

facebook

إدخال الحكام متحدين
فأين الشعوب

الثورة السورية ضد بشار الأسد - حمص
الصفحة الرسمية



الثورة السورية ضد بشار الأسد - حمص
Syrian revolution against Bashar Al Assad - Homs

Syrian Revolution ضد الثورة السورية ضد بشار الأسد - حمص

36 098 J'aime · 14 596 personnes en parlent

Parti politique
homs.rev.2012@gmail.com : للتواصل و إرسال مقاطع الفيديو :

Photos Mentions J'aime 36 098 YouTube Website

À la une

facebook



الصفحة الرسمية لعميد الرئيس بشار الأسد
Bashar Al-Asad
facebook.com/presidentalasad
youtube.com/presidentalasad

Bashar Al-Asad

296 748 J'aime · 81 910 personnes en parlent

Personnage public
: بريد إلكتروني: Email us at
Bashar.Alasad.Facebook@gmail.com

Photos Mentions J'aime 296 k

À propos قناة الدنيا الفضائية السورية

À la une





The picture says: Thank you Facebook!
(I think: Yeah, right...)

- The Syrian Web Ecosystem:
 - The Web is heavily controlled since 2000
 - No Facebook
 - No Twitter
 - No YouTube
 - No Wikipedia

- The Syrian Web Ecosystem:
 - A very difficult context for cyber activism
 - Political context: a more “present” dictatorship
 - Education system highly controlled
 - No free access to western media
 - Crypto socialism: No private sector
 - Devices, access, IT companies, ISPs: the entire Internet ecosystem is owned and/or controlled by Baath party members.

- A strategic move: February 2011
 - After the fall of Ben Ali in Tunisia and after one month of peaceful protest, Al Assad decided to give to Syrians **free access to social media**.
 - This marks the beginning of the first Asymmetric civil war on the Web.

- On the protesters side
 - Classic actions (as seen in Egypt and Tunisia):
 - Blogs
 - YouTube video
 - Facebook groups
 - Real time tweeting during demonstrations
 - Digital content smuggling (as seen in Iran)

- But:
 - Lack of experience
 - Digital contents hard to identify or verify
 - Deceptive content (Publish then filter)
 - Bad strategies on anonymity on social networks
 - Bad results
 - Net activism separated from the street
 - Bad coordination leads to infiltration

- The regime side
 - Decisive advantages
 - Full control of access and content
 - Experienced people working for state institutions
 - Massive repressive apparatus on the ground
 - Police, spies, etc.

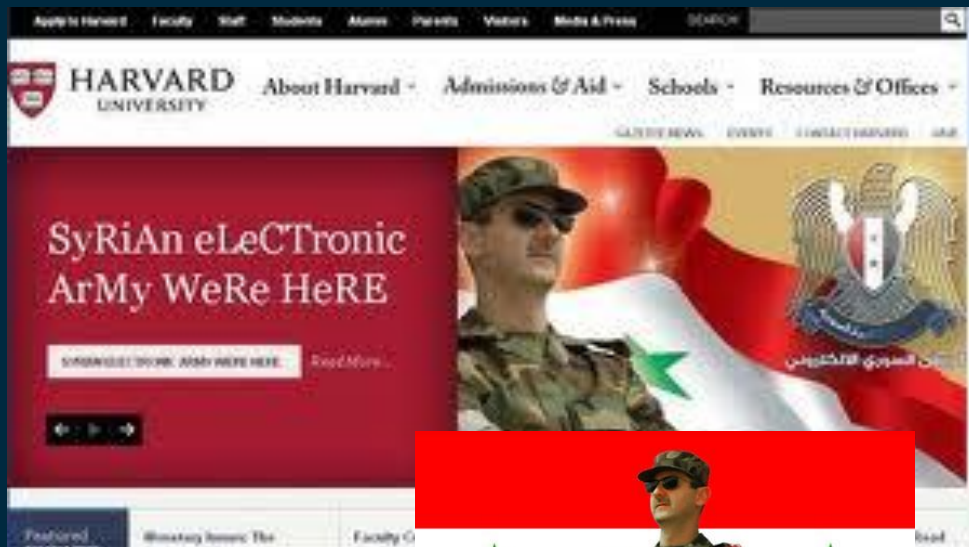
- The trap

Opening social media allowed the police to identify group members, their networked friends or their families.

- Login / Pwd information was obtained under physical and psychological pressure
- False security certificates (Man in the middle) attacks were launched on Facebook
- In May 2011, 15 famous bloggers were arrested: their interrogation lead to 1200 arrests.

- The repression
 - The Syrian Electronic Army (SEA)
 - Pro-government cyberactivists recruited by the security apparatus
 - Creation of the official “Syrian Hackers School” related to the Syrian Computer Society

- The repression
 - The Syrian Electronic Army (SEA)
 - Identify users on SN and report to authorities
 - Spread and promote government propaganda contents on social networks
 - Defacement attacks
 - June 4, 2012: 122 domains attacked (BBC, Harvard, Al Jazira)
 - Fake accounts on Facebook and Youtube
 - Trojan, Ddos, etc.



- Conclusion
 - We're witnessing the first asymmetric civil war on the Web
 - Very hard to trace, report and document
 - A lot of misleading or ambiguous content
 - A lot of questions for Web Science:
 - Understanding web impact in a particular context
 - Responsibility of Web applications owners?
 - How to make the Web a safer place for freedom?

- Sources
 - Reports:
 - Infowar monitor
 - Electronic Frontier foundation
 - Diplomacy think tanks
 - Specialized forums
 - Cyberdefense / Hackers communities
 - Interviews with researchers in Syria

- Thank you
 - webscience.blogs.usj.edu.lb
 - [#uirwebscience](https://twitter.com/uirwebscience)