 2019, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740624X11000992.

[140] Ibid., 33.

[141] Bertot, Jaeger, and Hansen, "The Impact of Polices on Government Social Media Usage: Issues, Challenges, And Recommendations," 33.

[142] Ibid., 35.

national security.[143] The print media and to some extent, the electronic media use

discretion when selecting content, but social media users are completely unrestricted

because there is no regulating mechanism.[144] During a lecture series organized by All

India Radio in New Delhi on October 27, 2015, the Information and Broadcasting

Minister at that time, Mr. Sardar Patel, indicated that "the social medium gives citizens a

voice, it is still unregulated and carried a large amount of false, defamatory and damaging

content."[145] Such unregulated, large amount of false, defamatory, and damaging content

has the propensity to create division, and plunge an entire nation into chaos.

<div align="center">Enact Laws to Punish Offenders</div>

Social media is spreading rapidly across the world.[146] This rapid spread is

occurring in states where there are no laws to regulate its usage, or to punish offenders

using social media as a medium for criminal activities. All of the areas discussed in

chapter 4 with security implications advocate the adoption of laws to punish those who

---

[143] Andres Åslund, "Regulate Social Media—Just Like Other Media," *The Hill Blog*, October 5, 2017, accessed April 19, 2019, https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/354006-regulate-social-media-just-like-other-media.

[144] Devparna Acharya, "No Ban on Media, but Social Media Needs Regulations, Says Arun Jaitley: How Will the Govt Strike that Balance?," October 27, 2015, accessed April 23, 2019, https://www.firstpost.com/india/no-ban-on-media-but-social-media-needs-regulations-says-jaitley-how-will-the-govt-strike-that-balance-2484234.html.

[145] Acharya, "No Ban on Media, but Social Media Needs Regulations, Says Arun Jaitley."

[146] Anca Dumitru, "Social Media: Communication During Rapid Growth of Social Platforms," Nordic Business Report, March 15, 2017, accessed April 23, 2019, https://www.nbforum.com/nbreport/social-media-communication-rapid-growth-social-platforms/.

use social media platforms for illegal purposes. Lack of laws to punish offenders in some ways encourages leveraging social media for nefarious activities that threaten national security. Laws would discourage the use of social media for all criminal activities and ultimately positively impact national security.

<div align="center">Use of Social Media as an Early Warning Tool</div>

Continuous monitoring of social media platforms provides early warning against present and future threats to national security.[147] Such monitoring is appropriate because of the frequent and increasing use of social media by mischievous individuals, terrorist groups, and adversaries. Using social media as an early warning tool could reduce surprise and increase competency to fight against threats.[148] One technique is to leverage social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube that are easily converted into intelligence collection tools in case of an emergency.[149] Criminals and terrorists generally leave traces while using social media. These traces include information related to identity, abilities, predilections, movements, and contacts. All of this data is easily collectible and analyzed.[150] The valuable intelligence gathered from social media

---

[147] Susann Kimmelman, "Indications and Warning Methodology for Strategic Intelligence" (Thesis, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, December 2017), accessed April 23, 2019, https://apps.dtic.mil/docs/citations/AD1053328.

[148] Kimmelman, "Indications and Warning Methodology for Strategic Intelligence," 54.

[149] Ibid.

[150] Ibid.

platforms could help prevent crimes.[151] Monitoring and engaging more in cyber

intelligence gathering using social media would substantially and positively impact early

warning operations and lead to enhanced national security.[152]

Question 3. The two secondary questions assisted in organizing research to

support answering the primary question: What is the relationship between social media

and national security? Information gathering and sharing are common threads between

social media and national security. As indicated in this research paper, information

gathering and sharing are at the heart of national security.[153] Without information or

intelligence, a state cannot adequately ensure its security. Therefore, state security

services should leverage social media platforms to gather information that could prevent

an unsuspected attack from internal and external adversaries or criminals. In Evelina

Vilkaite's 2013 article, "The Relationship Between the Media and Intelligence," she

writes that journalism or the media, in general, has been a part of intelligence-related

activities for a long time. She notes how the British Broadcasting Cooperation began as

an intelligence agency during the years of the Second World War.[154] In summary,

---

[151] Doug Wyllie, "How Do Investigators Use Social Media Tools to Monitor Criminal Activity?," PoliceOne.Com, March 26, 2015, accessed March 14, 2019, https://www.policeone.com/investigations/articles/8502656-How-do-investigators-use-social-media-tools-to-monitor-criminal-activity/.

[152] Kevin Coleman, "The Growing Importance of Cyber Intelligence," *Net Defense Blog*, August 9, 2016, accessed April 26, 2019, https://www.c4isrnet.com/opinion/the-compass/net-defense-blogs/2016/08/09/the-growing-importance-of-cyber-intelligence/.

[153] Carafano, "Social Networking and National Security."

[154] Evelina Vilkaite, "The Relationship Between the Media and Intelligence," E-International Relation Students, March 22, 2013, accessed March 19, 2019,

Evelina points out in her essay the vital relationship between the media and security

institutions is how these institutions can leverage the media platforms to obtain

intelligence for security purposes.

https://www.e-ir.info/2013/03/22/the-relationship-between-all-forms-of-media-and-intelligence-activity/.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

This study focused on the effects of social media on national security. The primary purpose was to study the effects of social media on national security in order to proposed strategies for enhanced control. This thesis also established that social media platforms have far-reaching social and security implications. Some of the ways social media could affect a country include terrorism, criminality, communal violence, and leakage of classified documents. The study indicated, as a response to the primary question, that information gathering and sharing is the common thread between social media and national security. It is necessary to continually monitor how social media platforms develop, work, and their potential. Such oversight will, in most cases, reduce surprise offensive attacks via social media and assist in preparing an appropriate national-level response. The rest of chapter 5 will readdress recommendations for a social media strategy, look at recommendations for future social media-related research.

Table 6. Summary Responses to Research Questions	
Q1: How do social media platforms impact on national security?	Negative actors exploit social media, which impacts of ordinary citizens. Classified leaks reduce a state's ability to count internal and external threats.
Q2. What strategies can a state adopt to counter the threats of social media on national security?	Establish a social media policy and include measures that support more significant control over social media. See social media recommendations section in chapter 4.
P. What is the relationship between social media and national security?	Information gathering and sharing is a common thread between social media and national security. Authorities must understand and leverage the relationship and how to ensure the highest levels of social media.

Source: Created by author with information from John Carlo Bertot, Paul T. Jaeger, and Derek Hansen, "The Impact of Polices on Government Social Media Usage: Issues, Challenges, And Recommendations," *Government Information Quarterly* 29, no. 1 (January 2012): 30-40, accessed April 19, 2019, https://www.sciencedirect.com /science/article/pii/S0740624X11000992.

Recommendations Based on the Thesis Research

It is recommended that governments, through their relevant institutions, monitor social media platforms in order to counter criminal and terrorist-related activities. As discussed in this paper, criminal and terrorist organizations employ sophisticated means to reach out to their sympathizers and conduct their activities undetected.[155] Additionally,

---

[155] Ray Sanchez, "ISIS Exploits Social Media to Make Inroads in U.S.," *CNN*, June 5, 2015, accessed January 12, 2019, https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/04/us/isis-social-media-recruits/index.html.

governments need to develop policies that will address issues of a fake identity. This practice is prevalent on social media platforms easily detectable by unskilled users. The practice is so entrenched that some impersonations include stolen images with genuine profiles.[156]

<div align="center">Recommendation and Suggestions for Future Study</div>

The main objective of this research was to discuss the effects of social media on national security. One of the significant limitations faced during the research was time limitations and the researcher's inability to sample views of people on this subject. Some sampling or surveying would have added additional context to this thesis. Additionally, the limited researcher skills in data analysis and processing took up much of the time for the research. A recommendation for the institute is to introduce some form of software training during the pre-course period. This training would provide students with the necessary skills that would improve their research work.

A highly recommended study for the future is a review on how authorities could leverage social media platforms in other security areas such as piracy and human trafficking. Piracy is of particular interest, especially in Africa. This criminal activity has increased over time in Africa. Initially concentrated in the Horn of Africa, practically Somalia, piracy is now shifting to other parts of Africa. Piracy has spread to the Gulf of Guinea on the West Coast of Africa. West African regional leaders and the international

---

[156] Katharina Krombholz, Dieter Merkl, and Edgar Weippl, "Fake Identities in Social Media: A Case Study on the Sustainability of the Facebook Business Model," The Society of Service Science and Springer, December 31, 2012, accessed April 18, 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257795505_Fake_identities_in_social_media_A_case_study_on_the_sustainability_of_the_Facebook_business_model.

community have raised heighten concerns about this menace as it continues to threaten

security in the region.[157]

---

[157] Stephen Starr, "Style Maritime Piracy on the Rise in West Africa," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 4 (April 2014): 23-26, accessed April 6, 2019, https://ctc.usma.edu /maritime-piracy-on-the-rise-in-west-africa/.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Accountable Journalism. "Code of Ethics of the Press Union of Liberia." May 19, 1997. Accessed September 12, 2018. https://accountablejournalism.org/ethics-codes/Liberia-Press-Union.

Acharya, Devparna. "No Ban on Media, but Social Media Needs Regulations, Says Arun Jaitley: How Will the Govt Strike that Balance?" October 27, 2015. Accessed April 23, 2019. https://www.firstpost.com/india/no-ban-on-media-but-social-media-needs-regulations-says-jaitley-how-will-the-govt-strike-that-balance-2484234.html.

Ahmad, Bilal. "10 Advantages and Disadvantages of Social Media for Society." *Techmaish Blog*, March 10, 2016. Accessed September 14, 2018. https://www.techmaish.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-social-media-for-society.

Alexa and Similar Web Traffic Data. "World Map of Social Networks." *Vincos Blog*, January 2019. Accessed March 28, 2019. http://www.vincos.it/world-map-of-social-networks.

Answer. "Why is Adequate Information Important?" Accessed September 8, 2018. https://www.answers.com/Q/Why_is_Adequate_information_important.

Åslund, Andres. "Regulate Social Media—Just Like Other Media." *The Hill Blog*, October 5, 2017. Accessed April 19, 2019. https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/354006-regulate-social-media-just-like-other-media.

Bajagic, Mladen, and Zelimir Kesetovic. "Rethinking Security." December 2004. Accessed July 5, 2018. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/Mesko/208034.pdf.

Baldwin, David A. "The Concept of Security, British International Studies Association." *Review of International Studies* (1997): 5-26. Accessed July 2, 2018. https://www.princeton.edu/~dbaldwin/selected%20articles/Baldwin%20%281997%29%20The%20Concept%20of%20Security.pdf.

Baum, Matthew A., and Philip B. K. Potter. "The Relationship Between Mass Media, Public Opinion, Foreign Policy: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11 (June 2008): 39-65. Accessed August 6, 2018. https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.11.060406.214132.

Belbey, Joanna. "Crime and Social Media Law Enforcement is Watching." *Forbes*, August 13, 2016. Accessed April 23, 2019. https://www.forbes.com/sites/joannabelbey/2016/08/31/crime-and-social-media-law-enforcement-is-watching/#54f2eeb4541d.

Bertot, John Carlo, Paul T. Jaeger, and Derek Hansen. "The Impact of Polices on Government Social Media Usage: Issues, Challenges, And Recommendations." *Government Information Quarterly* 29, no. 1 (January 2012): 30-40. Accessed April 19, 2019. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740624X11000992.

Blake, Emily. "The Strength Of K-Pop Fandom, by the Numbers." *Forbes*, April 4, 2018. Accessed April 27, 2019. https://www.forbes.com/sites/emilyblake1/2018/04/04/k-pop-numbers/#13168b6048ab.

Carafano, James C. "Social Networking and National Security: How to Harness Web 2.0 to Protect the Country." *Backgrounder*, May 18, 2009. Accessed October 8, 2018. https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/social-networking-and-national-security-how-harness-web-20-protect-the-country.

Carmon, Yigal, and Steven Stalinsky. "Terrorist Use of U.S. Social Media Is a National Security Threat." *Forbes*, January 30, 2015. Accessed April 6, 2019. https://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2015/01/30/terrorist-use-of-u-s-social-media-is-a-national-security-threat/#3ea9cae34761.

Chaffey, Dave. "Global Social Media Research Summary 2019." Smart Insight. February 12, 2019. Accessed January 5, 2019. https://www.smartinsights.com/social-media-marketing/social-media-strategy/new-global-social-media-research.

Chiefe, TE. *Media Reports and The Issues of Press Freedom: The Military, The Media and Nigeria's National Security*. Ibadan: Gold Press, 2010.

Chukwu, Jeremiah, and Agwu Joy Nneka. "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Its Applications in Telecommunications." *Journal of Environmental Science, Computer Science and Engineering and Technology* 1, no. 3 (September-November 2012): 250-262. Accessed April 25, 2019. https://www.academia.edu/2093938/Information_and_Communication_Technology_ICT_and_Its_Applications_in_Telecommunications.

Coleman, Kevin. "The Growing Importance of Cyber Intelligence." *Net Defense Blog*, August 9, 2016. Accessed April 26, 2019. https://www.c4isrnet.com/opinion/the-compass/net-defense-blogs/2016/08/09/the-growing-importance-of-cyber-intelligence/.

Dijck, José van. *The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2013. Accessed September 6, 2018. http://groupthree.web.unc.edu/rise-of-social-media/.

Dumitru, Anca. "Social Media: Communication During Rapid Growth of Social Platforms." Nordic Business Report. March 15, 2017. Accessed April 23, 2019. https://www.nbforum.com/nbreport/social-media-communication-rapid-growth-social-platforms/.

Ehmke, Rachel. "How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers." Accessed August 6, 2018. https://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-social-work/documents/2018/05/.

Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice. "Computer Crimes." Encyclopedia.Com. Accessed April 19, 2019. https://www.encyclopedia.com/science-and-technology/computers-and-electrical-engineering/computers-and-computing/computer-crime.

Essoungou, Andre-Michel. "A Social Media Boom Begins in Africa." *AfricaRenewal* (December 2010): 3-4. Accessed April 25, 2019. https://www.un.org /africarenewal/magazine/december-2010/social-media-boom-begins-africa.

Ethembanaoglu, Aksel, Tim Sweoijs, George Boone, Kevin Goreham, and Stephan de Spiegeleire. "Social Networking: The Security Shakedown of Shared Information." Report, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, 2011. Accessed December 3, 3018. https://hcss.nl/report/future_issue_-_social_networking__ the_security_shakedown_of_shared_information_1.

Family Health International. "Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collector's Field Guide." Accessed March 29, 2019. https://course.ccs.neu.edu/is4800sp12 /resources/qualmethods.pdf.

Gjelten, Tom. "The Media, National Security and Leaks." National Public Radio, August 9, 2012. Accessed January 18, 2019. https://www.npr.org/2012/08/09 /158501280/the-media-national-security-and-leaks.%20Accessed%20on %20January%202019.

Greenemeier, Larry. "When Hatred Goes Viral: Inside Social Media's Efforts to Combat Terrorism." Scientific American. May 24, 2017. Accessed January 16, 2019. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/when-hatred-goes-viral-inside-social-medias-efforts-to-combat-terrorism/.

Gutterman, Brian, Shahreen Rahman, Jorge Supelano, Laura Thies, and Mai Yang. "Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in Education for Development." White Paper, Global Alliance for ICT and Development, May 15, 2009. Accessed September 23, 2018. http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups /public/documents/gaid/unpan034975~1.pdf.

Hendricks, Drew. "Complete History of Social Media: Then and Now." Small Business Trend. May 8, 2013. Accessed August 23, 2018. https://smallbiztrends.com /2013/05/the-complete-history-of-social-media-infographic.html.

Hoekstra, Peter. "Secrets and Leaks: The Costs and Consequences for National Security." The Heritage Foundation. July 29, 2005. Accessed March 19, 2019. https://www.heritage.org/homeland-security/report/secrets-and-leaks-the-costs-and-.

Homeland Security Today. "Boko Haram Expands with ISIS-Style Social Media Presence." February 18, 2015. Accessed December 8, 2018. https://www.hstoday.us/channels/global/boko-haram-expands-launches-isis-style-social-media-presence/.

Intelligence and National Security Alliance. "Cyber Intelligence: Setting the Landscape for an Emerging Discipline." White Paper, INSA Cyber Intelligence Task Force, Arlington, VA, September 2013. Accessed April 26, 2018. https://www.insa online.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/INSA_OperCyberIntelligence_WP.pdf.

Irani, Sarah. "Summertime and the Livin's Easy: 20 (More!) Fun Things to Do for Free." EcoSalon. July 28, 2009. Accessed December 6, 2018. http://ecosalon.com/20-more-things-to-do-for-free.

Iredia, Tonnie O. "The Role of Mass Media in Fostering Peace and National Integrity in Nigeria." November 22, 2002. Unpublished.

Jain, Rohan. "What Is the Purpose of Social Networking Sites?" *DreamTeamMoney Blog*, January 29, 2016. Accessed April 25, 2019. http://www.dreamteam money.com/index.php?showtopic=252585.

Kallas, Priit. "Top 15 Most Popular Social Networking Sites and Apps." Dreamgrow. August 2, 2018. Accessed September 6, 2018. https://www.dreamgrow.com/top-15-most-popular-social-networking-sites/.

Kannadasan, Kamal, Dr Inadu Muthuchamy, and M. Dona Amalorpavam. "Social Media Behavior of Higher Secondary Students in Relation to Certain Select Variables." *Review of Research* 8, no. 4 (January 2019). Accessed April 26, 2019. http://oldror.lbp.world/UploadedData/7202.pdf.

Kemp, Simon. "Digital in 2018: World's Internet Users Pass the 4 Billion Mark." *WeAreSocial Blog*, January 30, 2018. Accessed August 20, 2018. https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018/01/global-digital-report-2018.

Kimmelman, Susann. "Indications and Warning Methodology for Strategic Intelligence." Thesis, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, December 2017. Accessed April 23, 2019. https://apps.dtic.mil/docs/citations/AD1053328.

Kimutai, Julius K. "Social Media and National Security Threats: A Case Study of Kenya." Thesis, University of Nairobi, 2014. Accessed March 12, 2019. http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/76667.

Kirea, Njeru Abraham, Dr. Bernard Malakwen, and Dr. Masibo Lumala. "Challenges Facing Social Media Platforms in Conflict Prevention in Kenya Since 2007: A Case Study of Ushahidi Platform." *International Academic Journal of Social Sciences and Education* 2, no. 1 (2018): 88-101. Accessed December 6, 2018. http://iajournals.org/articles/iajsse_v2_i1_88_101.pdf.

Kissel, Richard. *Glossary of Key Information Security Terms*. Gaithersburg, MD: National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2013. Accessed April 19, 2019. http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2013/NIST.IR.7298r2.pdf.

Krombholz, Katharina, Dieter Merkl, and Edgar Weippl. "Fake Identities in Social Media: A Case Study on the Sustainability of the Facebook Business Model." The Society of Service Science and Springer. December 31, 2012. Accessed April 18, 2019. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257795505_Fake_identities_in_social_media_A_case_study_on_the_sustainability_of_the_Facebook_business_model.

LaFond, Matthew, and Hayden Gilmore. "Russia is Trying to Undermine Ukraine's Sovereignty." *The Hill Blog*, December 12, 2018. Accessed April 25, 2019. https://thehill.com/opinion/international/421499-russia-is-trying-to-undermine-ukraines-sovereignty.

Law Student. "Regulation and Investigation of Crime on Social Media in the United Kingdom." Law Teacher, April 2019. Accessed April 26, 2019. https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-dissertations/social-media-national-identity-9938.php?vref=1.

Leberecht, Tim. "What's Happening? Credibility on the Conversation 2.0." *Slide Share Blog*, August 10, 2011. Accessed April 26, 2019. https://www.slideshare.net/tleberecht/conversation-20/9-Whats_happening_Credibility_on_the.

Lee, Eunjung, and Wei Xue. "How Do Online Social Networks Drive Internal Communication and Improve Employee Engagement." Student Works, Cornell University ILR School, April 12, 2013. Accessed August 23, 2018. https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1021&context=student.

Legal Services India. "Torts Against Secular Communal Group: A Study of Communal Violence in India." Accessed August 10, 2018. http://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/2327/Torts-Against-Secular-Communal-Group:-A-study-of-Communal-violence-in-India.html.

Lieberman, Ariel V. "Terrorism, the Internet, and Propaganda: A Deadly Combination." *Journal of National Security Law and Policy* 9, no. 95 (April 2017): 95-124. Accessed on April 26, 2019. http://jnslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Terrorism_the_Internet_and_Propaganda_FINAL.pdf.

Little, William, and Ron McGivern. "Social Movements and Social Change." In *Introduction to Sociology*, adapted by William Little. Open Stax College, BC Campus, 2014. Accessed December 14, 2018. https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology/chapter/chapter21-social-movements-and-social-change/.

Mansfield, Matt. "Social Media Marketing Statistics Important to Small Businesses."
        Small Business Trend. December 28, 2018. Accessed April 23, 2019.
        https://smallbiztrends.com/2016/12/social-media-marketing-statistics.html.

Mardisalu, Rob. "14 Most Alarming Cyber Security Statistics in 2019." TheBestVPM.
        April 3, 2019. Accessed May 16, 2019. https://thebestvpn.com/cyber-security-
        statistics-2019/.

Marinucci, Joe. "Five Social Media Trends That Will Impact Digital Advertising."
        Forbes Agency Council Community Voice. September 14, 2018. Accessed
        August 23, 2018. https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesagencycouncil/2018
        /09/14/five-social-media-trends-that-will-impact-digital-advertising
        /#273a290d2f05.

Markaleler, Ozan Ormeci. "The Concept of Security and Security Studies." Ozan Ormeci
        Articles. Accessed August 4, 2018. http://ydemokrat.blogspot.com/2010
        /09/concept-of-security-and-security.html.

McCullough, Kimberly. "Why Government Use of Social Media Monitoring Software Is
        a Direct Threat to Our Liberty and Privacy." *ACLU Blog*, May 6, 2016. Accessed
        December 14, 2018. https://www.aclu.org/blog/privacy-technology/surveillance-
        technologies/why-government-use-social-media-monitoring.

McDonald-Gibson, Charlotte. "Brussels Fear and Frustration Continue One Year After
        Belgium's Worst Terror Attack." *Times*, March 21, 2017. Accessed August 10,
        2018. http://time.com/4707414/belgium-airport-terror-attack/.

McFarland, Michael. "Unauthorized Transmission and Use of Personal Data." Markkula
        Center for Applied Ethics, June 1, 2012. Accessed April 26, 2019.
        https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/internet-ethics/resources/unauthorized-
        transmission-and-use-of-personal-data/.

McLuhan, Marshall. "The Medium is the Message." Probe for Answers. May 27, 2001.
        Accessed December 14, 2018. https://probe.org/marshall-mcluhan-the-medium-
        is-the-message/?print=pdf.

Middleton, Melisande. "Social Responsibility in the Media." Center for International
        Media Ethics, Oxford University PCMLP, March 2009. Accessed September 12,
        2018. https://www.academia.edu/5323416/Social_Responsibility_in_the_Media.

Montagnese, Alfonso. "Impact of Social Media on National Security." Research Paper,
        Centro Militare de Studi Strategici, 2011. Accessed December 3, 2018.
        http://www.difesa.it/SMD_/CASD/IM/CeMiSS/Documents/Ricerche/2012/Stepi/s
        ocial_media_20120313_0856.pdf.

Munyaradzi, Madziwa. 'Interviewing as a Data Collection Method." Linked In,
    September 1, 2016. Accessed April 28, 2019. https://www.linkedin.com
    /pulse/interviewing-data-collection-method-munyaradzi-madziwa.

Naidu, Prasant. "Increased Presence of Terrorist Organizations on Social Media:
    Challenges for Social Networks." SocialMediaToday. October 2, 2014. Accessed
    March 25, 2019. https://www.socialmediatoday.com/content/increased-presence-
    terrorist-organizations-social-media-challenges-social-networks.

Napoli, Philip M. "Social Responsibility and Commercial Broadcast Television: An
    Assessment of Public Affairs Programming in JMM, The International Journal on
    Media Management." *JMM* 3, no. 4 (2001): 226-233. Accessed September 6,
    2018. file:///C:/Users/IMSD/Downloads/188-429-3-PB.pdf.

Nigeria Press Council. "The Line Editor as a Gate Keeper." Workshop, Peninsula Resort,
    Ajah, Lagos, April 9-12, 2006. Accessed November 4, 2018.
    http://www.presscouncil.gov.ng/?p=238.

Nix, Justin, Michael R. Smith, Matthew Petrocelli, Jeff Rojek, and Victor M. Manjarrez.
    "The Use of Social Media by Alleged Members of Mexican Cartels and Affiliated
    Drug Trafficking Organizations." *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency
    Management* 13, no. 3 (January 2016). Accessed March 16, 2019.
    https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305819557_The_Use_of_Social_Media
    _by_Alleged_Members_of_Mexican_Cartels_and_Affiliated_Drug_Trafficking_
    Organizations.

Nwanegbo, C. Jaja, and Odigbo Jude. "Security and National Development in Nigeria:
    The Threat of Boko Haram." *International Journal of Humanities and Social
    Science* 3, no. 4 (February 2013): 285-291. Accessed August 4, 2018.
    http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_4_Special_Issue_February_2013/29.
    pdf.

O'Reilly, Tim. "What Is Web 2.0: Design Patterns and Business Models for the Next
    Generation of Software." September 30, 2005. Accessed September 25, 2018.
    https://www.oreilly.com/pub/a/web2/archive/what-is-web-20.html.

Objective IAS. "Role of Social Media in Internal Security." June 7, 2018. Accessed April
    25. 2019. https://www.objectiveias.in/role-of-social-media-in-internal-security/.

Okonkwo, Oge Samuel. "Redefining National Security in the 21st Century: A
    Perspective of the Contemporary Nigerian State." *Medium Blog*, January 10,
    2018. Accessed August 5, 2018. https://medium.com/@OS_Okonkwo/redefining-
    national-security-in-the-21st-century-a-perspective-of-the-contemporary-nigerian-
    state-3c32c89e293e.

Owrovwuji, Samuel. "Nigeria: The Military, the Media and National Security: The Way Forward." *All Africa*, June 29, 2014. Accessed September 6, 2019. https://allafrica.com/stories/201406300053.html.

Papic, Marko, and Sean Noonan. "7 Ways Local Government Can Use Social Media." Stratfor World View. February 8, 2011. Accessed December 14, 2018. https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/social-media-tool-protest.

Pate, Umaru, and Danldi Musa. "Public Relations and Society in Nigeria." *University of Maiduguri Blog*, June 17, 2009. Accessed August 7, 2018. https://umarpate.blogspot.com/2009/06/public-relations-and-society-in-nigeria.html.

Patton, Desmond U., Jun Sung Hong, and Megan Ranne. "Internet Banging: New Trends in Social Media, Gang Violence, Masculinity and Hip Hop." *Computers in Human Behavior* 29, no. 5 (September 2013): A54-A59. Accessed March 16, 2019. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563212003779.

————. "Social Media as a Vector for Youth Violence: A Review of the Literature." *Computers in Human Behavior* 35 (June 2014): 548-553. Accessed March 16, 2019. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563214001101.

Pelgrin, William. "Three Reasons Why Criminals Exploit Social Networks, and Tips to Avoid Getting Scammed." *CSO Online*, June 5, 2013. Accessed April 12, 2019. https://www.csoonline.com/article/2133563/3-reasons-why-criminals-exploit-social-networks--and-tips-to-avoid-getting-scamme.html.

Pingree, Raymond J. "How Messages Affect Their Senders: A More General Model of Message Effects and Implications for Deliberation." *Communication Theory* 17, no. 4 (October 2017): 439-461. Accessed December 3, 2018. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-2885.2007.00306.x.

Ravi, Braj K. "Media and Social Responsibility: Critical Perspective with Special Reference to Television." *SAVAP International* 2, no 1 (January 2012): 306-325. Accessed September 5, 2018. www.savap.org.pk/journals/ARInt./Vol.2(1)/2012(2.1-35).pdf.

Ray, Michael. "WikiLeaks Media Organization and Web Site." Encyclopedia Britannica. Accessed January 18, 2019. https://www.britannica.com/topic/WikiLeaks.

Relwani, Jessie. "What Are the Various Means of Communication Available in Modern India?" Preserve Articles. Accessed November 4, 2018. http://www.preservearticles.com/201012251643/means-of-communication.html.

Roberts, Alex. "Photos: The 10 Worst Terrorist Attacks in Kenya's History. TUKO.co.ke. Accessed August 10, 2018. https://www.tuko.co.ke/28049-photos10-worst-terrorist-attacks-kenyas-history.html#28049.

Rowland, Maggie. "Jihad 2.0: The Power of Social Media in Terrorist Recruitment."
HSDL Blog, February 8, 2017. Accessed April 6, 2019. https://www.hsdl.org/c
/jihad-2-0-the-power-of-social-media-in-terrorist-recruitment/.

Roy, Sayantani, and Aditya K Shukla. "Social Media in The Domain of Communal
Violence: A Study of Assam Riot 2012." *International Journal of Advance
Research and Innovative Ideas in Education* 2, no. 2 (March 2016): 51-55.
Accessed March 18, 2019. https://www.researchgate.net/publication
/302273092_Social_Media_In_The_Domain_Of_Communal_Violence_A_Study
_Of_Assam_Riot_2012.

Safko, Lon, and David Brake. *The Social Media Bible: Tactics, Tools, and Strategies for
Business Success*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2009. Accessed September
25, 2018. https://cmc.marmot.org/Record/.b29314227.

Sanchez, Ray. "ISIS Exploits Social Media to Make Inroads in U.S." *CNN*, June 5, 2015.
Accessed January 16, 2019. https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/04/us/isis-social-
media-recruits/index.html.

Sawyer, Rebecca, and Guo-Ming Chen. "The Impact of Social Media on Intercultural
Adaptation." *Intercultural Communication Studies* 21, no. 2 (2012): 151-169.
Accessed September 23, 2018. https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cgi
/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1033&context=com_facpubs.

Search Security. "Cybercrime." Accessed November 23, 2018. https://searchsecurity.
techtarget.com/definition/cybercrime.

Shirazi, Farid. "Social Media and the Social Movements in the Middle East and North
Africa: A Critical Discourse Analysis." *Information Technology and People* 26
no. 1 (March 2013): 28-49. Accessed July 6, 2018. https://doi.org/10.1108
/09593841311307123.

Shirky, Clay. *Here Comes Everybody. The Power of Organizing Without Organizations*.
Quoted in Natascha Zeitel-Bank, "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and
Social Systems." Paper, Management Center Innsbruck, Austria. Accessed July 2,
2018. https://cyber.harvard.edu/events/berkmanat10/2008/02/shirky.

Shuchman, Miriam, and Michael S. Wilkes. "Medical Scientists and Health News
Reporting: A Case of Miscommunication." *Annual Internal Medicine* 126, no. 12
(June 1997): 976-982. Accessed September 12, 2018. https://www.ncbi.nlm.
nih.gov/pubmed/9182476.

Shukla, Anand N. "Media and Social Awareness." *International Journal of Humanities
and Social Sciences* 1, no. 1 (August 2013): 57-61. Accessed August 6, 2018.
https://www.academia.edu/4243668/MEDIA_AND_SOCIAL_AWARENESS.

Snicholls2015. "Communication: The Lifeline for All Organizations." WordPress, April 13, 2015. Accessed August 6, 2018. https://iamsandranicholls.wordpress.com /2015/04/13/communication-the-lifeline-for-all-organizations/.

Spirit Tourism. "The Importance of Drums in African Tradition." November 10, 2010. Accessed August 7, 2018. http://spirittourism.com/culture/african/importance-drums-african-tradition/.

Srinivasan, Bhuvan. "Enterprise Social Networking: The Next Competitive Advantage." Mack Center for Technological Innovation, March 20, 2011. Accessed September 10, 2018. https://mackinstitute.wharton.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads /2013/01/Srinivasan_BhuvanEnterprise-Social-Networking-V6-Mack-Center-Ford-Fellowship.pdf.

Starr, Stephen. "Style Maritime Piracy on the Rise in West Africa." *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 4 (April 2014): 23-26. Accessed April 6, 2019. https://ctc.usma.edu/maritime-piracy-on-the-rise-in-west-africa/.

Statista. "Most Popular Social Networks Worldwide as of April 2019, Ranked by Number of Active Users (in Millions)." Accessed April 6, 2019. https://www.statista.com/statistics/272014/global-social-networks-ranked-by-number-of-users.

Sylvester, Robert. "How Mass Media Affect Our Perception of Reality–Part 1." Brain Connection. December 4, 2001. Accessed August 7, 2018. https://brainconnection.brainhq.com/2001/12/04/how-mass-media-affect-our-perception-of-reality-part-1/.

Tamayo, Brandon. "Why You Should Take a Political Science Class." *Odyssey Online*, August 24, 2015. Accessed September 23, 2018. https://www.theodyssey online.com/should-political-science-class.

Tamilselvan, Nanda, Nuah Sivakumar, and Dr. Ramaiah Sevukan. "Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)." *International Journal of Library and Information Science* 1, no. 1 (January-April 2012): 15-28. Accessed September 5, 2018. https://www.academia.edu/2764232/Information_and_Communications_ Technologies_Ict_.

The Echosec Team. "How Intelligence Agencies Are Using Social Media." October 27, 2015. Accessed April 23, 2019. https://www.echosec.net/blog/how-intelligence-agencies-are-using-social-media.

The Telegraph Reporters. "How Terrorists Are Using Social Media." *The Telegraph*, November 4, 2014. Accessed December 8, 2018. https://www.telegraph.co.uk /news/worldnews/islamic-state/11207681/How-terrorists-are-using-social-media.html.

Theohary, Catherine A., and John Rollins. *Terrorist Use of the Internet: Information Operation in Cyberspace*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011. Accessed August 10, 2018. https://fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41674.pdf.

Tieleman, Matthijs. "How 18th Century Information Wars Can Solve the Problem of 21st-Century 'Fake News.'" Twins City.Com. February 26, 2019. Accessed August 7, 2019. https://www.twincities.com/2019/02/26/matthijs-tieleman-how-18th-century-information-wars-can-solve-the-problem-of-21st-century-fake-news/.

Uzoatu, Uzor. "Tackling Cyber Security Threats in Nigeria." *The Guardian*, July 7, 2016. Accessed August 10, 2018. https://guardian.ng/opinion/tackling-cyber-security-in-nigeria/.

Vega, Doc. "Wiki Leaks Alleges Secret War with UFOs in Antarctica." UFODigest.com. Accessed January 8, 2019. https://ufodigest.com/article/wiki-leaks-alleges-secret-war-ufos-antarctica.

Vilkaite, Evelina. "The Relationship Between the Media and Intelligence." E-International Relation Students. March 22, 2013. Accessed March 19, 2019. https://www.e-ir.info/2013/03/22/the-relationship-between-all-forms-of-media-and-intelligence-activity/.

Wennermark, Susan. *Did Print Media's Coverage of White-Collar Crime Change After the "Bernie Madoff Scandal"?*. PressBooks.com. 2013. Accessed September 6, 2018. https://wennermark2013.pressbooks.com/chapter/white-collar-crime-and-the-media/.

Whelpleh, Timothy N. "The Effects of Social Media on U.S National Security." Master's Thesis, Missouri State University, 2014. Accessed August 6, 2018. https://bearworks.missouristate.edu/theses/1492.

Wyllie, Doug. "How Do Investigators Use Social Media Tools to Monitor Criminal Activity?" PoliceOne.Com. March 26, 2015. Accessed March 14, 2019. https://www.policeone.com/investigations/articles/8502656-How-do-investigators-use-social-media-tools-to-monitor-criminal-activity/.

Yousaf, Muhammad. "Review of McQuail's Mass Communication Theory." *Journal of Media Studies* 29, no. 1 (July 2014): 70-78. Accessed August 15, 2018. https://www.researchgate.net/publicatin/297713727_Review_of_McQuail's_Mass_Com.

Zeitel-Bank, Natascha, and Ute Tat. "Social Media and Its Effects on Individuals and Social Systems." Paper, Management Center Innsbruck, Austria, June 2014. Accessed November 5, 2018. http://www.toknowpress.net/ISBN/978-961-6914-09-3/papers/ML14-714.pdf.

———. "Social Media and its Effects on Individuals and Social System." Seminar, Management Center Innsbruck, Austria, June 25-27, 2014. Accessed November 4, 2018. https://ideas.repec.org/h/tkp/mklp14/1183-1190.html.