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Technology Culture

The idea of technology culture is not a concept that has been around as long as other human culture staples such as dance, songs, or food. Technology is an entity that progresses from era to era causing the surrounding culture to change respectively. At one point in our history the wheel and pulley were cutting edge forms of technology but now iPads, Cell Phones, and the Internet are more commonly referred to as technology leaving the wheel and pulleys as relics of our past. If one thing has stayed consistent though, it is that technology causes culture to change.

Culture may change in that its morals and expectations differ with time but I think technology is always the driving force behind cultural change. Technology in my mind is a very independent movement. It has limitations as to how fast it can evolve, in what ways it can evolve and who can cause it to evolve. Culture on the other hand can change very quickly and can be quite random and is often influenced by another event. Cultural movements like viral YouTube videos and trending tweets are always pretty random in nature and can very quickly have a huge impact on a community’s culture. Social media has begun to play a noticeable role in the transformation of our generations’ culture already. With the development of Facebook in 2004 to Twitter in 2006 technology allows large groups of unaffiliated reformists to mobilize for cultural reform.

A great example of this technologically fueled reform is the 2011 removal of the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. Wael Ghonim, an activist who announced the resignation via his twitter account, played a large role in not only the progress of the regime but also the monetary aftermath. He was quoted saying “If you want to liberate a society, just give them the internet. If you want to have a free society, just give them the internet. The reason why, is that the internet helps you fight the media war.” [http://www.thenation.com/blog/158502/revolution-20-people-egypt-win-media-war#](http://www.thenation.com/blog/158502/revolution-20-people-egypt-win-media-war) I think this is a very true statement. With the ability to have free speech, technology allows us to exercise our most valuable right helping us to change the world around us. It provides a fast and effective way of mobilizing large groups of passionate people to focus their efforts. Dangerous or not, social media is changing the political landscape. This regime was a fine example of how technology has helped to change our culture in ways that it would not be able to on its own. People now feel more empowered which I believe is a huge stepping stone to the change we will see in the near future regarding our political and social culture.

Although technology has not been a very prevalent aspect of our culture in the past it is now a huge part and will continue to become more and more important. Things that used to be referred to as technology are not anymore and have been replaced by more sophisticated items. These new devices such as cell phones and social media have already shown their power in the political battle and are not going away anytime soon. Technology is its own morphing entity that causes change all around it particularly towards our culture and how we view our own cultural practices.