

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON IRAQI NATIONAL SECURITY SINCE 2014

(REALITY AND CHALLENGES)

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ABSTRACT

Informatics has become an influential player in various fields and sectors due to rapid technological development and modern innovations, which have contributed to reducing distances and eliminating borders and privacy. Only the geography of borders drawn on the Earth remains from the sovereignty of states because geographical boundaries do not bind information technology and modern means of communication through the race towards space, space warfare, and control on the ground. Until the owner of the Information controls the future, terrorist organizations have realized the importance of Information and technological tools. I could harness these tools to dominate and control many Iraqi lands. Social media is one of the most essential tools in addition to the Internet and modern means of communication. The first appearance of these means was after the so-called Arab Spring revolutions in 2011 and the spread. The increasing use of modern means of communication has been exploited by the terrorist organization ISIS for motivation, recruitment, and terrorism. This was evident in the investigations mentioned in the study, which showed the extent of the impact of the use of social media and that one of the most critical strategies for the organization is publishing influential media through pictures and video clips on various means of communication and channels. YouTube, which I founded, spread terror in the hearts of many Iraqis and undermined confidence in the security services by posting many rumors and fabricated and criminal videos that were killing many Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners in ways that frightened the hearts of citizens and the security services. For this reason, the organization continued its expansion in establishing its alleged state, especially after occupying much of the territory. The media and communication also contributed to the loss of confidence among the components of the Iraqi people and the increase in sectarian and ethnic conflicts among them.

Keywords: informatics, security, national security, social media, cybercrime.

The broad freedoms that Iraq witnessed in information and communications technology, the absence of a law that limits work and surveillance, and the growing global technological development after the fall of the former regime, which coincided with the lack of an integrated and secure infrastructure for information systems, whether security, banking, or personal, led to Iraq is an open arena for many countries of the world or neighboring regional countries. To penetrate it, spy on information related to Iraqi security institutions, and use Iraq as a fragile arena to launch electronic attacks, in addition to stealing any information and using it for multiple purposes, including terrorism, political blackmail, and undermining opponents.

It is noted that most Iraqi institutions contract to prepare their information from satellites with a service resource located outside the Iraqi borders, which leads to the passage of that information through the servers of those countries and its return to Iraq. This procedure

violates Iraqi information security and aims to avoid such significant breaches to which the movement is exposed. Information in Iraq: An integrated information security system must be built. The growing awareness of the importance of combined knowledge of the risks related to information crimes that accompany every new development process or the production of new generations of technologies, in turn, contributes to the transformation of society into an information society. This research will study the concepts of information technology and national security and the challenges that have occurred since 2014 using regulations. Terrorism, information, and advanced technology influence security.

The problem of the study

The study aims to investigate the following problem:

Information technology has a significant impact on Iraqi national security. As a result of the widespread spread of information technologies and their programs, Iraqi national security was noticeably affected, especially after the year 2014. National security and Iraqi society were involved.

From this problem, several questions arise, the most important of which are:

- 1- What is meant by modern information and communications?
- 2- What is the concept of Iraqi national security and security?
- 3- What challenges did Iraqi national security face after 2014?

Hypothesis of the study

The study attempts to prove the following hypothesis: Iraqi national security was negatively affected by the use of information technology by terrorist organizations and the lack of an appropriate strategy for transforming information technology into a decisive factor in achieving Iraqi national security.

The first topic is in the conceptual framework of informatics and national security.

Today, informatics has become of great importance in managing and running the wheel of progress, to the point where the strength of countries is measured by the extent of their possession of advanced information and technology. The growth and development contribute to increased development in the abovementioned sectors, which can be observed from the products in communications, electronic reservations, bank management, security, and defense. In various areas of life, information has become a force for those who possess it and harness it in the right way through advanced technology that includes social media, Internet networks, intelligent means of communication, satellites, and satellite channels, which have come to represent unconventional methods for maintaining security or influencing it and penetrating state sovereignty, because information technology today has become It does not recognize drawn natural borders, but rather the state's sobriety and ability to protect its national security is achieved through increasing its capabilities and leadership in the field of modern technologies and obtaining early and accurate information through which it can save them, its sovereignty and its effective presence in the international community.

This research will address the conceptual framework of informatics, Iraqi national security, and the fields of informatics and their applications. Therefore, the study is divided into two sections:

-The first requirement: on the concept of informatics and national security

Informatics has become a fundamental basis in the decision-making process at the state and individual levels, and this has grown with the tremendous technological development and the abundance of information flowing with it.

It has also become an essential source of soft power, which gives those who possess it the advantage and precedence in making sound and quick decisions. Therefore, political systems compete to obtain information and its importance in building the decisions taken and consolidating their goals.

Informatics is of great importance to individuals because it helps increase human awareness, knowledge, and political maturity, and it has become a guide and guide for human behavior and actions (1)

In this section, the following concepts will be explained:

First: The idea of informatics and its applications

Informatics is defined as the science of information technology or information science, that is, information that can be controlled and processed through an automated data processor system. On the other hand, it is derived from the word information (information) and the word automation (Atuomatique). (2)

This concept is closely linked to the progress made in electronic processing and the rapid development witnessed by this sector.

Informatics also means processing raw data to become apparent, helpful information. It is possible to differentiate between information and data by saying that data represents the raw material represented by the binary number system (Binary digit) (3).

Second: The concept of national security:

The Encyclopædia Britannica defined (security) as “the protection of a nation from the danger of oppression at the hands of a foreign power.” In contrast, Henry Kissinger defined it as (any actions through which society seeks to preserve its right to survival) (4).

It is stated in the Kuwaiti Jurisprudence Encyclopedia that security is “what people are reassured about their religion, themselves, their money, and their honor, and their thinking turns to what raises the status of their society and improves their security.”

Security is to protect the achievements of peoples of all their diversity. Thus, the development of societies and the protection of their political and economic achievements cannot be achieved except through it; therefore, it is an indispensable need (5).

(1) Talib Ghuloum Talib, Strategy for Developing Soft Power Capabilities, Master’s Thesis (published), Al Saeed Publishing and Distribution, Mohammed bin Rashid College of Government Administration, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018, p. 55.

(2) Azar Naji Hussein Al-Hassani, Informatics and Bureaucracy: A Theoretical Study, unpublished doctoral thesis, College of Political Science, Al-Nahrain University, 2006, p. 3.

(3) Ali Kahloun, Information Responsibility is an Attempt to Control the Characteristics of Interactions within the Framework of Applications (Tunisia, University Publishing Center, 2005), p. 30.

(4) Khaled Al-Khanaifis et al., Informatics (Damascus: Damascus University, 2017), p. 15.

(5) Hayel Abdel Mawla Tashtoush, National Security and the Elements of State Power in Light of the New World Order: National Security and Military Policy, 1st edition (Amman, Hamed Library Publishing and Distribution House, 2012), p. 12.

From the above, the importance of security for the human being as an individual and for human society appears because it is an essential factor for survival and continuity. As Dr. Hamdi Shaaban explains, security is a significant human need that a person cannot live without (1).

The second requirement: fields of informatics and its applications

In this requirement, we will address the areas of informatics and its broad applications, including the Internet and the applications available through social media, as well as the modern means of communication. This requirement will be addressed through the following:

First, the Internet

The Internet and communications services developed in several stages of time, and the development period for each generation took approximately ten years. The first generation (G1) was in the eighties and was the one through which voice communications were carried out. Then came the second generation (G2) in the nineties, through which it became possible to send Short text messages and contacts. In the early second millennium, the third generation (3G) solution came, which represents a development for smartphones, and through it, pictures and videos are sent in addition to calls. By 2010, work began on the fourth generation (4G), which increased speed eight times. Times that of the third generation, so the speed of the Internet was characterized by high quality and high accuracy, and it became possible to make video calls and watch television in addition to other tasks. It is hoped that in the year 2020, the fifth generation (5G) will be launched, which is characterized by a technology that is entirely different from the technologies of previous generations, as it is A very high-quality movie that requires days to be downloaded via the third generation and hours via the fourth generation will be downloaded in no more than a second or two. Some countries, such as South Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Finland, have begun experimental work in this generation. Ericsson expects the number of fifth-generation users to reach about one and a half billion users in 2024, while the size of the technology market in this generation will reach \$251 billion in 2025. This generation is distinguished by its reliance on artificial intelligence. Hence, it can self-drive cars, perform remote surgeries with extreme accuracy, and obtain three-dimensional GPS services, not as it is now and not. This is one of the advanced services (2).

(1) Hamdi Shaaban, Security Media and Crisis and Disaster Management, 1st edition (Egypt: United Arab Marketing and Supplies Company, 2005), p. 5.

(2) Mustafa Al-Awji, Social Security (Beirut, Nofal Foundation, 1983), p. 38.

With the continuation of development, accompanied by an increase in the needs of individuals and institutions for communication and services in various fields, we see a massive increase in Internet users. As the Global Media Report 2019 (1) stated, the number of users of this network in January reached more than 4.388 billion users. Around the world, 3.484 billion people use social media. Despite the significant benefits achieved from the information network, which represents the positive side, there is a challenge facing governments today, especially the security services, which is the crimes and violations that occur through the information network and its uses. There is a significant increase in the use of these networks. It was accompanied by a similar increase in crime and various forms of threats to the national security of countries and governments, represented in the theft and alteration of data, theft of bank accounts and credit cards, and the spread of immoral websites that contribute to the destruction of the family

and society, through money laundering gangs and the transfer of illegal funds, and the end of “terrorist operations, booby-trapping murder, and terrorist recruitment and financing.” 2).

We can present a group of criminal activities related to information crimes and the Internet, including (3):

1- Impersonation.

2- Distort facts and lie to individuals and institutions through these networks.

3- Fraud.

4- Hacking devices and creating viruses that destroy personal and public systems.

5- Money laundering, which gambling clubs, Internet networks, and drug trafficking use.

6- Electronic fraud crimes.

7- Incitement to violence and murder.

- Stealing people’s data and information, violating and exposing their privacy.

9- Electronic fraud crimes (4).

10- Crimes of assault on the private lives of individuals and families.

11- Terrorist crimes, which include financing, recruitment, and carrying out terrorist operations.

12- Forgery of records, documents, and personal or public information.

13- Spreading destructive social ideas that contribute to threatening society’s values and its dissolution.

The uses of the Internet have multiplied, as well as the tasks, data, and requirements needed by the individual, society, or institutions, coinciding with the technological development in communications devices and computers.

Second: Types of social media networks

There are many social media networks that individuals use, but we can note five international sites that are considered the most famous and growing in number of users:

(1) Ihab Khalifa, A global race towards fifth generation technology (5G), Future Center for Future Studies and Research, 2019, available at: <https://futureuae.com/ar/Author/Index/11>.

(2) [www. wearesocial.com/global-digital-report-2019](http://www.wearesocial.com/global-digital-report-2019)

(3) Abdullah Abdul Karim Abdullah, Information and Internet Crimes, 1st edition (Beirut, Dar Al-Halabi Legal Publications, 2007), p. 23.

(4) Same source, p. 26.

Facebook website:

It is considered one of the most popular social networking sites, founded through a partnership between Mark Zuckerberg and Dustin Moscow Fitz and Chris Hughes, who specialized in computer science and were Zuckerberg's classmates in the dormitory at Harvard University. When the site was founded, the idea was to contribute to serving university students; then, the matter developed to include all students in other colleges in the city of Washington, the Ivy League University, and Stanford University. After that, the project was designed to fit all university students, expanded until it included high school students, and finally had everyone over thirteen (1).

Facebook was launched on February 14, 2004, and within four years after its launch, that is, after the middle of 2007, it became one of the most popular and widespread electronic sites in the Arab region until the number of its subscribers reached 52,200,000 around the world and it

ranked sixth among the millions. Of the websites on the Internet (2), its users continued to increase, reaching 100,000,000 users in 2008. However, in 2012 alone, its users went to 1.06 billion active users every month, with an average of 7,800,000 active users daily, while the number of likes and comments reached 3.2 billion daily (1).

The number of its users continued increasing, reaching 1.44 billion in 2015, active users in multiple languages, going 75 languages, and these users spend about 700 billion minutes per month on the site (2).

As for the value of the site, it increased to reach 65 billion US dollars during the so-called Arab Spring (3).

2- Twitter network:

Which in English means tweeter (twit). This application allows the tweeter to send a tweet that does not exceed 140 characters per message. Users can view this tweet on their pages or the user's page. This site's first appearance was in 2006 when it was launched as a research project. This was done by the American company (obviously) on a small scale that was allowed to others when it was officially launched in October of 2006. This application was also developed through the use of other languages in addition to the English language with which it was found, and the Japanese language was added in 2008; this version was first launched in the Japanese language due to the large number of users from Japan. It continued beyond there but developed to include other languages, including Arabic (4), and the number of network users reached 288 million active users at the end of 2014 (5).

(1) Sheena Kaiser, *Social Media A Practical Guide for Electoral Management Bodies*, translated by: Pangloss Inc., Sweden, International Institute for Democracy and Elections, 2015, p. 8.

(2) Al-Muhtasib Consulting Center, *The Role of Social Media Sites in Ihtisab, Twitter as a Model*, 1st edition, Dar Al-Muhtasib for Publishing and Distribution, Saudi Arabia, 2017, p. 27.

(3) Al-Saidi Hanan and Deif Aisha, *the use of social networking sites and their impact on the values of university students, Facebook as an example*, Master's thesis (published), *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Ouargla - Algeria, Faculty of Human Sciences, Kasdi Merbah University, 2015, p. 34.

(4) Basma Hussein Younis, *addiction to social networking and its relationship to psychological disorders among university students in Gaza Governorate*, previously mentioned source, p. 16.

(5) Al-Muhtasib Consulting Centre, *The Role of Social Media Sites in Ihtisab, Twitter as a Model*, 1st edition (Riyadh, Dar Al-Muhtasib for Publishing and Distribution, 2017), p. 43.

It is one of the applications widely used on social networking sites. The first use of this application was in 2010. It is distinguished because it allows users to take pictures, exchange them, and share them with other groups in social networking services so that 58 images can be added every second. The site also gets a new user for the program. (1).

By the end of 2015, its subscribers exceeded more than 400 million people, more than 80 million photos were uploaded daily, and likes reached 5.3 billion since its inception (2).

4- YouTube:

This site specializes in displaying and sharing videos among users so that the user can save, publish, or watch whatever video clips he wants or needs, whether educational or promotional, for free (3). This site was created in 2005 so that more people can watch them. From four billion

clips daily in 39 countries, this program was developed based on the number of languages it was translated into until it reached 54 languages (4).

According to Alexa, YouTube is ranked third in the world after Facebook and Google, and its users reached more than one billion in 2015 (5).

5- WhatsApp application:

This application joined the Facebook application in 2014 by (Yankum and Brian Active), who works at Yahoo. This application relies on the messaging service through text messages, which later developed into multimedia. Through it, sending pictures, video clips, documents, and websites became possible. Geographic and voice notes. This application was secured and supported through the Secret Chats application so that calls and conversations are encrypted between both parties (end-to-end). This application joined the Facebook application in 2014 by (Yankum and Brian Active), who works at (Yahoo). The application is a messaging service through text messages, which later developed into multimedia. Through it, sending pictures, video clips, documents, geographical locations, and voice messages became possible. This application was strengthened and supported through secret conversations to encrypt calls and exchanges between the two parties (end-to). -end encryption), and the development of the program increased its users to reach more than one billion users in more than one hundred and eighty countries.

(1) Shaibi Narjis Al-Sufyani and others, social networking networks and their role in shaping Algerian public opinion, Facebook and the phenomenon of child abduction as an example, Master's thesis (published), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of May 8, 1945, Guelma, Algeria, 2015, p. 32,

(2) Al-Muhtasib Consulting Centre, The Role of Social Media Sites in Al-Muhtasib, Twitter as a Model, previously mentioned source, p. 32.

(3) Osama Ghazi Al-Madani, The role of social media networks in shaping public opinion among students at Saudi universities, Umm Al-Qura University as a model, Journal of Arts and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, 2015, p. 400.

(4) Shaybi Narjis and others, social media networks and their role in shaping Algerian public opinion, Facebook and the phenomenon of child kidnapping as an example, previous source, p. 33.

(5) Al-Muhtasib Consulting Center, the role of social networking sites in Al-Muhtasib, Twitter as a model, previously mentioned source, p. 36.

The second section: Technological challenges and modern means of communication

This research deals with the technological challenges and modern means of communication-related to the development taking place in the field of information technology, the extent of the changes that have occurred since the year 2014, and the accompanying growth in the use of this technology and information technology and the impact it left on events during the years that followed this year, as we note the extent of the contribution of this TechnologyTechnology and its harnessing through the media contributed to the significant influence on public opinion and its reshaping. This occurred due to the substantial development of communication and information technologies, represented by Internet networks, social media, and modern communication (1).

This research will address two requirements: the first will study the uses of social media, and the second will study satellite channels and modern means of communication.

The first requirement of using social media

Social media has played multiple political, economic, and social roles, and its impact has become apparent due to its connection with groups and individuals in large sectors. Due to their ease of dealing, these means have affected all economic, political, and social aspects. Any individual can create a page on World Wide Web sites, and through this website, can communicate with the world by exchanging information with others, transferring photos and videos, and disseminating them with high speed and accuracy, comparable to satellite channels. In addition, these means are characterized by high interaction between their users. Therefore, they are widely and extensively harnessed in the events of The so-called Arab Spring in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya (2).

We note that social media networks were harnessed and benefited from after 2014 by the terrorist organization ISIS to a considerable extent, as it mobilized the most significant number of fighters to its side and was able to recruit thousands of soldiers from all over the world until the number reached more than 53,000. We note that networks and Social media were harnessed and benefited from after 2014 by the terrorist organization ISIS in a considerable way, as it mobilized the most significant number of fighters to its side and was able to recruit thousands of soldiers from all over the world until the number reached more than 53,000 fighters from 146 nationalities, and the flow of groups increased. The terrorist movement of these fighters to Iraqi and Syrian territories in 2011 is considered the most significant influx during the past twenty years. Recruitment was done through social media until the rate reached about 80 percent in 2015. Due to high professionalism, the number of those recruited through these means is estimated to be more than 120,000 fighters influencing the youth and communities targeted by this organization through these means (3).

(1) Entrepreneurs website, social networking sites, the best 23 social sites in 2018, available on the website: on June 18, 2018 www.Rowadalaamal.com

(2) Research of the International Conference, New Media, New Technology for a New World (University of Bahrain: University of Bahrain Press, 2009), p. 7.

(3) Tariq Radwan, Fourth Generation Wars: Destruction of States and Extermination of Peoples, 1st edition (Giza, Dar Hala Publishing and Distribution, 2016), pp. 266-267.

The organization occupied a wide area of written or visual media due to its significant exploitation of social media, where it benefited from highlighting its cause by exploiting Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram programs. (1) Twitter was the most significant platform it used to publish many horror videos. In 2017, it was able to 2014, through which he published his ideas, which he considered to be the basis for building his so-called state, which was his means of recruitment and communication between its members and its leaders. He even used more than 46,000 Twitter accounts around the world. Therefore, his ability to use social media played a role in his success in recruiting more than 30,000 foreign fighters. Among them were 4,500 Western fighters who flocked to support his cause, including 250 American soldiers who had left the United States of America for this organization, which succeeded in making many deadly and bloody attacks in many countries of the world, including the Brussels airport and subway bombings that occurred on March 22, 2016, and was killed. It includes 32 people, the

Paris attacks that took place on November 13, 2015, which led to the death of 130, and the attempt to attack law enforcement officers in Boston using a knife and many other places such as Australia, Tunisia, Turkey, and Egypt, using bombs, knives, and axes in scenes that arouse terror and fear in the hearts of others (2).

In 2016, ISIS issued a booklet to guide lone wolves and small cells about professional safety in their terrorist activities in Western countries. The pamphlet lectures on the terrorism industry, and it contains many instructions for its cells in Europe to take caution and recommendations on matters related to their safety when carrying out their operations (3).

(1) Faleh Fulaihan Faleh Al-Ruwaili, *Strategies of Extremist Organizations in Online Recruitment "ISIS as a Model,"* Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Saudi Arabia, 2018, p. 11.

(2) Elizabeth Bowden et al., *A Study of Networks Supporting and Opposing the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria via Twitter*, 1st edition (California: RAND Corporation, 2016), p. 20.

(3) Faleh Fulaihan Faleh Al-Ruwaili, *Strategies of Extremist Organizations for Recruitment via the Internet, "ISIS as a Model,"* previously mentioned source, 2018, p. 9.

First: Recruiting terrorist groups

Social media is one of the strategic means of communication between members of terrorist groups, as well as its use in recruitment and intimidation operations for targeted parties. It is noted that these groups, including ISIS, were able to recruit more than 90% of their members through these means, and it has become common for them to have well-known websites on the Twitter network. For example, the Boko Haram group, the Taliban movement, and the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, we see that they have thousands of accounts on electronic sites through which messages are exchanged, planning, recruitment, bomb, and explosive-making operations are carried out, as well as tracking targets, whether they are individuals or institutions, to target them (1).

Second: Threat to Social Security

Social media has significantly contributed to influencing the social fabric and security by spreading psychological warfare and provoking conflicts between individuals and components of Iraqi society, and this is what terrorist groups have benefited from by sowing discord between members and individuals and carrying out psychological warfare that has contributed to dismantling the social fabric and thus affecting the social security of the citizen. Until those who do not have the courtesy and awareness become easy prey for these means and the possibility of influencing them (2), the number of users on social media platforms has increased, and this massive increase can be seen in the number of their visitors and users. In 2005, their number did not exceed 8%, but it increased to reach 26% in 2010, and this increase continued to reach 38% in 2013, which shows the extent of the danger and importance of these networks. In directing public opinion, social influence, and changing trends, this can be observed through increasing sectarian strife, sowing division between societal components, and threatening peoples' unity, security, and cohesion (3).

- (1) Amal Saqr, Realistic Dangers: How Social Media Threatens National Security, International Politics Journal, publication date: 6/8/2014 at the link: www.syassa.org.eg/news/15183.aspx
- (2) Ashraf Al-Saeed Ahmed, Contemporary Media and Crisis Management, 1st edition (Cairo: International House for Publishing and Distribution, 2019), p. 203.
- (3) Amal Saqr, Realistic Risks: How Social Media Threatens National Security, previously mentioned source.

By tracking the apparent effects of using social media networks, we notice the associated crimes, including electronic blackmail, threats, electronic piracy, account theft, moral crimes, theft of personal data, and others.

We can also see the number of crimes and their increase worldwide. In Britain, the British newspaper The Telegraph mentioned in its issue issued on June 5, 2012, that the number of crimes linked to Facebook in 2011 exceeded 12,300, meaning a crime rate every 40 minutes, and included multiple crimes, including murder, kidnapping, intimidation, fraud, violations, and assaults—nationality and other crimes that relied on social media (1).

It can also be noted that cyberattacks after 2014, cybercrimes and cyberattacks worldwide, their impact, and the sources of these attacks (2) are seen in Table No. (1):

Table (1) shows the locations of electronic attacks, their impact, and their source

| Source | the influence | The year it started | the incident |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| It was primarily attributed to Russia, but the government was not specified | Paramount breach of unclassified computer systems | 2014 | The White House US State Department |
| Officially American source | Theft and leak of sensitive data; Major business disruption | 2014 | United State |
| The US President attributed it to Korean government actors | A massive distributed denial-of-service and persistent denial-of-service attack on the Al Taawoun Software Development website | 2015 | Sony Pictures(United States) |
| North in December 2014 | The TV channel was down for 18 hours. The accident resulted | 2015 | (GitHub) |
| Private companies and researchers have attributed it mainly to Chinese government actors. | Camouflaged to blame ISIS | 2015 | (United States) |
| Fire attributed it to a Russian hacking group | Extracting 21.5 million records of government employees | 2015 | (TV5Monde) |
| (APT28) | United State | 2016 | (France) |
| It has been primarily attributed to China, although the US government has not officially identified the source. | Extracting and publishing 2,420 sensitive files belonging to the German Christian Democratic Union | 2017 | US Office of Personnel Management (US) |

- (1) Same source.
 - (2) John S. et al., Anonymous Threats: International Accountability in Cyberspace, RAND Corporation, California, USA, 2017, p. 5, available at the link: www.rand.org/t/rr2081
- The lack of appropriate legislation to limit the increase in cybercrimes has encouraged the growth. This is observed in many countries' absence of proper legal legislation that limits these

crimes, despite the Budapest Convention to Combat Information Crimes, which had a role in investigating cybercrimes that affected multiple countries. This agreement coordinates 56 countries, as of 2016, in cooperation on exchanging information about cybercrimes and exchanging digital evidence among them. However, the most critical challenge is that many countries still lack legislation limiting cybercrimes (1).

The cyber criminal can carry out the crime easily and with less risk than traditional crimes because he does not leave traces of the crime committed (2).

Fourth: Forming public opinion

Social media networks played a role in moving and shaping public opinion, and this can be seen in the protests that took place in Indonesia in 1998 to overthrow Suharto, as well as in the demonstrations that took place in Hong Kong in 2014 to beat the Chinese commandments on its government. It had a clear role in the events of the Arab Spring. In 2014, and what it did in those countries where it was used, it is not a coincidence that Alec Ross, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs technical advisor, said, "The Internet has become the Che Guevara of the 21st century" (3).

One study in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia indicates that 41.86% of social media users have a high level of forming public opinion, while 53.23% have. One study in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia indicates that 41.86% of social media users have A high level of shaping public opinion, while 53.23% of them have an average level, while the remaining 2.91% have a lower level of forming public opinion (4)

(1) John S. et al., Anonymous Threats: International Accountability in Cyberspace, RAND Corporation, California, USA, 2017, p. 34 at the link: www.rand.org/t/rr2081

(2) Dargham Jaber Atoush Al-Mawash, The Crime of Information Espionage, A Comparative Study, 1st edition (Cairo: Arab Center for Publishing and Distribution, 2017), p. 30.

(3) Soft War Center for Studies, Soft War Center for Studies, Social Networks, American Soft War Platforms, the source above, p. 94.

(4) Marilyn Aweish Hormuz, ISIS' electronic propaganda methods, an analytical study of the organization's Twitter accounts' tweets for the period from 2/10/2016 to 5/10/2016, Al-Bayan Studies Journal, Al-Bayan Center for Studies and Planning, Issue 2, 2017, p. 28.

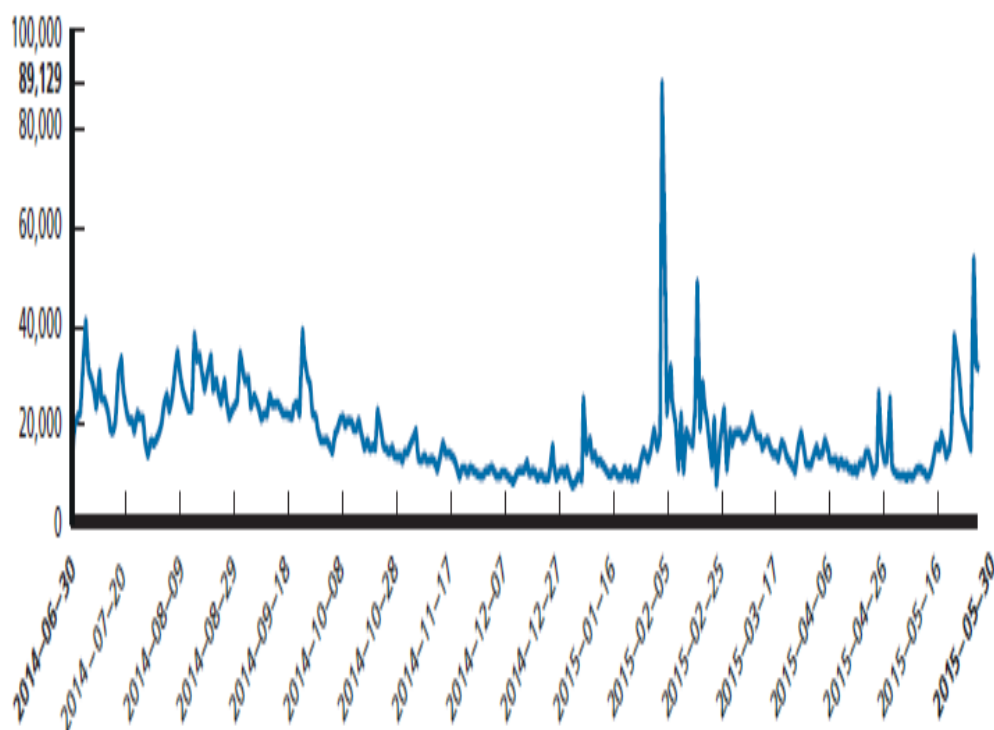
Also, through a study conducted by the RAND Corporation on the use of the Twitter program by terrorist groups supporting ISIS, the study concluded that supporters of this organization in Iraq and Syria are not more numerous in terms of numbers but rather more in terms of tweets, as they issue the equivalent of 150% of the number of tweets by their opponents. This percentage indicates the extent of activity and energy it has more than its opponents and that it has a good strategy in using social media so that its supporters can publish and disseminate their ideas, pictures, and messages and that their publishing of images and videos has a broad and influential impact on public opinion.

In the study conducted by the RAND Corporation, it was found that the number of users supporting and opposing ISIS was 770,000 users in Iraq and Syria. They discovered that 18,800,000 tweets were issued against this organization, while 4,500,000 tweets were in favor of this organization by supporters. These tweets were coming from 471,492 anti-ISIS accounts, compared to 75,946. Calculating from its supporters, that is, the ratio of supporters to opponents is approximately one to six. Despite the difference in this ratio, which shows that the number

of opponents to the organization is much greater than its supporters, the control and influence were precise to the supporters of this organization due to the high content, level of performance, and influence relative to Their opponents and their great activity are such that the supporters of this organization and its supporters tweet an average of 60 times, while the organization's opponents do not tweet more than 40 times a day, as in charts (1) and (2) below.

Chart (1)

Active Twitter users (ISIS supporters in Iraq and Syria) per day



المصدر: تحليل مؤسسة RAND، وبيانات تويتر منذ تموز 2014 وحتى أيار 2015.

Thus, we see that ISIS has benefited from social networking sites to attract and have fighters join its ranks, as statistics indicate that the organization has increased the number of its soldiers until it included more than 30,000 foreign fighters among its ranks in Iraq and the Levant as of 2016 (1).

Therefore, through the use of social media networks, he was able to expand his terrorist activity in Iraq and the world by recruiting elements, attracting supporters, and carrying out terrorist operations using the most advanced means. He succeeded in doing so for the following reasons:

- 1- His knowledge of the target audience enabled him to deliver messages that influenced them.
- 2- Use centralization of messages through the information ministers associated with him.

3- He benefited from his near monopoly on the media space so that he did not face any counter-media he could confront.

The propaganda methods practiced by this organization were characterized by the use of modern propaganda techniques, including the process of repetition, the form of lying and misleading, the way of appealing to emotion, the method of diverting attention and issuing labels and terms, the method of exaggeration and exaggeration, the method of sympathizing and weakening, the method of counting numbers, the method of excitement, terror, and chaos, the method of agitation, terror, and confusion. Sarcasm and devaluation, religious practice, and enticement method.

The second requirement is satellite channels and modern means of communication

Today, technology is purely technical tools. Still, studying the dynamics of the work of this technology, the parties that drive and control it, and the indirect directives of the young people who use it confirm otherwise, especially when we know that the supervisor of the management of these networks is the Innovation and Information Council, which It is managed by (Ericshmidt), CEO of Google, and is affiliated with the US State Department and directly under the supervision of the White House. Thus, as Joseph Nye says, the US administration possesses something more critical than its nuclear arsenal (2).

By looking closely at technology, we see that it has become double-edged. Despite its high costs for emerging democracies, it contributes simultaneously with new destructive means of power that affect individuals and groups. This is why terrorist groups have exploited it in a significant and widespread manner (3). This demand has been divided into:

First: satellite channels

The active and direct presence of the media has had a significant impact on programming people's way of life, making it a recognized phenomenon due to information technology. Countries and societies have become in dire need of the media. They are trying to impose dominance in this aspect until the media becomes more powerful and more robust than any military force when it is influential and authentic (5).

There is no doubt that technological development in communications and media has contributed significantly to supporting social and cultural development, and this can be seen in the widespread dissemination of news.

(1) Same source, pp. 33-34.

(2) Ali Muhammad al-Hajj Hassan, *Soft War, Theoretical and Applied Foundations*, Islamic Center for Strategic Studies, 1st edition (Karbala: The Abbasid Holy Shrine, 2018), p. 125.

(3) Joseph Nye, *Soft Power is the Means of Success in International Politics*, translated by Muhammad Tawfiq Al-Bujairmi, 1st edition (Saudi Arabia: Obeikan, 2007), p. 46.

(4) Khudair Ibrahim Salman and others, *Techno-Informatics and the International Balance of Power*, previously mentioned source, p. 425.

Information is transmitted quickly, as if the world is a small village, due to the advanced technology of modern communication (1).

The media, including satellite channels, play a significant role in misleading the media, influencing and winning public opinion, which can be observed in the various media. Therefore, the US Department of Defense established after September 11 (the Office of Strategic Influence), whose mission is to fabricate news, influence public opinion, and deceive the press.

International and influencing officials around the world. This matter is similar to what was happening in the era of McCarthyism and the Cold War, so the Ministry of Defense began practicing propaganda and misleading public opinion (2).

Therefore, media wars today depend on winning over public opinion in the environment in which they operate by spreading chaos and unrest to turn into conflicts (3).

For this reason, the media is considered a significant and essential weapon in propaganda and creating public opinion by spreading rumors and shading with various programs to adopt a new public opinion through psychological warfare in the recipient, and then contributing to spreading conflicts and inciting situations and chaos. This is what dictatorial regimes have used throughout history; the previous government before 2003 is an example of this (4).

Therefore, we find that satellite channels, one of the media outlets, played a significant misleading role after 2003. These media channels were contributing to increasing sectarian and ethnic tension among the components of the Iraqi people. They exceeded the space of freedom approved by the Constitution in Article (38), which refers to freedom of expression, and Article (19). (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights referred to the rejection of violence and hatred and adherence to the conditions of neutrality and integrity. We see satellite channels such as Al-Arabiya, Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath, Al-Jazeera, and other media that were working to incite discord, support terrorism and terrorists, and influence public opinion despite the condemnation of the Thirteenth Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in Its fiftieth session, which was held in Erbil in March 2008, with its Resolution No. (14) On terrorism, which condemned all forms of Therefore, we find that satellite channels, one of the media outlets, played a significant misleading role after 2003. These media channels were contributing to increasing sectarian and ethnic tension among the components of the Iraqi people. They exceeded the space of freedom approved by the Constitution in Article (38), which refers to freedom of expression, and Article (19). (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights referred to the rejection of violence and hatred and adherence to the conditions of neutrality and integrity. We see satellite channels such as Al-Arabiya, Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath, Al-Jazeera, and other media that were working to incite discord, support terrorism and terrorists, and influence public opinion despite the condemnation of the Thirteenth Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in Its fiftieth session, which was held in Erbil in March 2008, with its Resolution No. (14) Terrorism, which condemned all forms and forms of terrorism, its financing, and the countries that support it, and called for the solidarity of countries and concerted efforts to limit it. This was reinforced in the final statement of the First Baghdad International Conference on Combating Terrorism, which was held in March 2014 and also focused on banning terrorism and media speech that incites hatred, violence, excommunication, and propaganda activities promoting terrorist groups. The efforts culminated in a Security Council resolution in mid-August 2014, which condemned terrorism and issued a blacklist in which the most dangerous terrorists were placed. Despite all the international and local efforts, satellite channels still play a significant role in supporting and misleading public opinion (4).

* McCarthyism: This trend is attributed to a US Senator named Joseph McCarthy, and it is the behavior of directing accusations of conspiracy and treason against others without paying attention to the evidence. This term is used to express cultural terrorism directed against intellectuals.

- (1) Ali Nassar and this newcomer, what have we prepared for him? "Informatics" in the Arab World, Al-Mustaqbal Al-Arabi Magazine, No. 65, 1984, p. 13.
- (2) Muhammad Awad Al-Tarturi, Agadir Arafat Juwaihan, The Dream of Terrorism, Intellectual, Psychological, Social and Educational Foundations for the Study of Terrorism, 1st edition (Amman: Dar Al-Hamid for Publishing and Distribution, 2006), p. 317.
- (3) Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, Management in the Information Age, 1st edition (United Arab Emirates, 2001), p. 130.
- (4) Bashir Al-Wandi, The Lost Security: The Role of Intelligence in Establishing Security, previously mentioned source, p. 277.

Second: Modern means of communication

Today's world has witnessed a significant development in modern means of communication, which has considerably impacted increasing knowledge. Still, it contributed in another aspect by challenging its effect on the stability of countries, and this was reflected in the social part of the members of society in addition to the security aspect, which is affected by the extent of the cohesion and strength of this society. Its development has also contributed to increasing the security challenges that must be confronted by developing internal capabilities and the significant financial capabilities that contribute to controlling them. Modern means of communication that are widely used, the most commonly used of which are smartphones, will be discussed.

- smartphones :

The increasing use of technology and growth in this sector will significantly impact the labor market in the future through a phenomenon called digitization of work. Gartner, a research company, believes that one out of every three jobs will turn into software and automated systems—robots by 2025.

This is why we notice a significant increase in the number of smartphone users in the world, as indicated in the global digital website for the year 2017 and as in the following table (2):

Table (2) shows the number of phone users in the world in 2017

| Ratio of smart phones to callers | Number of smartphone users | Total number of callers (all means) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| %55 | billion 4.42 | billion 8.05 |

- (1) Abdul Zahra Al-Talqani, websites and satellite channels that support terrorism and ways to confront them, "Al-Jazeera as a model," Iraqi Affairs Magazine, Iraq Center for Studies, Iraq, issue 6, 2014, pp. 62-63.
- (2) Axel Defoe et al., Education: The Role of Digital Technology in Enabling Skills Development for an Interconnected World, Rand Corporation, p. 1, available at: www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/pe238.html.
- (3) [www. Globel digitalsnapshot2017.com](http://www.Globeldigitalsnapshot2017.com)

As for Iraq, we note that the number of subscribers to mobile phone lines has increased significantly, and this can be observed through communications and postal statistics for the years 2012-2017, as shown in the following table (3):

Table (3) shows the total subscribers to mobile phone lines in Iraq for the years (2012-2017)

| Total subscribers to mobile phone lines (Zain - Asia Korek) | Year |
|---|------|
| 29763880 | 2012 |
| 34256788 | 2013 |
| 35846824 | 2014 |
| 33957256 | 2015 |
| 34957526 | 2016 |
| 40001723 | 2017 |

By observing Table No. (9) above, it is possible to know the size of the increase that occurred since the year 2014, when the number of lines for the various companies operating in Iraq was 34,957,526, and it rose in 2017 to 40,001,723, meaning an increase of 14% within one year. This indicates the great use of modern means of communication, which has become a threat to Iraqi national security due to this rapid and advanced increase, which was not matched by an increase in security measures that limit its consequences on the security and stability of the country.

CONCLUSION

Today, information technology has become an active player in various fields and sectors due to the acceleration of technological development and modern innovations, which have contributed to reducing distances and eliminating borders and privacy. What remains of the sovereignty of states is the geography of borders drawn on the ground because information technology and modern means of communication are not limited to terrestrial geography but have launched into the vastness of space and competition. Through the satellite race and space warfare, control and guidance through it on the ground, until whoever possesses the information has control over the future, and for this reason, the terrorist organization ISIS, and through the importance of knowledge and its technological tools, was able to harness all of these data for the sake of hegemony and control over much of Iraqi territory. Social media is one of his most essential tools, in addition to the Internet and modern communications. The first appearance of these means was after the so-called Arab Spring revolutions in 2011, but they were not at the same level of presence in Iraq. However, their increasing spread made the terrorist organizations exploit the fact of this technology in Motivation, recruitment, and incitement of terror. It had an apparent effect, demonstrated through these investigations above, which showed the extent of the influence of information on Iraqi national security. Therefore, this organization's use of social media is one of its most essential strategies, as it distributes influential pictures and videos on social media—different communication.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1- Develop a government strategy in which the Ministry of Communications and Iraqi National Security and relevant departments contribute, aiming to track and monitor social media platforms and stop and block sites that threaten national security.

2- Considering the tasks of the intelligence services laboratory and moving their functions from the local role to the regional and international role and the connection between them because the victory over ISIS will not last long if there is not an influential role for the intelligence services in maintaining the momentum of success and eliminating the sleeper cells of this organization by activating The part of information sources, benefiting from the expertise and capabilities of advanced international bodies in the field of informatics, and ensuring that there is local and global coordination between security institutions in the field of informatics and network monitoring.

3- Enacting legislation and laws appropriate to the current stage, especially the legislation of the Information Crimes and Electronic Terrorism Law.

4- Governmental institutions and civil society organizations establish moderate websites that address and confront extremist ideology and manage them through a team of specialists.

5- Spread awareness among members of society to demonstrate the danger of using electronic networks and social media and inform them of the potential risks to avoid falling into them.

6- Strengthening international and local cooperation to create a legal environment under the global umbrella to combat extremism and cyber-terrorism crimes.

7- Terrorist organizations, including ISIS, used fourth-generation warfare because they found the most effective weapons in it. Therefore, the government must provide and use the same tools to reduce their threats and achieve the best results.

8- It is no secret that the use of Internet networks has become a threat that is not limited to national security only but extends to regional and international security. Therefore, the international community must continue with steps and decisions that work to limit and prevent electronic terrorism and combat electronic crime.

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