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Batch - 73

Essay: Brainstorming

Topic:

Social Media: A Tool of Hybrid Warfare.

Brainstorming

- 1) Social media as tool of hybrid war
 - a) Spread of false theories
 - b) instigating people against public
 - c) Puppet government establishment
 - d) islamphobia incidents
 - e) False narratives building
- 2) Impacts:-
 - a) Sectarianism
 - b) Democratic unrest
 - c) Spread of Hate and violence
- 3) Way Forward
 - a) Digital world awareness
 - b) International Authority establishment
- d) Conclusion.

Outline:

1. Introduction:-

- a) Attention grabber
- b) General statements
- c) Thesis statement:

In this era of advanced information technology social media is used as a tool of hybrid war by various ways, like by provoking masses against general public, by spreading conspiracy narratives against government and by establishing puppet government. This is a threat of civil war, social polarization and democratic unrest.

2. Social media as a tool of hybrid warfare:

i) Instigating people against general public.

a) Recent New Year incident on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

b) Rise of Islamophobia incident like 2019 Christchurch Mosque shooting.

ii) Spreading Conspiracy theories against government.

a) Saudi Arabia's Twitter campaign against Qatar 2017.

b) Wrong narrative buildings e.g. ISIS

iii) Establishment of Puppet government

a) Russian interference in the 2016 US. presidential election.

b) promoting Juan Guaido as president in Venezuela 2019 election.

3. Impacts of Social Media in Hybrid Warfare:

3.1 Resulting in Sectarianism

a) Public protests against government

3.2 Resulting in Democratic Unrest.

a) 2022 Sri Lankan Protests

4. Ways to Counter the issues of Social Media as hybrid warfare:

a) Promoting awareness of digital world

b) Establishment of international Authority.

5. Conclusion.

Imagine waking up in a world where social media platforms, once hailed as symbols of global connectivity, have been transformed into weapons of mass disruption. Welcome to the era of hybrid warfare, where a single tweet can spark a cyber Pearl Harbor. Social media is an effective factor in international and national politics, and in instigating narrative building for certain interests. Social media now is used to create conspiracy theories among people. Various techniques like Disinformation, Propaganda, emotional manipulation, Trolling and Bot Networks are used to achieve vested gains. In fact, in this era of advanced information technology social media is used as tool of

hybrid war by various ways: by provoking masses against general public, by spreading conspiracy narratives against government and by establishing puppet government. This is a threat of civil wars, social polarization and democratic unrest.

Social media is a technology in which people interact with each other using their mobile phones or laptops sitting anywhere in the world. With this technology they share their thoughts, pictures, videos over internet and make grouping of like-minded people. Recently, the role of social media in the politics has greatly increased.

However the term "Hybrid War" is defined as a method of indirect type of war in which different tactics are collectively used for political, economic and social gainst. These tactics involve technology.

In ancient times people used to fight in battle field with weapons in their hands against their enemies. Now, people used technology as a weapon to weaken their rivals by instigating general public against certain class.

To Start with, social media is an effective tool in both national and international politics. It is now commonly used to instigate people against general public. Social media platforms

are used to provoke masses against public or a certain sector. Resultantly people do violence and become extremist. In recent new year incident of 2025 on Bourbon Streets in New Orleans, a man intentionally drove truck in a crowd resulted in death of 14 people. later it was revealed that he also uploaded hatred speech on social media before the attack. These kind of emotions are driven by social media.

The rise of islamophobia events in west are also results of social media campaigns. For instance the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings during friday prayer was showed live on facebook.

From where these kind of emotions of extreme hate come from? Obviously the social media is playing role in instigating people against public and a certain specific sector also.

Social media is playing major role in spreading conspiracy theories against government.

In past, many such event occurred where social media was used to spread false theories against the rival government. For instance the Saudi Arabia's Twitter campaign against Qatar in 2017. The tweets amplified and created a sense of public outcry. It was effect in shaping public opinion and influencing the diplomatic narrative. Wrong narratives are

built successfully among people to achieve their vested gains. Many extremist organizations use social media to hunt people of their own kind to get their destructive aims. They glorify the violence to a great extent by using social media. Example in this regard is selection of young people by ISIS terrorist organization by using social media.

They brainwashed the youth against the states. That result in mere destruction. All these ways are used to create and spread the false theories against any government.