



The Journal of *News Science*

Vol. 14, No. 1, Ser.53, Spring 2025, P. 27-32

Journal homepage: <https://www.mjourcom.ir/>

DOI : <http://doi.org/10.22034/lrsi.2024.482004.1263>

Open Access

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Analysis of the National Order of the I.R. of Iran in the Recent Decade (with Emphasis on the Role and Function of Virtual Networks)

Seyyed Zakarya Mahmoudiraja¹ | Amirhossein Ebrahim Yazdi² | Mohammad-Ali Samiei³

1. Corresponding author, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran. E-mail: z.mahmoudiraja@scu.ac.ir

2. Doctoral Candidate of Public Policy of Imam Sadegh University (AS) - Tehran – Iran. Email: e.yazdi91@gmail.com.

3. Master of Political Science, Imam Sadegh University (AS) - Tehran-Iran. Email: m.a.samiee75@gmail.com

Received: October 5, 2024

Accepted: April 30, 2025

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Mass media, with its interdisciplinary nature, profoundly influences attitudes, thoughts, interests, and behaviors of individuals in contemporary societies. As advanced communication and information technologies continue to evolve and spread, the ways in which governance and interactions between citizens and political systems occur have become more networked and organized. These changes introduce both challenges and opportunities into the social and political arenas. A key area facing structural challenges is national order, social security, and political governance. The Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its unique governance mechanisms, is more susceptible to these issues compared to other countries. Consequently, there is a heightened need

to pay special attention to these transformations and their impacts on the political and social systems. Indeed, these changes not only affect public behaviors and attitudes but can also lead to shaping policies and making major decisions at the national level.

Method:

This article uses a qualitative approach, specifically thematic analysis, to design and develop a network of concepts and a conceptual model. For data collection, it leverages library and documentary sources as well as semi-structured interviews with academic experts and specialists in national order, social movements, and virtual media. After collecting the data, initial coding was performed, and the materials were organized according to the established conceptual model. This approach enhances the understanding of relationships and structures within the examined fields, facilitating more precise analyses in these areas.

Results:

This research reveals that the rise of social media technologies has substantially altered communication methods among individuals, organizations, and government bodies. These changes have enhanced the interaction between governments and citizens, presenting both new opportunities and challenges for governance and decision-making processes. In examining the governance issues in the Islamic Republic of Iran and other regimes, it's evident that various tools have been used over the last two decades to weaken the national authority of Iran. Recent social and street movements serve as clear examples of attempts to disrupt the country's stable security and order. Factors such as political and religious polarization, the generation of provocative campaigns, undermining authority within key systems and institutions, rumor spreading and exaggerating weaknesses, character assassination of influential figures, recruitment for illegal gatherings, and fueling ethnic, political, generational, and gender divides have all been employed within virtual spaces to destabilize Iran's national order. Additionally, promoting terrorist and divergent ideologies and eroding cultural and religious beliefs have been used in these efforts over the past decade. This underscores how Iran's national stability is intricately linked with multiple fields, including social networks and modern media.

Conclusions:

The expansion of virtual spaces and internet tools has fundamentally altered modern lifestyles, impacting governance and social relationships. These changes shape how citizens interact, presenting both opportunities and challenges for governments and society. Social media, in particular, serves as a pivotal element in this digital era, especially evident during protests and social unrest. Engagement in social media significantly increases the likelihood of participating in social actions, acting as a catalyst for collective movements and social crises. Recognizing these dynamics, major powers view social media as a strategic tool to influence public opinion and advance their agendas globally. The communication revolution and the internet's impact, especially through social media, have profoundly transformed the nature and structure of societal power worldwide, affecting both developed and developing nations.

The features and functions of social networks have notably impacted the national order's structure in various societies, including Iran. These platforms give users the sense that they can deviate from existing norms and societal orders. In this digital space, users can create virtual identities, living

in a realm where real-world rules seem less significant. This environment offers new generations the perception that adherence to social rules in the real world is unnecessary, potentially leading to disorder. Furthermore, ignoring social norms and regulations in this context can weaken social bonds and collective identity within communities, thereby influencing social and political structures.

Data Availability Statement

Data available on request from the authors.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank anonymous reviewers.

Ethical considerations

Not applicable.

Funding

Not applicable.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- Abdollah Khani, A., (2011), "Security Theories," Tehran: Abrar Moaser Publishing. (In Persian).
- Eftekhari, A., (2008), *The Two Faces of Soft Power: The Meaning and Concept of Soft Power*, Tehran, Basij Research Center for Studies and Research. (In Persian).
- Attride-Stirling, J. (2001). Thematic networks: an analytic tool for qualitative research. *Qualitative research*, 1(3), 385-405.
- Braun, V., Clarke, V., & Terry, G., (2021). *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*. SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Castells, Manuel (2001), "The Information Age: Economy, Society, and Culture," translated by Ahad Aliqolian and Afshin Khakbazz, 1st edition, Tehran, (In Persian).
- Chalepei, F., et al., (2017). "An Analysis of the Role of Public Order in Iran's Legal System." *Judiciary Quarterly*, Volume 17, Issue 91: 89-120. (In Persian).
- Chalepei, M., (1996). *Sociology of Order: Interpretation and Theoretical Analysis of Social Order*. Tehran: Nashr Ney Publishing. (In Persian).
- Clement, J. (2019). "Global social networks ranked by number of users", Statist code development, Sage.
- Field, J., (2003). "Social capital". Published by Questionnaire (September, 1999).
- Fukuyama, F., (2024), "Order and political decline," translated by Rahman Gahremani Pour, Roozneh Publishing. (In Persian).
- Habibi, J., et al., (2011), "Thematic Analysis and Thematic Networks: A Simple and Efficient Method for Exploring Patterns Embedded in Qualitative Data Municipalities," *Andisheh Management Strategic Journal*, pages 151-198. (In Persian).
- Habibzadeh, A., Bakhshi, R., (2016). "Virtual Social Networks and Public Security." *Police Science Journal*, Issue 4: 1-35. (In Persian).
- Habibzadeh, M. J., (1998). "The Legal Regime's Impact on Criminal Justice Growth and Development." *Justice Rights Journal*, Issue 23: 31-56. (In Persian).
- Halabi, A. A., (1987). *General Encyclopedia*. Tehran: Pyk Translation and Publication Institute. (In Persian).
- Heidari, H. & Shavardi, T., (2013). "Virtual Social Networks and Ethnicity; Opportunities and Threats Ahead." *Communication Research Journal*, Issue 76: 37-64. (In Persian).
- Hosseini Jirdehi, H. et al., (2023). "Analyzing the role of social networks in the formation of social unrest in November 2018 in Iran." *AFAQ Security Quarterly*, Issue 58: 11-49. (In Persian).
- Jafari L. & Mohammadi, J., (1993). *Legal Terminology*. Tehran: Ganj Danesh, Sixth Edition. (In Persian).
- Katouzian, N., (2013), "Introduction to Law Science, Volume 1," Tehran: Katouzian Legal Foundation. (In Persian).
- Mahmoudi Raja, S. Z., & Esmaeili, R., (2023), "Social Capital and Strategies to Strengthen It in the Media-Political Space of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Emphasis on the Cognitive Approach," *Islamic Revolution Research Quarterly*, Issue 47: pages 97-137. (In Persian).
- Mahmoudi Raja, S.Z., (2020), "Identification of Factors Influencing Young People in Ahvaz's Inclination toward Salafism in Khuzestan Province; A Grounded Theory Approach: A Case Study of Ahvaz Youth," *Service Replacement Project of the Elites Foundation at the National Defense University*. (In Persian).
- Mandel, R., (2008), "The Changing Face of National Security," Tehran: Institute for Strategic Studies.
- McQuail, D., (2003), "Introduction to Mass Communication Theories," translated by Parviz Ejlali, Tehran: Center for Media Studies and Research, First Edition. (In Persian).
- McSweeney, B., (2011), "Introduction to the Sociology of Security," translated by Mohammad Ali Ghasemi and Mohammad Reza Ahani, Tehran: Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies. (In Persian).
- Moein, M., (2002), "Persian Culture," Tehran: Adna Publishing (In Persian).
- Ahani, M.R., & Ebrahimi, KH. (2013), Virtual of Social Networks, *Journal of Soft War Surveillance*, Issue 2: 129-146. (In Persian).
- Pour Nourouz, M., (2004). "Imagery of Addiction in Television Series." *Quarterly Journal of Research and Evaluation*, Volume 11, Issue 37, Tehran. (In Persian).
- Moradi, A., & Mahmoudi Raja, S.Z., (2022), "Sociological Explanation of Factors Influencing Inclination Toward Salafism in Khuzestan Province: Case Study of Ahvaz Youth," *Strategic Policy Research Quarterly*, Volume 11: pages 43-77. (In Persian).
- Mousavi Mojab, S.D., (2019), "The Conceptual Challenge of Public Order in Iran's Criminal Law; Strategies and Consequences," *Journal of Jurisprudential and Philosophical Studies*, Volume 10, Issue 39, (In Persian).
- Nabi, Robin L. & Oliver, B.M., (2014), "Media Processes and Effects," translated by Seyyed Mohammad Mahdi Zadeh, Tehran: IRIB Research Center Publications. (In Persian).
- Naseiri, M., (1991), "Multinational Rights," Danesh Emrouz Publishing, Tehran, (In Persian).

- Nazarpoor, M., (2007), "Civil Disobedience," Hisun Journal, Issue 13. (In Persian).
- Rostami, M., et al., (2017). "The Impact of Social Networks on Culture and Religious Beliefs: Case Study of Users in Isfahan Province." *Social Sciences Quarterly of Shoushtar Islamic Azad University*, Volume 11, Issue 2: 45-72. (In Persian).
- Sadat Akhsik, S., (2013). "Functions of Social Networks in Political Geography Information with Emphasis on Their Impact on Information Cycle." *Electronic Journal of Astan Quds Razavi*: 1-10. Issues 19 and 20. (In Persian).
- Sadeghian, H. & Asadi, A., (2019). "Impact of Social Media on Democratization Processes: A Case Study on Turkey's Justice and Development Party Government from 2002 to Present." *Journalism Sciences Quarterly*, Issue 30: 127-139. (In Persian).
- Sardarniya, Kh., (2009). "The Internet, New Social Movements and Staging Protests: A Review of Some Social Movements in Theory and Practice." *Communication Research Journal*, Issue 4: 151-176. (In Persian).
- Sayyid Emami, K., (2012). *Research in Political Sciences*. Tehran: Imam Sadiq University Press. [In Persian]
- Sobhani Tabrizi, Jafar (1996). *Introduction to New Issues in Theology*, Volume One. Qom: Imam Sadiq Publications. (In Persian).
- Tanhaei, A., (1992) *An Introduction to the Schools and Theories of Sociology*. Tehran: Marandiz Publishing. (In Persian).
- Ziyai Pour, H. & Aghili, S.V., (2009). "Examining the Penetration of Virtual Social Networks among Iranian Users." *Media Quarterly*, Issue 4: 23-43. (In Persian).

Cite this article: Mahmoudiraja, S.Z.; Ebrahim Yazdi, A.H. & Samiei, M.A. (2025). Examination and Analysis of the National Order of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Recent Decade (with Emphasis on the Role and Function of Virtual Networks) *News Science*, 14 (1), 27-32. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22034/Irsi.2024.482004.1263>

© The Author(s).



DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22034/Irsi.2024.482004.1263>
