Teaching Beyond September 11th
Module 10

Youth Activism in Global Perspective
Representation and the Arab Uprisings

Module 10, Lesson 1
Mapping the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
Mapping the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region
Including surrounding countries
Political Systems
Historically in the Region (Prior to 2011)

Absolute monarchies
Royal families exert primary political control
Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar

Constitutional monarchies
Royal families share power with elected officials
Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco,

Autocracies
Absence of free elections, consistent and unchanging leadership
Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen

Democracies and Republics
Regular elections
Israel, Iraq, Iran (theocracy), Lebanon,

[Map of the region showing political systems]

Created on Mapchart.net
Middle Eastern Exceptionalism

Used as an explanation for Middle Eastern politics due to stereotypes of the region and its inhabitants (known as orientalism). These stereotypes were circulated by colonial writers during the period of colonialism (mid-15\textsuperscript{th}-20\textsuperscript{th} centuries) and continue to shape how the MENA region is viewed.

Stereotypes grounded in orientalism generally portray the region and people in four distinct ways:

1. As fundamentally DIFFERENT than people in the West
2. As ETERNAL and unchanging over time
3. As ABSTRACT represented as groups rather than individuals
4. As a place and a people to be FEARED portrayed as different than the West
The Guardian: Interactive Timeline on Uprising Protests in the Middle East

https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng_interactive/2021/jan/25/how_the_arab_spring_unfolded_a_visualisation
The Arab Uprisings in Pictures

1. What are some common demands and claims made by protestors in the photographs?
2. How is the leadership portrayed in these photographs?

In your groups, examine photos of protestors during the Arab Uprisings from the handout and answer the questions above.
Framing Justice in #Hashtags: A Legacy of the Arab Uprisings

Module 10, Lesson 2
How do you use hashtags on social media?

What makes a good hashtag?
The Rise of Activism on Social Media

Historic use of "#"
- Group conversation on the Internet
- Circulate on Twitter in 2007
- Move to other platforms (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, Tumblr)

Benefits of hashtags
- Unite public and mobile people for particular causes
- Allow for more horizontal, democratic exchange of ideas
- Permit quick exchange of time-sensitive information
- Allow circulation of information on issues in less regulated ways (i.e., frame)
What is "framing"?

Framing is...

- What we choose to say and how we choose to say it
- What we leave unsaid
- The values we use to build support for a cause
- Tone, numbers and statistics, solutions, and visuals
- Shaping how we think and feel, and what we do

Framing refers to the process by which social actors convey information (through words, images, and symbols) in order to convince people to take a particular perspective on an issue.

Framing can also direct attention to the "who" or "what" is responsible for a social problem AND who is harmed by a social problem

- "Who" is responsible for mandating masks? (Individuals, the government?)
- "Who" is harmed by wearing masks? (unvaccinated, first responders?)

Both positions appeal to American values of individualism and freedom and use symbols of American patriotism (red, white, blue colors)
A picture frame determines what is seen and what is left out (beyond the edge of the frame)
Frames can take many forms. Two forms are:

- **Injustice frame**: language and images that appeal to the audience by claiming that a particular issue is unjust.
- **Rights frame**: language and images that appeal to the audience by claiming that a particular issue concerns someone's rights.

**Injustice frame**: accessing vaccines in low-income countries is justice.

**Rights frame**: having a vaccine passport is framed as a violation of people's rights.

Think about “injustice frames” or “rights frames” that you have observed in popular culture.
The Arab Uprisings were popularized, including through hashtags, on media such as Twitter and Facebook, subsequently influencing other protests around the world.

In particular, the Arab Uprisings influenced the Occupy Protests that began in NYC in 2011 to contest extreme wealth inequality.