



University of Mohammed Boudiaf - M'Sila  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Media and Communication Sciences



Pedagogical Handbook for the course:

## **Contemporary International and National Issues**

Targeted towards second-year Bachelor's students specializing in Media Sciences.

Prepared by: Dr. Himeur Saida

Academic Year: 2022/2023



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- Faculty: Humanities and Social Sciences
  - Department: Media and Communication Sciences
  - Academic Level: Second Year Bachelor's Degree
  - Semester: Second
  - Exploratory Units
  - Duration: One and a half hours

Course Objectives:

1. Training students to follow events at the national and international levels.
2. Assisting them in forming perceptions and opinions on international issues.
3. Providing students with a clear understanding of the basic functions of major public institutions.

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<b>12</b>	<p>12. Lecture Twelve: Conceptual Introduction to Cyber Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Introduction</li> <li>- Definition of Cyber Attacks</li> <li>- Types of Cyber Attacks</li> </ul>	

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## **Introduction:**

Through this pedagogical publication, we present a series of lectures on contemporary international and national issues tailored primarily to undergraduate students majoring in communication and media.

Exploring their various dimensions, we will shed light on the challenges facing societies in this context, analyzing, understanding, and effectively confronting these issues. We will delve into historical backgrounds and recent developments to build a generation ready to interact with global challenges with deep understanding and comprehensive awareness.

Within the pages of this publication, we will delve into the details of how international and national issues impact various fields and the role of media in addressing them. We will provide a comprehensive overview of issues such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, petroleum media... Additionally, we will explore the role of technology in shaping individuals' perspectives on these issues.

## First Lecture: Media and Democratization

### Content:

- The relationship between media and democratization.
- The role of media in democratization.

### Lecture Objectives:

- Introducing conceptual frameworks about democracy.
- Highlighting the role of media in democratization.

### Introduction:

Media has dominated all aspects of life for decades, becoming a pressing concern in regional and international policies. It has evolved into an ideological mechanism shaping present policies and future prospects. With the advancement of communication technologies, a new dynamic has emerged in content production, granting individuals complete freedom in writing, expression, and participation in media production.

Today's media landscape is truly diverse in its means and actors. Contemporary media has imposed its logic on the audience, with its ease of access, widespread social and global reach, and interactivity making it fundamentally different from old media. Its new platforms provide users with unprecedented freedom in receiving and disseminating information, breaking away from official monopolies and allowing them to play social, cultural, economic, and political roles. Consequently, contemporary media presents an opportunity for societies to restructure themselves, reorganize data, and move towards a modern perspective on human resources and their social and professional relationships, while also providing immunity to national identity components against forms of hegemony that utilize soft technology with content directed to serve specific issues and interests.

If there is a strong link between communication and interaction in media, it enables the building of an advanced and open society when content is controlled and harnessed for the public good.

Both traditional and modern media play pivotal roles in the democratic transformation of societies, shaping and reforming political awareness. This is fundamentally linked to the degree of freedom available to media and the political system it operates within. If media freedom margins are open, it contributes to enhancing democracy and political mobilization, monitoring internal and external events, and serving as a vigilant guardian of the political system.

### **The Relationship between Media and Democratization:**

In reality, there is no single theory capable of explaining the role of media in shaping democratization. Rather, there are different perspectives on the matter. One viewpoint argues that media have no direct connection to democratization; they simply operate within the framework of democracy or its absence. However, observed changes have shown that media indeed have the capability to challenge regimes. Another perspective sees media as playing a significant role in enhancing democracy, with everything depending on the degree of media freedom, leading to democratization as a necessary outcome. A third group takes a moderate view, assigning specific roles to media during the democratization process.

Overall, media exert influence in shaping the context of political, social, and cultural transformation, actively participating in reform efforts and promoting freedom and diverse opinions within these channels. Changes in communication weaken the authority's control, allowing dissenting voices to emerge, paving the way for transformation. Those who hold a negative view of media's role in driving democratization argue that media support the ruling power by maintaining its influence and controlling the flow of political information to the public.

The moderate approach to the relationship between media and democratization suggests that in some societies, where media prolonged authoritarian regimes and kept the political situation stagnant, they can serve as a tool for political reform. Here, the role of media in protecting society and monitoring regimes becomes evident.

In conclusion, the more freedom media enjoy, the more they contribute to democratization.

## **Second Lecture: Media Functions in Supporting Democracy and Political Reform**

### **Content:**

- The relationship between media and democracy: Role ambiguity and prospects for evolution.
- Functions of media in supporting democracy and political reform.
- Media and political reform.

### **Lecture Objectives:**

- Unveiling the role of media in political reform.
- Explaining the democratic functions of media.

### **Introduction:**

Media performs a range of functions to support democracy and contribute to the process of political reform. It disseminates political awareness within society, acting as a mediator between power and the people, as well as a watchdog monitoring regimes and aiding in problem-solving to protect society. Free media performs a variety of functions to support democracy and political reform:

- Facilitating the public's right to access and interpret knowledge and information.
- Contributing to achieving communication democracy by transforming it into an environment for expressing opinions.
- Fostering political participation.
- Managing free discussion within society.
- Assisting in decision-making processes: In a free media environment, decision-making is empowered, whereas in authoritarian systems where information flows from top to bottom, the role of such media is weakened.

- Shaping public opinion: Public trust in the media often exceeds trust in the government, allowing media outlets to shape and guide public opinion on relevant issues.

- Monitoring events: Media monitors both internal and external events, keeping society informed and adaptable to ongoing developments.

For media to effectively perform its functions, it requires media pluralism that conveys diverse public inclinations, absence of censorship, removal of constraints, freedom of access to information, dissemination, and prevention of information monopolies.

However, the aforementioned functions of free media do not apply to Arab media, which still grapples with governmental restrictions and control, hindering democracy where every individual's voice should be heard, equal, and influential in public opinion. Various difficulties impede Arab media from supporting democracy, including the nature of its relationship with the political regime, legislative environment, bias, and limited freedom of expression.

### **Media functions:**

1. Media do not only convey information to the public but operate according to a predetermined agenda to achieve goals and objectives. They are an integral part of political work, as politicians derive information about the public from the media, exploiting it to legitimize and maintain the credibility of the political system and its institutions.

For media to perform their functions democratically, four conditions must be met:

- Representation of diverse societal trends: Media allow different ideological and cultural groups within society to express their opinions, contributing to the dissemination of democracy and vice versa.

- Protection of society: Media, in a democratic context, act as guardians protecting society's interests and preserving it from any deviations.

- Provision of information to the public: Media disseminate knowledge shared by society, contributing to the formulation of accurate decisions.
- Contribution to achieving social unity: Media propagate societal culture, enhancing social cohesion and community bonding.

To ensure media effectively perform their functions, certain rights must be upheld:

- Right of the public to access media: Ensuring an environment conducive to free discussions by removing any barriers hindering the flow of information to the public.
- Free discussion: The exchange and discussion of opinions foster political awareness.
- Independence from authority: Media independence from authority ensures their representation of the public and the fulfillment of their roles.
- Monitoring function: Media monitor society, its inputs, outputs, institutions, political systems, issues, and opinions within a free media environment.
- Surveillance function: Surveillance of influential institutions and monitoring of parasitic elements disrupting societal harmony.
- Guidance function: Guiding society by providing various political and leadership-related information.
- Transmission function: Transmitting information that the political system does not want the public to know, in the manner it desires, and without criticism.
- Leadership function: Media operate according to a predetermined agenda, arranging issues and directing public thinking. The political system derives its information from the media, making them leaders on specific issues.

The relationship between the media and democratic transition manifests in several ways:

- Free media can lead to the downfall of regimes.
- Reforming the media is part of political and democratic reform.
- Media reform is effective in transitional democratic systems.
- The balanced relationship, both positive and negative, of the media with democratic transition is emphasized by Allen Hume, who states that free media play four roles in democratic countries: the role of a watchdog, shedding light on important issues, spreading political awareness, and fostering social cohesion. In the contemporary world, democracy relies on diverse, independent media platforms that can provide a platform for democratic discourse.

The relationship of the media with democracy poses challenges regarding its role and prospects for development:

Arab media outlets in recent years have demonstrated their ability to contribute to democratic transition and political and social changes affecting Arab countries. There has been a noticeable change in the content provided, both in form and substance.

### **Media and Political Reform:**

The right to access information plays a crucial role in promoting political reforms. Three essential elements must be present: independence, plurality, and diversity. It can be concluded that Arab media can fulfill its roles in supporting democracy and political reform if it sheds its authoritarian characteristics.

Several strategies can contribute to democratic enlightenment and political change:

- Freedom of press and media ownership: Granting individuals the right to publish newspapers and establish radio and television channels

widens freedom and thereby supports democracy when media ownership is in private hands.

- Ensuring the right to access information: Guaranteeing media's right to access information from its sources and preventing or restricting censorship contributes to social responsibility and credibility, leading to support for democracy.
- Imposing financial fines instead of imprisonment for opinion and publishing offenses: This approach is used in free democratic countries as a means to punish publishing crimes with less harm than imprisonment and suspension of freedom of expression.
- Studying various factors that have led to the decline in professional performance, craftsmanship, and cultural and cognitive levels of the new generations.

In summary, for the media to fulfill its democratic and political reform functions, necessary freedom and a suitable media environment must be provided.

## Lecture Three: Media and Illegal Immigration

### Elements of the Lecture:

- Definition of illegal immigration.
- Definition of asylum.
- Historical evolution of the phenomenon of illegal immigration.
- The role of media in addressing the issue of illegal immigration.
- Consequences of illegal immigration.

### Objectives of the Lecture:

- To reveal the risks of illegal immigration.
- To highlight the role of media in combating the phenomenon.

### Introduction:

The media represents the central nucleus of societies, fulfilling its roles based on social responsibility, making it one of the fundamental pillars in our contemporary world. Societies are confronted with various phenomena and issues that are difficult to solve or eliminate entirely, and the media plays a pivotal role in addressing and reducing them. Illegal immigration is one of the phenomena experiencing continuous growth. In this lecture, we will present the media mechanisms for addressing illegal immigration and explain its reality from a media perspective and the effective ways to confront it.

### Concept of Migration:

There is no specific definition for the term "migration," but researchers agree that it refers to distancing, leaving, or moving from one place to another, indicating departure and abandonment.

### Illegal Immigration:

It is a global phenomenon with various causes, involving the movement from one country to another through illegal or irregular means.

### **Definition of Illegal Immigration:**

In Algeria, the law defines it as the entry of a foreign person into national territory secretly or with forged documents with the intention of settling and working.

Or it is the movement of people from one place to another, whether individually or collectively, for political, social, or even security reasons.

It is the unauthorized or illegal migration where individuals or groups move from one location to another in search of livelihood and a better social and economic status, aiming to change their social status, such as changing professions or social classes.

### **Concept of Asylum:**

It refers to individuals leaving their homeland not by personal choice but rather being compelled to do so due to factors affecting their lives and safety.

### **Historical Development of Illegal Immigration:**

The evolution of illegal migration to Europe can be divided into three main stages:

#### **Encouragement of Legal Migration:**

This stage was characterized by the ease of migration due to Europe's encouragement of immigrants and the retention of economic and social privileges for them. However, Algerians and North African countries experienced migration as a result of wars, and after their end, migration to colonized countries became easy.

#### **Halt of Migration:**

Due to the petroleum crisis and its repercussions, recipient countries decided to close their borders to migrants to address this issue.

Stage of Illegal Migration:

European countries enacted strict laws criminalizing illegal migration, exacerbating the situation with the emergence of clandestine migration.

### **The Role of Media in Addressing Illegal Immigration:**

Traditional and modern media possess a range of influential characteristics enhanced by their speed and widespread dissemination. They are the most effective means for persuasion and addressing social issues and phenomena. Relevant authorities can utilize various media channels to combat illegal migration.

Media fulfills this role by providing the public with information about illegal immigration, highlighting the threats it poses to their lives, and attempting to raise awareness about the dire circumstances migrants may face, including poverty, imprisonment, and even death during the journey. Media can persuade both potential migrants and members of society through constant repetition and the use of methods such as threats and intimidation.

Changing individuals' attitudes toward illegal migration is challenging, especially considering the risks involved, as migrants often embark on perilous journeys on overcrowded boats. Convincing potential migrants involves influencing their social circles, including friends and family, through personal communication aimed at dissuasion. Additionally, it entails informing young people about legal migration opportunities by educating them about immigration laws in various countries, self-protection measures, and how to contact institutions that provide assistance to migrants abroad.

- Designing a specialized website dedicated to informing the public about the phenomenon.

The media, in light of these factors, appears to be one of the strong influences still affecting the decisions of migrants worldwide. The importance of the media role in migration issues has increased with the evolution of the media itself, its tools, and its audience.

In the era of globalization, the concept and nature of media have changed. It is no longer solely tied to communication outputs but has become closely linked to financial, scientific, and technological information. This new media landscape is characterized by freedom, attractiveness, and mass appeal, allowing migration and its proponents potential access to knowledge and communication on a global scale.

The media treatment of migration issues oscillates between negative and constructive approaches to the phenomenon.

**There are many repercussions of illegal immigration, including:**

- Spread of unemployment.
- Drug trafficking.
- Financial exploitation.
- Crime.

**Causes of illegal migration:**

Illegal migration is a global phenomenon witnessed in many countries around the world. This phenomenon involves people moving from one country to another without adhering to the laws and regulations of the targeted country. It includes many aspects and reasons that drive individuals to engage in it, including:

1. **Poverty and lack of opportunities:** Many people resort to illegal migration in search of a better life and better economic opportunities in other countries where they suffer from difficult economic conditions.

2. Persecution and wars: Armed conflicts and political and social persecution can push individuals to illegal migration in search of safety and protection.

3. Human trafficking networks: Human trafficking networks facilitate illegal migration and profit from this illegal activity. (ChatGPT, retrieval date: 13/07/2023)

Illegal migration leads to numerous challenges and problems, including:

1. Human risks: Individuals engaging in illegal migration are exposed to significant risks, including drowning while attempting to cross seas and human exploitation.

2. National security: Illegal migration poses a challenge to national security, as it can be exploited by terrorist groups and criminals.

3. Economic challenges: Illegal migration harms national economies, increasing pressure on social services and reducing job opportunities for citizens.

To address this phenomenon, countries need to develop comprehensive strategies that include improving economic opportunities, protecting human rights, and combating human trafficking networks.

## Lecture Four: The Western Sahara Issue

### Elements of the Lecture:

- Causes of the conflict in the Western Sahara
- Parties involved in the Western Sahara conflict
- Brief overview of the Western Sahara
- **Goals of the Lecture:**
  - Introduction to the issue.
  - Media treatment of the Western Sahara issue

### Introduction:

The Western Sahara issue began after the end of the war when it was placed under Spanish mandate, which left in 1975, leaving the region under Moroccan supervision. This led to a conflict with the Polisario Front, continuing to this day regarding the self-determination of the Sahrawi people.

The Western Sahara issue is one of the complex and controversial international issues that has not found a permanent solution to date. This region, located in northwest Africa, is a source of political tensions and ongoing conflicts among the involved parties. In this lecture, we will delve into the history of the conflict in the Western Sahara and recent developments in this regard.

### A Brief Overview of the Western Sahara:

Covering an area of 288,000 square kilometers, the Western Sahara is divided into two parts: the northern section called "Saguia el-Hamra" and the southern part known as "Rio de Oro." Located in northwest Africa, it is bordered by Algeria to the northeast, Mauritania to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and Morocco to the north. Its

capital is El Aaiún, and its official language is Arabic. As of 2023, its population was estimated to be [population figure].

The Islamic religion is the official religion of the state. The Moroccan authorities still exercise sovereignty over some areas. The region boasts diverse mineral resources, making it the second country in phosphate reserves and a significant fishing area along the Atlantic coast. This has increased Morocco's ambitions over the region.

### **Causes of the Conflict in the Western Sahara:**

- Desire to benefit from the region's resources and exploit its wealth to address domestic deficits and expand onto its lands.
- Ideological differences between the Algerian and Moroccan regimes, with the former being socialist-liberationist and the latter being monarchical.
- Gaining legitimacy and rallying support around the leadership by creating the Western Sahara issue to divert attention from internal problems. Morocco experienced numerous strikes and even coup attempts due to social and political conditions at that time.
- Historical and security reasons related primarily to Morocco's historical legitimacy and state rhetoric. The historical right aims to unify all historical Moroccan territories under the king's banner, including the Western Sahara region. As for Algeria, it remembers the Sand War of 1962 and the Moroccan forces' incursion into its western borders. The Algerian army repelled the Moroccan forces. The lack of authority in the Sahara region paved the way for external powers, from Spain to Morocco and Mauritania, and finally Algeria, to intervene.

### **Parties to the Conflict in Western Sahara:**

1. Polisario Front: Seeks independence for the Sahara and the right of self-determination for its people.

2. Algeria: Views Morocco's actions as an attempt to extend its influence, especially since they engaged in battles over sovereignty in Tindouf.

3. Mauritania: Sees the incorporation of Rio de Oro as a way to achieve some of its demands, unify the Sahrawi group, and prevent the risk of Morocco's desire to annex it.

#### Developments of the Conflict in Western Sahara:

The roots of the conflict in Western Sahara trace back to ancient times, but the current conflict is linked to the colonial period when the region was divided between Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania. In 1975, the conflict reignited when Morocco intervened after Spain's withdrawal, leading to a confrontation with the Polisario Front, a movement advocating for independence.

Over the years, the region has witnessed repeated diplomatic talks and efforts, but no final solution has been reached. Currently, the conflict remains ongoing and highly complex, necessitating ongoing diplomatic efforts to seek a peaceful and just resolution to this issue.

#### The media coverage of the Western Sahara issue:

The media has addressed the Western Sahara issue over the years by providing news coverage and political analysis on this matter. Here are some ways in which the media has tackled this issue:

1. News coverage: Various media outlets, such as newspapers, television, radio, and digital media, regularly cover the issue by reporting news about ongoing developments in Western Sahara. Events, developments, and statements from involved parties are covered.

2. Analysis and commentary: The media offers analyses and commentaries by experts and political analysts to understand the intricacies of the issue and provide different perspectives. This analysis sheds light on various aspects of the conflict and its underlying reasons.

3. Special reports and reviews: Media may publish detailed reports and reviews about the Western Sahara issue, based on thorough research and investigation to understand the matter more deeply.

4. Hosting discussions and talk shows: Media can organize talk shows and debates bringing together representatives from different parties in the conflict to discuss viewpoints and explore solutions.

5. Spotlighting human rights: Media can highlight human rights issues in Western Sahara and document any human rights violations if present, putting pressure on involved parties to act more responsibly.

In general, the media plays a crucial role in conveying events and information about the issue to the global audience and pressing for a peaceful and just solution to the conflict in Western Sahara. (chat GBT, 2/09/2023)

Conclusion:

The Western Sahara issue remains one of the lingering and complex international issues that require a comprehensive and lasting solution. The international community and the parties involved must work together to promote dialogue and enhance opportunities for peaceful settlement. Respect for human rights and the interests of the Sahrawi people must be paramount in this process.

Addressing this issue requires strong political will and continuous efforts to reach a permanent and just solution that meets the aspirations of all involved parties. Through international cooperation and dialogue, stability and peace can be achieved in this crucial region of Northwest Africa.

## Lecture 5: Petroleum Media

### Lecture Elements:

- Concept of petroleum
- Importance of petroleum
- Petroleum media
- Causes of the petroleum crisis
- Lecture objectives:
  - Identify the causes and consequences of the petroleum crisis.
  - Disseminate petroleum culture among student circles.

### Introduction:

Petroleum, or the so-called "black gold," is one of the most vital resources ever, serving as a fundamental criterion for differentiation among nations and their strength. Its fluctuations have economic and security repercussions affecting various sectors, and it is utilized in many industries.

### - Concept of petroleum:

It consists of a mixture of approximate hydrocarbon resources that can combine in various molecular forms, producing petroleum products with distinct chemical properties. It contains two elements: hydrogen and carbon.

### Importance of Petroleum:

- Used in transportation industries.
- Utilized in petrochemical industries.
- Incorporated into plastic and fiber industries.

## Causes of the Petroleum Crisis:

- Wars.
- Production reduction.
- Imposition of sanctions.
- Strategic behavioral changes of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- Surplus of shale oil in the United States.
- Decreased petroleum consumption in America due to alternative options.
- Petroleum sold in black markets at lower prices by certain organizations.
- Global health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Petroleum Media:

It is extremely beneficial to spread petroleum culture within society, as petroleum directly or indirectly impacts individuals' interests. This is achieved by providing people with accurate information and data about petroleum developments and combating rumors.

The media has always played a leading role in all areas of life, and there is no doubt that the media influences petroleum prices and its market status. By transmitting journalistic reports about statements from influential officials, it can lead to either a decrease or increase in petroleum prices.

### Petroleum Media: Its Role and Impact on Economy and Politics

Petroleum media is a term used to describe the depth and influence that the oil and gas sector holds over the media and politics in many countries heavily reliant on the oil and gas industry. The impact of petroleum media ranges from economic influence to political and social

influence. In this article, we will explore the role of petroleum media and its impact on various aspects of life in oil-rich countries.

#### Petroleum Media and Economy:

- Giant oil companies possess immense power to shape public opinion through advertising campaigns. They can enhance their image or reputation in the global market.
- The oil and gas industry provides numerous investment and job opportunities, extensively covered in the media. These sectors are vital sources for economic growth.

#### Petroleum Media and Politics:

- Impact on domestic politics: Oil companies can exert political pressure to further their interests, both nationally and internationally. This can influence energy policies, environmental policies, and human rights.
- Oil-rich countries play a significant role in the international arena, and the media plays a vital role in covering relations between these countries and international developments related to oil and gas.

#### Petroleum Media and the Environment:

- Petroleum media can shed light on the environmental challenges associated with the oil and gas industry, such as the effects of environmental pollution and climate change.
- Through reports and investigations, the media can increase pressure on oil-rich countries to diversify their economies and rely on other sources of income. (Chat GbT, 10/22/2023)

Petroleum media demonstrates how one industry can have a significant impact on all aspects of life in oil-rich countries. Understanding this impact helps in appreciating their challenges, opportunities, and the need

to balance reliance on oil and gas with achieving economic and environmental diversification.

#### Conclusion:

The causes of the petroleum crisis are diverse and varied, considering many factors. It is undeniable that the media plays a role in either exacerbating or addressing crises. Therefore, media institutions must inform their citizens about petroleum issues and establish specialized media bodies to combat rumors and counterattacks.

## Lecture 6: The Palestinian Cause

### Lecture Elements:

- Dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict
- Historical overview of the Palestinian issue
- Balfour Declaration
- The Nakba
- Media perspective on the Gaza War

### Objectives of the Lecture:

- Clarify the historical context of the Palestinian cause, from the mandate period to modern developments.
- Understand ongoing events and current political developments related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### Introduction:

In a complex environment intertwined with history and conflict, the Palestinian cause emerges as a vital axis, constituting one of the internationally controversial issues. It revolves around a historical dispute over land and identity in the Middle East region, combining historical, religious, and cultural aspects. It concerns the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

Recent history witnesses complex developments in this issue, with an ongoing conflict involving border issues, refugees, and the status of Jerusalem, making it one of the most prominent hotspots in the Middle East and a subject of continuous international debate.

### Dimensions of the Arab-Israeli Conflict:

### Military and Security Dimension:

Israel seeks continuous development of its military units with the assistance of the United States, aiming to maintain Israel's security, assert its common interests, and historical affiliations with Britain and America.

### Religious Dimension:

Palestine is considered the cradle of civilizations and the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. The conflict in the region has a primarily religious origin.

### Economic and Financial Dimension:

Israel surpasses Arab countries financially and economically due to its control over maritime outlets in the region, giving it access to financial and economic resources.

### Historical Overview of the Palestinian Issue:

To fulfill their demands, the Zionist movement aimed to establish a national homeland for themselves in Palestinian territories. In 1914, after the end of World War I and the imposition of the modern mandate on the region, the British Foreign Secretary announced this. In 1947, the United Nations insisted on a resolution to divide Palestine, granting Jews 55% of the land, leading to the establishment of the state of Israel in 1947 and subsequently sparking a series of wars.

(For more information, visit:

[[www.altgage.net](http://www.altgage.net)](<https://www.altgage.net>) and

[Google](<https://www.google.com/amps>))

### Balfour Declaration:

British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917, to Lionel de Rothschild. It stated, "His Majesty's

Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country." With this, Britain granted Jews a national homeland in Palestine, but it was a false promise; giving to those who do not deserve by those who do not own.

The Nakba:

The Palestinian Nakba in 1948 was a war waged by the Zionist movement against Palestine and its people. It led to the displacement of approximately 750,000 Palestinians to neighboring countries, where they were labeled as refugees. The Zionist forces adopted policies of persecution, terror, and instilling fear in the hearts of Palestinians through treacherous means. Moreover, they committed heinous crimes, violating all international laws and norms, in order to establish what is called Israel on Palestinian lands, with the assistance of major powers like the United States and the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, they demolished around 500 villages and expelled their inhabitants. The unjust partition decision over one indivisible land, with two peoples struggling amidst a clear imbalance of power, led to a situation where the people who possess the right lack military strength, while those who possess military strength lack the right. During its presence in Palestine, Britain armed and trained the Jews while disarming and arresting Palestinians.

Despite this, the majority of the Palestinian people rose to defend Palestinian land, culminating in the Great Arab Revolt of 1936, which lasted for six months and was renewed in 1937 with even greater intensity. The revolt spread among peasants and popular classes, prompting Britain to use aircraft, tanks, and artillery to suppress it. However, the revolution and the jihad declared by the Palestinian people

managed to liberate some cities and areas, even if only for a short period.

The revolution continued until 1938-1939, during which Britain established harsh military courts and issued severe sentences against the mujahideen and revolutionaries.

Despite the repeated Arab uprisings, the wave of Jewish migration to Palestine continued, and settlements were established throughout Palestine. Arab fears of the possibility of continuous land annexation by Jews and their settlements intensified. Thus, the issue of saving the lands in Palestine became a fundamental issue in confronting the Zionist threat and preventing the leakage of lands to the Jews.

When Britain failed to resolve the Palestine issue, it referred the matter to the United Nations according to a pre-prepared plan for partition. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations issued its resolution to partition Palestine, terminate British mandate, and establish two independent Arab and Jewish states and international administration in Jerusalem as follows (56% of Palestine's land for the Jewish state, 43% for the Arab state, and Jerusalem allocated 0.65% as an international sector).

There was overt pressure on the UN member states to support the project of partitioning Palestine into two Arab and Jewish states. This was not the first time a decision to partition Palestine was issued; it had previously occurred in August 1936 with the formation of the Royal Commission, known as the Peel Commission, which concluded its work in Palestine on January 7, 1937. The committee proposed ending the mandate imposed on Palestine, partitioning it, and establishing two states, one Arab and the other Jewish.

The committee proposed that each state should have independent sovereignty and called for the establishment of a permanent British mandate area in southern Palestine, including Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Lake Hula, and Tiberias, with the creation of a corridor

connecting Jerusalem and Bethlehem to the city of Jaffa, passing through the towns of Lydda and Ramla. The committee's map delineated the geographical borders starting from Ras al-Naqoura, along the current northern and eastern borders of Palestine, to Lake Tiberias, then crossing the lake and connecting to the confluence of the Jordan River with the lake, running parallel to the river until reaching a point slightly away from Beisan from the north, then penetrating the Beisan Valley and proceeding along the southern edge of the Marj Ibn Amer plain, then penetrating Marj Ibn Amer until reaching the Majdal corridor to the coastal plain and westward until reaching the Jerusalem-Jaffa corridor.

Whether this decision or that, the ultimate goal is the geographical Palestine and the fragmentation of Palestinian lands, giving Jews the largest possible area in preparation for the establishment of the state.

The Arabs opposed this decision in its entirety, and resistance and Palestinian jihad continued. On May 15, 1948, Britain officially withdrew from Palestine and the state of Israel was declared. Arab armies entered to support the Palestinian people, but they did not change the situation as the 1948 war was a foregone conclusion before it began, with Zionist presence effectively forming a government within the mandate government. The Palestinian people suffered from a lack of organization, mobilization, and military capability, while the Arab states were either newly independent, subject to foreign influence, or unfamiliar with the geography, cities, and population of Palestine.

The media perspective on the Palestinian issue:

On the media level, the media has played a significant role in introducing the issue in international forums since the emergence of print journalism in the 19th century. The first newspaper was Al-Quds, followed by other newspapers that played a role in fostering nationalism. However, since 1967, newspapers ceased publication, and to fill the media gap, the occupation issued the "Al-Yawm" newspaper, which faced opposition from the Palestinian side, leading to the publication of

"Al-Ayyam Al-Anba'a" newspaper, and eventually agreeing to publish "Al-Quds" newspaper.

However, journalists faced many obstacles, sanctions, and restrictions, yet this did not deter them from continuing their struggle with the pen to convey the voice of the Palestinian people to the world. In the past, when the Arab Islamic world was secure, the Palestinian cause received media attention.

Diminishing the Zionist entity was achieved through producing news reports, films, and programs that narrate the heroism of the Palestinian people, leading to Arab sympathy through protests and boycotts. While Western media tends to portray the issue as a conflict between two parties, focusing on the Israeli side due to the historical affiliation of Israeli media, technological advancements and increased freedom of expression allowed many writers in the Arab world to present the truth about the Palestinian issue.

In summary, the Palestinian issue remains one of the most important contentious issues with deep-rooted complexities and various stakeholders, making it a constant source of tension with impacts across multiple domains.

## Lecture Seven: The Iranian Nuclear Issue

Elements of the lecture:

- Origins of the nuclear issue in Iran.
- Components of the program.
- Implications of the nuclear file.

Lecture objectives:

- Explain the history of the Iranian nuclear program and the key events leading to current developments.
- Highlight the political aspects and international relations related to the Iranian nuclear file.

Introduction:

The Iranian nuclear file is one of the most complex issues of the modern era and one of the most dangerous due to the potential humanitarian consequences of its misuse. The conflict surrounding this issue has reached an extreme level of complexity. During this lecture, we will provide a detailed explanation of the issue, covering its developments and the key scientific milestones involved.

Origins of the Nuclear Issue in Iran:

The Iranian nuclear program began during the Shah's era with the aim of establishing the foundations of Iranian civilization. Initially, the United States offered to build nuclear reactors, but the high cost led Iran to accept a German offer to construct two reactors in the Bushehr region in 1974. After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, construction slowed down, and during the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq bombed the reactors in 1987. Iran sought other countries to continue the construction, but only the Soviet

Union agreed. Iran then began acquiring heavy water and military-grade uranium, contracting with the Soviets in 1985 as part of its peaceful nuclear program. Since 1986, Iran has been developing its nuclear programs, including water desalination and uranium enrichment, to produce plutonium for scientific research and medical and agricultural use. Iran pursued centrifuge technology, facilitated by Iraq's direction towards gas centrifuge technology, which was easier to conceal. Iranian leaders continued to develop peaceful nuclear technology despite facing significant criticism. Iran faced numerous pressures, including in 2003 when the International Atomic Energy Agency issued resolutions to halt uranium enrichment, send experts for inspections, and sign the suspension protocol, threatening to refer the issue to the UN Security Council. However, Iran hardened its stance and resumed uranium enrichment in Isfahan, successfully enriching uranium to 35% in 2006. On this date, the International Atomic Energy Agency referred Iran's file to the Security Council, which subsequently agreed to compel Iran to limit its nuclear activities

Parties to the Crisis: Iranian Regime:

Iran: Asserts its right to nuclear program for peaceful purposes and declares it will not turn it into a military weapon.

International Powers: The United States and Israel are the most concerned countries regarding the Iranian nuclear issue. Israelis see the Iranian nuclear program as breaking nuclear monopoly, posing a threat to them, and demand its cessation. Both the United States and Israel have internally hindered Iran through physical elimination of scientists, abduction, or assassination, especially after launching brain-drain campaigns. They also engaged in electronic warfare by spreading viruses on nuclear program computers like the Stuxnet virus, targeting Iranian centrifuge devices.

Components of the Program:

Accurate information about all nuclear programs in Iran is not available as Iran learned from the lesson of Iraq and did not consolidate all its nuclear data in one basket. Instead, it distributed them across the entire territory, relying on a needle and haystack strategy by not placing all its secrets in one basket, but rather distributing them underground or hiding them well through tunnels. Its oil field program has become old and needs maintenance.

The structure of the program is known to require three essential elements for possessing a military nuclear program: uranium enrichment, expertise, and the ability to manufacture a strong warhead and produce means to deliver this warhead. The program consists of:

1. Nuclear Facilities: Distributed among four branches, including research centers, enrichment sites, nuclear reactors, and uranium mines. Research centers include the Jabr Ibn Hayyan Center, Jorana, and the Sharif University Center for Nuclear Research.
2. Uranium Enrichment Sites: Such as the Ramandeh Center, Lashkar Abad, and the Natanz Enrichment Facility, and the Ardakan Center.

Implications of the Nuclear File:

**Economic Sanctions:** Since 2006, Iran has faced a package of economic and financial sanctions, resulting in significant losses. In addition to the United States, unilateral countries such as Albania and Australia have banned oil investment in Iran. Iranian traders still face high inflation rates and high unemployment rates, reaching 80%. **Military Threats:** Iran faces military threats from Israel and the United States, with the possibility of a military strike if it does not comply with international scrutiny.

**Nuclear Program Suspension:** The nuclear agreement imposed by the United States for ten years since its inception means 1733 types of

sanctions targeting oil installations, individuals, and the aviation sector (Mohammad, 2021).

#### Summary:

Iran is one of the most important countries in the global energy sector, holding 24% of the world's oil and gas reserves. The Iranian nuclear weapon serves as a significant deterrent, followed by the presence of the American military.

## Lecture Eight: Climate Changes

Elements of the lecture:

- Introduction
- Concept of climate changes
- Causes of climate changes
- Impacts of climate changes
- Summary

Lecture objectives:

- Raise awareness about the risks of climate changes.
- Understand the dimensions of climate changes.

Introduction:

The issue of climate changes is one of the most important issues in the modern era, and it continues to occupy the global public opinion, whether individuals or organizations, and has not been resolved to this day despite the efforts and relentless endeavors regarding it. In this lesson, we will learn more about the phenomenon of climate changes and its various dimensions.

Concept of Climate Changes:

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These changes may occur naturally, such as through variations in solar radiation. However, since the 19th century, human activities have become the main cause of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas.

Causes of Climate Changes:

Burning fossil fuels emits greenhouse gases that act like a blanket wrapping around the Earth, trapping solar heat and raising temperatures.

Examples of greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These gases result from activities such as driving cars using gasoline, burning coal for heating buildings, deforestation, and land clearing. Landfills are also a significant source of methane emissions. Energy production and consumption, industry, transportation, buildings, agriculture, and land use are among the primary sources of emissions.

Climate change affects social and environmental determinants of health, including clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and secure shelter. It is estimated that climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress.

The direct costs of health damage (excluding the costs in specific health-related sectors such as agriculture, water, and sanitation services) are estimated to range from 2 to 4 billion USD per year by 2030. Areas lacking resilient health infrastructure, mainly in developing countries, are less capable of coping without assistance for preparedness and response.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improving transportation services, food options, and energy use can lead to health improvements, particularly by reducing air pollution.

Summary:

The issue of climate change continues to pose countless challenges. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are responsible for accelerating these changes. Their effects include rising temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels, resulting in negative impacts on the environment and wildlife.

## Lecture Nine: Media and Climate Change

Elements of the lecture:

- Introduction
- Reflections on climate change.
- The role of media in addressing climate change.
- Conclusion

Lecture Objectives:

Introduction:

Climate change, the greatest threat to human health, poses the most significant threat to humanity. Health professionals worldwide are already working to address the health damages caused by this crisis. The link (<https://www.un.org/ar/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>) indicates that climate change occurs when changes in the Earth's climate system lead to the emergence of new climatic patterns that persist for a long period. Scientists have identified many episodes of climate change throughout the geological history of the Earth, and in recent times, since the Industrial Revolution, climate has been increasingly affected by human activities, leading to

(<https://ar.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%AA%D8%BA%D9%8A> (بیر)).

Therefore, the terms are commonly used interchangeably in this context. Drought and global changes in rainfall patterns lead to crop failure and increased food prices, resulting in food insecurity and deprivation for the poor, which can have lifelong impacts, as well as destroying livelihoods, increasing migration and conflicts, and limiting opportunities for children and adolescents.

(<https://www.unicef.org/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA>) Climate change represents a significant factor in influencing the feasibility and sustainability of development projects, especially in the Arab region, where fundamental factors affecting the climate of the Arab region are

located within the semi-tropical latitude range northwards. This area is affected by four permanent centers of atmospheric pressure, in addition to two seasonal centers, which make a large part of the Arab countries affected by tropical climate conditions in the summer. Seasonal winds blow over the southern Arab homeland, bringing summer rains to the southern part of the Arab homeland. This climate effect extends from Mauritania to Sudan, passing through southern Algeria and Libya, while its direction and location change in the continental land masses of Africa and Asia. These factors make the Arab region one of the hottest and sunniest regions in the world, with significantly low humidity rates. Several years may pass without any significant rainfall, except in some areas in the Levant, Iraq, Sudan, and the Mediterranean coast. When rainfall occurs, it is usually in the form of short, sometimes destructive downpours.

The international governmental body concerned with climate change has unequivocally affirmed in its reports that climate change is real and its primary cause is human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. The increasing pace of extreme weather phenomena, natural disasters, rising sea levels, floods, heatwaves, droughts, desertification, water scarcity, and the spread of tropical and vector-borne diseases are some of the harmful effects of climate change. These phenomena directly and indirectly affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights worldwide, including the right to life, access to safe water and sanitation services, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture, work, and development. The international governmental body also emphasized that fossil fuels - coal, oil, and gas - are by far the largest contributors to global climate change, accounting for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and about 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions trap solar heat in the Earth's atmosphere, leading to global warming and climate change. The world's temperature is currently rising faster than ever recorded in history. Over time, high temperatures lead to changes in weather patterns and disruptions in the

usual balance of nature, posing numerous risks to humans and all forms of life (<https://www.ohchr.org/ar/climate-change/impacts-climate-change-effective-enjoyment-human-rights>).

### Conclusion:

The lecture discussed the impacts of climate change on the environment and daily life, presenting scientific evidence supporting these challenges, with a focus on the role of human activity in exacerbating them. Sustainable solutions were also presented as a means to address climate challenges and take effective action to preserve the environment.

## Lecture Ten: The Russo-Ukrainian War

Elements of the Lecture:

- Introduction
- The Russo-Ukrainian War and the Future of the International System
- Russian and Ukrainian Losses
- Conflict Axes
- Conclusion

Lecture Objectives:

- Understanding the intricacies of the Russo-Ukrainian War issue
- Media coverage of the Russo-Ukrainian War issue

Introduction:

The lecture aims to explore the ramifications of the 2022 Russo-Ukrainian War politically, economically, and strategically, amidst the involvement of multiple stakeholders and the complexity of the international scene. It seeks to identify the impact of the Ukrainian crisis on the structure of the international system, especially in terms of international interactions post-war, existing international system balances, and future trajectories

This conflict began after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 following a controversial referendum. This was followed by fierce clashes in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian rebels.

The origins of the contemporary Ukrainian issue date back to 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Ukraine gaining its independence in the same year. In 1994, the "Budapest Memorandum" was signed, in which the Russian Federation pledged to respect

Ukraine's borders in exchange for Kyiv relinquishing its inherited nuclear arsenal from the Soviet Union to Russia. However, geopolitical calculations quickly took hold in Eastern Europe, with NATO's eastward expansion. The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland joined the alliance in 1999, and between 2004 and 2009, nine countries from Eastern Europe, some from former Soviet republics (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia), followed by Montenegro and North Macedonia later. The total number of countries that joined the alliance between 1999 and 2020 was around 14, constituting about half of the member states in the alliance founded in 1949.

Russia has always been keen on keeping Ukraine within the Russian sphere, considering it the heir to the former Soviet Union. It continued to bide its time to seize Ukraine until a golden opportunity arose in 2014 when protests erupted in Ukrainian cities demanding the ousting of the pro-Moscow Ukrainian President (Viktor Yanukovich). Russian forces then occupied strategic positions in the Crimean Peninsula and annexed it in 2014. Following a referendum in Crimea on self-determination, the region's residents voted in favor of joining Russia.

The Russo-Ukrainian War and the Future of the International System:

The examination of the repercussions of the 2022 Russo-Ukrainian War politically, economically, and strategically, amidst the involvement of multiple stakeholders and the complexity of the international scene, seeks to identify the impact of the Ukrainian crisis on the structure of the international system. This includes international interaction patterns post-war, existing international system balances, and future trajectories (Issam Abdel-Shafi, 2022, Al Jazeera Center for Studies).

The transformations and developments occurring in the international system have both negative and positive impacts on all regional and sub-regional systems based on it (Agence France-Presse).

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[Source](<https://www.inscenter.org/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%28>)

### Russian and Ukrainian Losses:

Russia has incurred various losses due to its military intervention in Ukraine. These losses have ranged from human casualties in combat operations, prolonged duration of the war, inability to achieve decisive victory, and the resilience of Ukrainian resistance, supported by Western forces, weapons, and expertise. Economically, Russia has suffered due to the intensity of Western sanctions, which targeted numerous sectors of the Russian economy, including oil and gas, freezing of assets, collapse of commercial banks and supply chains, and pressuring many of the United States' allies to implement sanctions and cease dealings with Russia. Politically, Russia has become more isolated from the international community, with its ties with the outside world being damaged. Russia has become more isolated than it was during the Cold

War era, with trade, cultural, and political exchanges being cut off. European airspace has been closed to Russian flights in many countries, and Russian athletes, artists, and politicians have been barred from participating in various events. Additionally, Russian ships have been banned from entering the ports of many countries worldwide.

On the other hand, as the Russo-Ukrainian war continues, the economic losses for Ukraine have escalated. Most economic activities in the country have come to a halt, and significant damage has been inflicted on basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and ports. The Russian war has not only targeted Ukrainian military sites but also civilian targets, including infrastructure for communication in Ukraine. Many Ukrainian ports and airports have been closed due to the damage inflicted upon them, and numerous roads and bridges have either been damaged or destroyed.

The closure of Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea has hindered maritime transportation. The Ukrainian government attempted to replace the transport of agricultural goods via railways to neighboring European countries before imposing bans on the export of many agricultural goods. Although it is currently difficult to fully assess the material damages in Ukraine, preliminary estimates indicate that at least \$100 billion worth of infrastructure, buildings, and other physical assets have been destroyed.

Prior to the Russian war, Ukraine's cash reserves amounted to \$31 billion in 2021. However, the war caused widespread destruction of Ukraine's productive capacity, deterioration of its foreign trade, diminished tax collection ability, increased financial distress, and inflationary pressures. In Ukraine, inflation has risen due to higher energy, food, and metal prices, coupled with an economic contraction ranging between 25 and 35%, according to the International Monetary

Fund. Additionally, the external financing gap has increased to about \$5 billion (Mahinaz Al-Baz, 2022).

The Russian war in Ukraine is an ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine that began in 2014 and continues as of the writing of this summary in September 2023. This war primarily focuses on the Crimea region and eastern Ukraine, where Russia supports pro-Russian separatists seeking to break away from Ukraine.

Key Points on this Conflict:

- This conflict has resulted in significant human and material losses. Estimates indicate thousands of deaths and injuries, as well as hundreds of thousands of displaced individuals.
- The conflict has led to escalating tensions between Russia and the West, with many countries imposing economic sanctions on Russia. International relations have been greatly affected by this conflict.
- Recent times have seen multilateral peace talks mediated by other countries, but a permanent agreement has not yet been reached.
- The conflict remains ongoing, with tensions continuing in eastern Ukraine. A peaceful and lasting solution remains complex due to the involvement of multiple parties and diverse interests.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict remains one of the greatest geopolitical challenges in the world today, necessitating ongoing international efforts to find a peaceful solution that meets the aspirations of the involved parties and achieves stability in the region.

## Lecture 11: Citizen Journalism

Elements of the lecture:

Introduction

- Concept of citizen journalism
- Key features of citizen journalism
- Origins of citizen journalism
- Forms of citizen journalism
- Difference between citizen journalist and professional journalist

Objectives of the lecture:

Explanation of the concepts of citizen journalism.

Raising awareness among students about the potential challenges of citizen journalism.

Raising awareness of the importance of the role of citizens as journalists and how individuals can generate media content.

Introduction:

For a long time, traditional media dominated the media scene, with the audience showing no interaction or participation with the content presented. However, the emergence of mobile phones and the widespread use of the internet by individuals laid the groundwork for the active role of the audience, ushering in a new era of media where the citizen becomes a journalist. So, what is meant by citizen journalism?

Concept of Citizen Journalism:

Also known as public journalism, collaborative journalism, democratic journalism, or grassroots journalism, it refers to members of the public playing an active role in the process of gathering, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating news and information online.

## Origins of Citizen Journalism:

The public went through a long period of silence, but the emergence of citizen journalism as a new form of non-professional journalistic practice began to gain momentum. With the development of these practices, citizen journalism started to take its share of discussions and research in advanced countries at the media level. This media phenomenon has been referred to using various terms such as "collaborative journalism," "open-source media," "democratic media," "street journalism," "alternative media," "popular journalism," and other labels and terms.

The term "citizen journalism" is one of the most controversial terms due to its novelty on one hand and the differing opinions among researchers about its meaning and main methods on the other hand. Its main concepts include: the idea that anyone can be a journalist and convey their opinions and observations to the world without the need for a journalism degree or affiliation with a media institution to make their voice heard globally.

Dr. Jamal Alzarn pointed out that it is a term in both media and communication at the same time, and it is relatively recent in its historical formation. It is a concept that is not stable at the conceptual level, and citizen journalism is characterized by some as citizen media.

He believes that the concept of citizen journalism relies on:

- 1- The internet as a space for publishing and expressing opinions.
- 2- Affirming the presence of citizens in public affairs and supporting democratic practices.
- 3- Considering the outputs of citizen journalism as an extension of alternative media references and alternative journalism.

"Citizen journalism" is journalism made or participated in by citizens who employ the internet to exchange news and opinions among themselves and with other citizens. There is no doubt that citizen participation in the media process has a long history in the history of print journalism, radio, and television, as citizens (readers, listeners, viewers) have been the target element in that process since the inception of journalism.

#### Key Features of Citizen Journalism:

- 1- Every citizen is a seeker of information, and everyone can become a source of news and information.
- 2- Transition from mass media to crowd media: Mass media relies on disseminating information from the individual to the group, while citizen journalism reverses the equation by relying on disseminating information from everyone to everyone, relying on citizen journalists.
- 3- Different editorial policy: Citizen journalism relies on a specific editorial policy. The news published must be accurate, relevant to objective events, and distinguished by maximum scoops.
- 4- Personal participation: Participatory democracy is an individual voluntary action not subject to the orientations of specific organizations but rather to the individual's political convictions, unlike traditional communication media.
- 5- Interactivity.

#### The Difference Between Citizen Journalism and Professional Journalism

##### Citizen Journalist:

A citizen journalist is someone who is aware of their political rights and duties and seeks to gather news and publish it on the internet. The citizen journalist is not a professional journalist because the professional journalist practices journalism within a specific legal framework,

characterized by holding a press card and receiving payment for their journalistic work.

### Citizen Journalism:

A citizen journalist is a volunteer who disseminates information and news they hear and see on the internet through self-commitment, social responsibility, monitoring of their peers, and internet users.

### Forms of Citizen Journalism:

#### Social Networks:

These are websites used by individuals to connect socially, establish relationships, and share content such as texts, articles, photos, and videos. Some of the most popular ones include Twitter and Facebook.

#### Blogs:

Blogs are personal websites and an important new means of communication and expression. Bloggers can write about any topic without restrictions due to the absolute freedom and lack of censorship. Blogs are directed at audiences with similar interests who can comment on them.

#### Video Streaming Sites:

These websites allow for the streaming, viewing, and downloading of audio or visual content. Some are so popular that they sell their content to media outlets, and even these outlets broadcast their programs through these sites. YouTube is one of the most famous examples.

#### Collaborative News Websites:

Also known as wikinews, these websites are similar to traditional news outlets, but their content is produced and prepared by ordinary citizens, mostly volunteers and activist rights enthusiasts. They verify the

objectivity and credibility of each news item. One of the most famous sites is OhMyNews in Korea.

In Summary:

The role of the public has grown significantly in the current era with the emergence of citizen journalism. The citizen has become a source of information rather than just a recipient, ushering in a new style of media practice that we have not seen before.

## Lecture Twelve :Conceptual Introduction to the Issue of Cyber Security

### Elements of the Lecture:

- Definition of cyber attacks.
- Types of cyber attacks.
- Combating cyber attacks.

### Objectives of the Lecture:

Understanding the concepts of cyber security and its importance in the modern technology era.

Clarifying the main challenges facing digital data security.

### Introduction:

During this lecture, we will examine various aspects of the concept of cyber security, from explaining its basic concepts to the main challenges it faces in enhancing digital protection.

### Concept of Cyber Attacks:

In recent years, computer security has faced significant challenges, ranging from bank theft to semi-open attacks.

In simple terms, cyber attacks are attacks launched from one computer or group of computers against another computer or multiple computers or networks. Cyber attacks can be divided into two main types as follows:

Attacks aimed at disabling the targeted computer system.

Attacks aimed at accessing the data of the targeted computer system and possibly obtaining administrative privileges.

### Types of Cyber Attacks:

To achieve these objectives of accessing or disrupting operations, cybercriminals deploy various technological means. There are always innovative new methods, and some categories overlap, but these are the terms you may often hear:

### **Malware:**

Short for malicious software, malware can refer to any type of software designed to cause harm to a computer, server, or computer network, as defined by Microsoft. This includes viruses, worms, and Trojans. Malware attacks can result in disabling the computer or network, or allowing the attacker to gain remote control of the system.

### **Phishing:**

Phishing is a technique used by cybercriminals to send emails to deceive the recipient into performing some harmful actions. The recipient may be tricked into downloading malware disguised as an important document or clicking on links that redirect them to a fake website where they are asked for sensitive information such as usernames and bank passwords. Many phishing emails are somewhat primitive and sent to thousands of potential victims, but some are crafted and sent specifically to valuable individuals to attempt to extract useful information from them.

### **Denial Of Service (DoS):**

A Denial of Service (DoS) attack is a method of using overwhelming force to attempt to shut down some online services. For example, attackers may flood a website with a large amount of data or send numerous requests to a database, causing those systems to be overwhelmed and rendered inoperable, making them unavailable to anyone. A Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack uses a group of

computers, usually compromised by malware and controlled by cybercriminals, to send data to the targets.

### **Man in The Middle (MITM) Attacks:**

Man in the Middle (MITM) attacks are a technique where attackers successfully insert themselves secretly between the user and the web service they are trying to access. For example, an attacker may set up a Wi-Fi network with a fake login screen mimicking a hotel network; once the user logs in, the attacker can intercept any information the user sends, including bank passwords.

### **Cryptojacking:**

Cryptojacking is a targeted attack where an individual's computer is compromised and used to mine encrypted digital currencies (a process known as mining in the world of cryptocurrency). Attackers may either install malware on the victim's computer to perform the required computational operations or sometimes run JavaScript code executed in the victim's browser.

### **SQL Injection:**

SQL Injection is a method that allows an attacker to exploit vulnerabilities to take control of a victim's database. Many databases are designed to execute any commands written in Structured Query Language (SQL), and many websites that collect information from users send this data to SQL databases. During an SQL injection attack, the attacker may, for example, write some SQL commands in a web form requesting name and address informa

## Lecture Thirteen: Cybersecurity: Models and Solutions

### Lecture Elements:

- Introduction
- Models of Cyber Attacks
- Cybersecurity Measures
- Conclusion

### Lecture Objectives:

Enhance the audience's understanding of online security challenges, provide strategies to protect against cyber attacks, and promote awareness of best online security practices.

### Introduction:

During this lecture, we will present models of cyber attacks and provide solutions to address the ongoing challenges and developments in the digital security world.

### Models of Cyber Attacks:

The worst, most controversial, and somewhat thorny cyber attacks. The reason for including these attacks in our list is that they have received the most attention for several reasons; they were widespread, perhaps, or because they represented signals of significant and frightening trends.

### WannaCry Attack

The WannaCry attack was a ransomware attack that spread rapidly in May 2017. Like all ransomware, it seized control of compromised computers and encrypted the contents of their hard drives, then demanded a ransom in encrypted Bitcoin currency to decrypt them. The malware was specifically installed on computers in hospitals managed by the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

However, this malware was not something new, which made the WannaCry attack significant and frightening due to the means it used for propagation. It exploited a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows and utilized a piece of code developed by the US National Security Agency (NSA) secretly. This exploit tool is known as EternalBlue and was stolen and leaked by a hacking group calling themselves Shadow Brokers. Microsoft had already patched the vulnerability weeks before, but many systems were not updated. Microsoft was frustrated because the US government had developed a weapon to exploit vulnerabilities instead of sharing information about the gap with the cybersecurity community.

The Petya attack was just one part of the malware landscape when it began circulating through phishing emails in 2016. One of its key features was encrypting the master boot record on compromised devices, preventing users from accessing their files thereafter. Suddenly, in June 2017, a more malicious version of the malware started spreading, different from the original and ignored Petya; it appeared initially through compromised Ukrainian accounting software and spread through the same EternalBlue exploit used by the WannaCry attack. It is widely believed that NotPetya was a cyberattack launched by Russia against Ukraine, although Russia denied it, opening the door to a potential era of countries using malware as weapons.

While this type may not represent as significant importance as some other types on the list, it is worth looking into here due to the immense amount of money involved. Ether, a cryptocurrency like Bitcoin, saw \$7.4 million worth stolen in July within a few minutes, followed by another \$32 million just a few weeks later. The incident raised questions about the security of blockchain-based currencies.

In July 2017, a major credit rating agency announced that criminals exploited a vulnerability in a U.S. website used for filing requests, "and managed to obtain personal information for about 150 million people.

The resulting consequences fueled people's anger, especially when Equifax's website, used by individuals to check the status of information breaches, seemed primarily designed to sell Equifax services.

Ed Szofer, CEO of SenecaGlobal, explained that the Equifax breach was particularly bad "because the site had been notified of the fix, and the fix required implementation in a tool called Apache Struts, which they were using well before the breach even occurred. But they failed to do so in time."

To prevent such breaches, it requires a change in culture and resources; there was no technical issue, as the technical solution was already known. Equifax certainly had the resources, but it lacked the proper culture to ensure the correct procedures were implemented.

This major breach of Yahoo's email system garnered significant attention because, although it occurred long ago in 2013, its aftermath regarding the compromise of Yahoo's whopping 3 billion email addresses only surfaced in October 2017.

The stolen information included passwords and copied email addresses, encrypted using outdated techniques and easily decryptable, a type of information attackers can use to breach other accounts. In addition to the damage to account holders, the breach led to a reconsideration of Verizon's purchase deal with Yahoo, even though the deal had already been completed.

The truly frightening thing about this breach is that the culture of secrecy, which remained hidden, means there is much outside knowledge about the breach, for clear reasons related to public relations.

In February 2018, the GitHub hosting service controller was hacked with a DDoS attack, sending data at a rate of 1.35 terabytes per second to the popular site. Although GitHub only experienced intermittent internet

connectivity disruptions and successfully repelled the attack within less than 20 minutes, the massive repercussions were alarming, surpassing the massive attack on Dyn in late 2016, where the maximum data sent reached 1.2 terabytes per second.

The bigger problem lay in the core vulnerability that facilitated the attack. While the Dyn attack was caused by the Mirai botnet, which required malicious software to breach thousands of devices, the GitHub attack exploited server machines running the Memcached memory caching system, capable of returning massive data sets in response to simple requests.

Memcached was designed for use only with protected server machines operating on internal networks, as a somewhat secure means to prevent malicious attackers from spoofing IP addresses and sending large amounts of data to unsuspecting victims.

Thousands of Memcached server machines rely on the open internet, and there was a significant increase in their use during DDoS attacks. Saying that these server machines are "compromised" would hardly be reasonable, as they easily dispatch packets to anywhere requested without asking questions.

Just days after the GitHub attack, another attack using Memcached-based DDoS targeted an unnamed American service provider, sending data at a rate of 1.7 terabytes per second.

### **Cyber Attack Statistics:**

If you want to understand what's happening in the dark world of cybercrime, it's best to delve into the numbers, which seem to be only on the rise. The number of "electronic incidents" in the second quarter of 2018, according to Positive Technologies, increased by 47 percent over the same number from the previous year. The precision of these attacks is increasing: 54 percent are targeted, not part of larger campaigns.

So, it's perhaps not surprising that Positive mentions this significant increase in attacks on cryptocurrency platforms, given the lucrative nature of that technology. Overall, cybercrimes will provide their perpetrators with net revenues of around \$1.5 trillion in 2018.

Cybercriminals are expected to see an increase of about 10 to 15 percent in revenues from their online activities compared to their offline ventures. Estimates suggest that about 10 percent of all money laundering proceeds come from returns on cybercrimes.

In the third quarter of 2018, according to Kaspersky Labs, the number of malicious installations on mobile phones increased by nearly a third compared to the same number in the previous months. But there's an easy way to avoid such attacks, as Norton points out that 99.9 percent of these packages come from "unofficial third-party" app stores.

### **Cyber Attack Maps:**

It may require a lot of effort to review all these numbers, so you can understand why some prefer to display all this information through easily understandable visual media such as the Cyber Attack Map. Those visualizations show the countries from which attacks originate and focus on the targets, providing an insight into the current landscape of internet threats.

The problem is that this impression represents all they have to offer. Most of the data they display is not live-streamed and certainly not comprehensive. However, it can be useful in initiating discussions on security and focusing on students interested in cybersecurity, serving as selling tools for companies offering cybersecurity solutions.

### **Fighting Cyber Attacks:**

How Small Businesses Can Defend Against Cyber Attacks and Data Breaches

Sales outlets are a haven for malware and data theft – make sure you're secure

Governments and companies can collaborate to combat cyber attacks.

**Conclusion:**

Cybersecurity is a concern for nations worldwide, especially those that consume systems and software seeking to protect their institutions and entities by activating programs and systems to prevent cyber attacks. However, more effort is needed in this field, and collaboration is essential.

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