



What's changed?

Networks & Reach

Communications are less limited by state borders*



* Whilst proxy servers are used by some to get around state internet blocks we still cannot say there is complete freedom of access to information or communication.

Language is also often still a barrier – both technically and culturally. When did you last read a newspaper in French, let alone Mongolian?

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Accessibility & Usability



*“One upside of the web is that **everyone** has a printing press. One downside: **everyone** has a printing press.”*
Peter Kafka

http://statigr.am/viewer.php#/detail/184686624347714671_1985188

http://mediamemo.allthingsd.com/20100304/exclusive-on-the-internet-no-one-knows-your-story-is-make-believe/?mod=ATD_rss

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Extensive corporate involvement in public discourse

amazon



Google



facebook

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What hasn't changed?

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How easily we forget history

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The ability to find a needle in a haystack (a metal detector and a magnet help but...)



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kcorrick/6127546354/sizes//in/set-72157627624111278/>

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But more importantly...

People

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And be loved



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We want to keep in touch



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And protect our families



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kcorrick/5673247634/sizes//in/set-72157602918568349/>

Earn a living



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kcorrick/5632675594/sizes//in/set-72157602918568349/>

And have fun



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kcorrick/2792525747/sizes/m/in/set-72157602918568349/>

Feel part of something bigger



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kcorrick/7443062698/sizes/l/in/set-72157630182069398/>



For all these activities (and more) we use or try to control the tools available to us inc. social media.



<http://www.businessinsider.com/social-media-marketing-landscape-complicated-2012-5>

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Frames to understand what's going on

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In the UK we have recently
seen a loss of moral
authority, across:

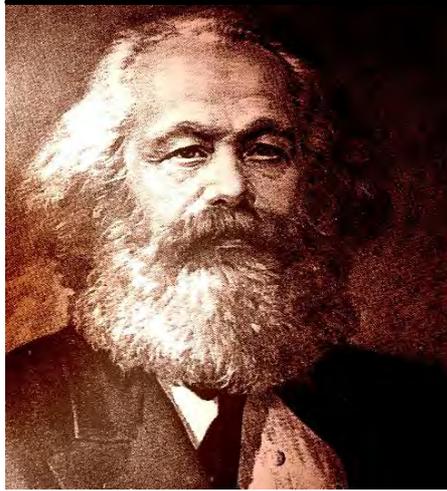
Parliament
Banks and financial institutions
Police
Media
The Church

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kcorrick/2812537220/sizes/o/in/photostream/>

Libertarian v Authoritarian

Rather than Left v Right

A re-evaluation and use of Marx



How we understand
capital – human and
material

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7477245@N05/6293033342/sizes//in/photostream/>

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Hacker and hacktivist culture



http://www.flickr.com/photos/home_of_chaos/5287303391/sizes//in/photostream/

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Consensus politics Popularised by the Occupy movement



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So... the impact of social media on society and democracy?



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Our use of technology and social media is a reflection of our humanity and society

What kind of society and democracy do we want reflected?

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Further reading

- Consent of the Networked by Rebecca McKinnon
- The Revolution Will Be Digitised by Heather Brooke
- The Net Delusion: how not to liberate the world by Evgeny Morozov
- Barefoot into Cyberspace by Becky Hogge
- Inside Wikileaks by Daniel Domscheit-Berg
- Flat Earth News by Nick Davies
- Communication Power by Manuel Castells

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Thank you

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