Youth of the Revolution
Name
Date
Anthropology 6

Thesis
My project examines the role of Egyptians, particularly women, in the Arab Spring, concentrating on the role of young people, social networking and protesting that changed a country. While this issue is still fresh on the tongue of the world, the role of young people in Egypt in the recent revolution has been of the utmost importance. My project examines how young men and women influenced the revolution. The social power of young males and females in this particular country has a long history, but social media has changed how activism is viewed in Egypt, and the rest of the Arab world. My thesis is that Egyptian women, once given a voice in the form of modern media, have changed their own country through using new forms of communication.

Annotated Bibliography


In this succinct summary of the Arab Spring from the President of the American University in Cairo, the idea of media as a medium for revolution is shown as something that is not new to the world. Anderson makes the argument that Woodrow Wilson did the same for the late 1910s revolutions worldwide. The role of urban youth in Egypt versus the armed rebel forces in Libya is examined, and the smaller, triggering revolution in Tunisia, a relatively well-off nation, is further explored. The profound differences in the ways that revolution was pursued in each country seem directly reflective upon the nature of that country’s leader. In Tunisia, the army was hardly involved; the people engaged in mass protests calling for the ousting of a corrupt leader. In Egypt, the movement for revolution started with the dissatisfied youth, who saw their Tunisian neighbors and followed suit. The army only became involved once the conflict was large enough to merit it. In Libya, however, arms and tragedy were apart of the revolution from the start. Anderson briefly looks ahead to the challenges that these newly free countries will face in the coming weeks, months, and years, particularly the western world’s reception of the new governments.

This source will be excellent background material for this project. The information, peer-reviewed and presented by an eloquent and informed academic, confirms what I have read and seen elsewhere. Anderson’s work gives general information on North Africa in the Arab Spring as a whole than my other sources. The goal of this source is to inform the reader about the differences in the revolutions that have taken place.
This source is enormously helpful to my research, as it lays the foundation for what I will be discussing in my project. Anderson’s work becomes a go-to for basic information on the nature of Egypt’s revolution, and how media has long been an efficient way of stirring results from any group of people. As a backing source, it will shape my project in that it will keep it on track with the revolution’s movements, both literally and theoretically.


This article, from the online serial Foreign Policy, concentrates on the nature of social media in the revolutions in North Africa. The eye-rolling response from some western counties on the role of Twitter in the revolutions is acknowledged, but the writer of the article, who actually went to Egypt, testifies to the practical and uniting qualities of Twitter in the Arab Spring. With the help of this media, the youths engaged in their predominantly peaceful revolution communicate with large numbers of people. From their neighbors to foreign reporters, everyone can know what is happening where, and when. This medium of communication, ushered into existence not even a decade ago, is the young person’s tool; its use in the Arab Spring is like a signature from the young generation.

This article highlights the role of the Tweeters as citizen journalists; their actions can be seen online, en masse. The dependability of the updates, however, is only used as an uncannily reliable, yet unofficial source. A reporter from Al Jazeera compares it to a speech bubble for what is happening on the ground. Social media unites as a Geiger counter to how the people feel, what they need, and how the world can help.

Hounshell’s article rigorously evaluates the validity of Twitter as an aid to the revolution, and it is in his skepticism that the nature of social networking in the Arab Spring in Egypt comes forth. This article will influence my project by providing useful information on the utilization of modern resources by the youth of Egypt. Many think of this form of media as an exceedingly urban tool; many don’t consider that urban culture is everywhere. Comparing the young Egyptians to Westerners through their united use of Facebook, Twitter, et cetera, make the leap from Santa Clara County to Cairo seem close.


In this short article from the peer-reviewed Foreign Policy, the typical protester from Egypt’s Tahrir Square is examined through the contents of his bag. A young man, educated, and eager for change in his country, packs what he finds necessary for his role in the revolution. There is a short summary of what this twenty-five
year old has had with him for the past 18 days of protesting, ending with the man exclaiming that the very air in Egypt has changed.
I found this source helpful because it makes the people that occupied Tahrir Square very relatable to anyone in western culture. This article was peer reviewed; reliability in the text is proven by the integrity of the serial. This source was sympathetic to the youth in Egypt, and their need for freedom from the Mubarak regime.

This source will shape my paper in that I will try to make the people, the youth in Egypt like youth in revolt anywhere. Their African-ness and religion might decide their actions, but it is their want for freedom, equality, and a better society that unites them to the rest of the world. Utilizing this source through a comparison of Egyptian and American youth (Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street will probably have a section in the final project) will give a personal, tangible urgency to what those in Tahrir Square went through this spring.