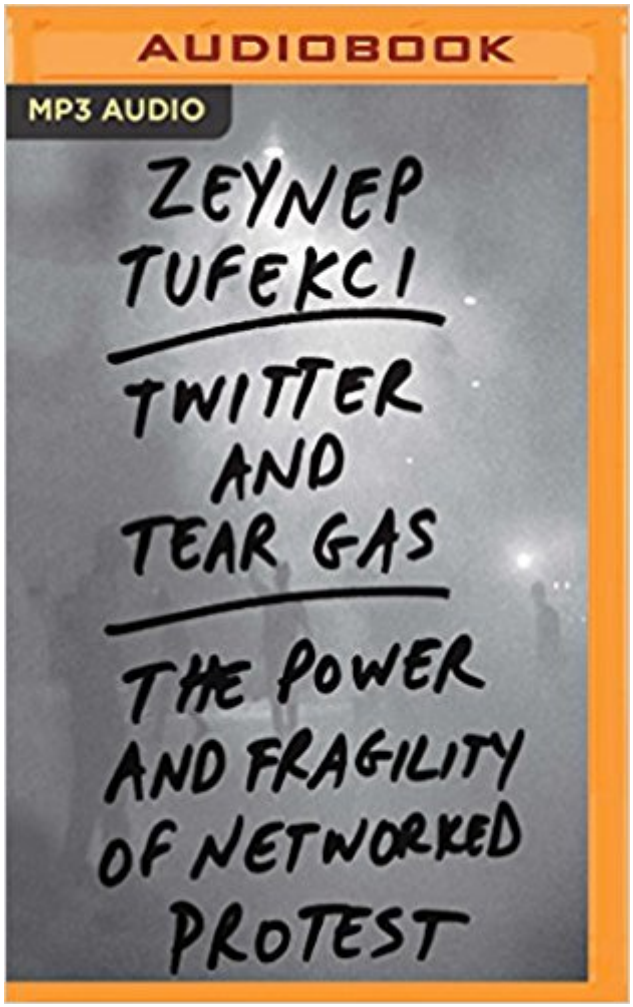
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Twitter And Tear Gas: The Power And Fragility Of Networked Protest



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Synopsis

A firsthand account and incisive analysis of modern protest, revealing Internet-fueled social movements' greatest strengths and frequent challenges. To understand a thwarted Turkish coup, an anti-Wall Street encampment, and a packed Tahrir Square, we must first comprehend the power and the weaknesses of using new technologies to mobilize large numbers of people. An incisive observer, writer, and participant in today's social movements, Zeynep Tufekci explains in this accessible and compelling book the nuanced trajectories of modern protests - how they form, how they operate differently from past protests, and why they have difficulty persisting in their long-term quests for change. Tufekci speaks from direct experience, combining on-the-ground interviews with insightful analysis. She describes how the Internet helped the Zapatista uprisings in Mexico, the necessity of remote Twitter users to organize medical supplies during Arab Spring, the refusal to use bullhorns in the Occupy Movement that started in New York, and the empowering effect of tear gas in Istanbul's Gezi Park. These details from life inside social movements complete a moving investigation of authority, technology, and culture - and offer essential insights into the future of governance.

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Customer Reviews

"[Tufekci's] personal experience in the squares and streets, melded with her scholarly insights on technology and communication platforms, makes Twitter and Tear Gas such an unusual and illuminating work . . . . Will be long cited, deservedly, by activists, technologists, and others grasping

at the relationship between our causes and our screens. Twitter and Tear Gas is a book that, superimposed on a seemingly familiar landscape, utterly transforms the view."Ã¢â ¬â •Carlos Lozada, Washington Post"This comprehensive, thought-provoking work makes a valuable contribution to understanding recent political developments and provides a clear path by which grassroots organizers can improve future efforts."Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly"Twitter and Tear Gas is packed with evidence on how social media has changed social movements, based on rigorous research and placed in historical context."Ã¢â ¬â •Hannah Kuchler, Financial Times"Insightful and entertaining. . . . Twitter and Tear Gas is infused with a richness of detail stemming from [Tufekci's] personal participation in the 2013 Gezi Park protests in Turkey. . . . Tufekci writes with a warmth and respect for the humans that are part of these powerful social movements, gently intertwining her own story with the stories of others, big data, and theory."Ã¢â ¬â •Bruce Schneier, Motherboard"Tufekci understands 21st-century protest movementsÃ Â both as a scholar and as a participant, from the Arab Spring to Zucotti Park. In Twitter and Tear Gas, she merges her experiences into a singularly brilliant examination of how movements work and when they don't."Ã¢â ¬â •Clay Shirky, author of Here Comes Everybody and Cognitive Surplus "A striking and original conclusion: todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s low barrier for organizing a movement can also lead to its long-term frustrations. TufekciÃ¢â ¬â„¢s superb book will define the debate on social protest for years to come."Ã¢â ¬â •Dani Rodrik, author of Economic Rules: The Rights and Wrongs of the Dismal Science"A brilliant work. In a world of tweet-sized summary judgments, Tufekci provides readers with a depth of analysis and important insights that ought to be read by every diplomat and activist."Ã¢â ¬â •Alec Ross, former Senior Advisor for Innovation, U.S. Department of State"Tufekci is undoubtedly the most qualified person in the world to explain the meaning of political collective actions catalyzed and coordinated by social media. She knows the technology, the social science, and the politicsÃ¢â ¬â •and she is the rare academic observer who was at the scene, from Istanbul to Cairo to New York."Ã¢â ¬â •Howard Rheingold, author of Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution"Informative and exciting read! Tufekci is in the perfect spot between activist and researcher to provide insights that only few can. This book sets new grounds for the analysis of social media and political mobilization."Ã¢â ¬â •Rasha Abdulla, author of The Internet in the Arab World: Egypt and Beyond --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Zeynep Tufekci is a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times, associate professor at the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science, and a faculty associate at the Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society. --This text refers to the Paperback

edition.

This book displays a deep understanding of what constitutes mass protest in the 21st century. Tufekci manages to blend quantitative knowledge with qualitative insight. Rather than being one of the many "tech will save us" or "tech will ruin us" books already in existence this book manages a far more insightful and nuanced approach. What emerges is a complex understanding of this phenomena with some surprising conclusions and insights. As a professor of digital media I'll be using this book in my classes.

This is a remarkable book, and a rare blend of thoughtful scholarly analysis, first-hand reporting from sites of critical political importance, practical lessons for social media activists, and delightfully clear and compelling writing. Few people have the experience and perspective on social media and contemporary political activism that Zeynep Tufekci demonstrates here, and the book undercuts easy rhetorics of "Twitter-powered revolutions" or of "slacktivism". It shows that social media have hugely important roles to play in political mobilization, but that the story of the relationship between those spheres of experience is a complicated one. Great stuff.

I've read over 2000 books in my life.

No one in the world was better suited to write a book like this than Tufekci. Her unique experience, expertise, and wisdom combine to provide a very important perspective on modern activism.

Really interesting look at social movements, how they work, and how recent digital technologies have changed the landscape. Highly recommended.

great!

This is a must-read for anyone --- lay person or academic --- interested in the increasing role the Internet and social media has played in recent protests around the globe. Tufecki draws on her extensive first-hand experience with movements that have used recent technologies from the Zapatistas through Occupy and recent events in the Middle East and the last US presidental election, looking at how today's networked platforms can be easily co-opted by small groups to reach large audiences and the resulting successes and failures, contrasting the work with earlier

movements such as the American civil rights movement of the 1960s. Given her cultural heritage, she presents an especially interesting and personal account of events in Turkey as they apply to today's networks.Three areas of the book really stand out to me: her observations and anecdotes about how today's platforms enable very small groups of people to drive large movements very quickly; the advantages and disadvantages these movements have because they are generally consensually led rather than hierarchical, and the close relationship between users, the corporations of the social platforms they use, and their interaction with the nation-states in which they operate.Tufecki also advances the capacities and signals model for how these networks operate. There I think she might have done somewhat better --- or perhaps I lost the thread of her argument, as my background is more technical than sociological. The model seems sound (although I am not qualified to dispute it), but could have been called out more clearly in some ways from her relating of specific observations and trends. To her credit, she does a good job of summarizing the model in both the introduction and conclusion. This may be a weak point to the academic reader, although I imagine her model is --- or will be --- better-covered in her writing targeted specifically at that audience.The material she presents is accessible to anyone, but I think has special value for three groups of people: those attempting to implement change using today's networked mediums, those studying trends and developments in Internet culture, and those working on Internet technologies that should be aware that their work has real social consequences that are difficult to foresee in advance.

I liked the vast expanse of her interest and how she consistently returned the reader to her core concepts. She focuses the lens of her camera from precision with little depth of field to wide angles that give a broad perspective of the many characters and factors involved. I think she clearly sees digital communications as a tool and as such, tools cut both ways. Its well worth the read to catch a glimpse at this woman's often unique look at the forces changing the world. Well done!

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