

The Role of Mass Media in Political Stability

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Abstract

Social media have caused significant changes in interpersonal relationships and relationships between political systems. The masses and media have become such powerful tools that various societies and political systems cannot ignore them in their affairs and strategic planning. From a different perspective, political order and stability remain the most fundamental issues of human societies. The social and political parameters that influence how order and stability are formed or shaken, and consequently impact the political systems, have been among the most important concerns of political experts. This study utilizes the descriptive-analytic method on data from two developed countries (Japan and Norway), as well as two under developed countries (Afghanistan and Yemen), to explore how social media creates political and social order and stability or opposition in a society. The method comprises quantitative (number of media users) and qualitative (circumstances of media users) analysis factors, and is applied on collected data from different sources, most notably, U.N data regarding development and social media platforms. The research came to the conclusion that mass media can provide the means for development and expansion of political and social order and stability, through education and culture with emphasis on the commonalities among different communities within a society. More specifically, our findings suggest that this phenomenon promotes social order and political stability in developed political systems and, conversely, opposition in under-developed political systems.

Keywords: Mass Media, Political Stability, Cultural Communalism, Development

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Introduction

At present, mass media has become an incredibly powerful media and communication tool that not only ordinary people in various societies but also governments cannot ignore and easily bypass. Despite the digital divide between developed and developing countries, the use of social media is rapidly increasing in developing countries and even less developed countries, and every second more people are added to the group of media users. The scope of influence of mass media and related facilities has expanded rapidly, both quantitatively (number of users) and qualitatively (circumstances of users). This age is the age of information and the dominance of new communication technologies. The information age is an age that is based on electronic communication and in which the transfer of information is done quickly and easily. In this era, time and space have lost their previous importance and traditional valuation systems in the form of local and national borders have been severely threatened. The virtual space has undergone tremendous changes in human life, although the characteristics of this transformation are not yet fully known. Thinkers supporting new communication technologies imagined a utopia in front of us with the emergence of these technologies, in which the roots of many social problems at the global level would be eradicated. Based on this, some looked at the emergence and rapid growth of new communication technologies with a Panglossian view and promised a very bright outlook. Serious and extensive scientific discussion about the nature, course, and the impact of communication's revolution and the beginning of the digital age in the lives of individuals and societies have given new life to the research of communication and media and their role in politics today. (Minavand, 2015). The extensive changes are taking place in the field of communication and media, which has put a completely different perspective on the performance and impact of the media in front of researchers.

One of the fundamental issues in all societies and especially for political systems and many sociologists who fall under the mainstream of sociology, has always been the issue of maintaining order and stability (how and why and under what conditions is order maintained or shaken) This basic question has also aroused the interest of researchers in the field of communication. This topic has been discussed since the introduction of the telegraph as the first universal means of communication (Orr, 2007).

The extraordinary and unprecedented capacities and facilities that the mass media has provided for communication between individuals, groups, non-governmental organizations and finally governments, has led to a new wave of scientific and academic mobility in various fields, especially communication and political science, to study the effects and consequences, that this emerging field of communication will start on these societies or governments.

Research Background

Aristotle paid attention to the concept of communication for the first time and introduced the exchange of multiple thoughts as a social element. He considered the main elements of the communication flow as "sender", "message" and "addressee" and the sender's goal of sending a message is to convince the addressee. But now the impact of the media is evaluated even beyond the persuasion and change of attitude that were the criteria for investigating the effects of the media during the previous decades. The investigated effects are now placed in the framework of sciences such as social psychology and cultural anthropology in order to evaluate the efficiency or inefficiency of the media in performing its function. Meanwhile,

"awareness" and "transparent information" of what is happening in the society has become the focus of the media's function (Zare, 2013).

In relation to the dependent variable of this research, i.e. political stability, perhaps it is safe to say that the best work that has been published so far is the book "Patterns of Political Instability" by David Saunders, which is welcomed by most Iranian researchers interested in researching political stability and instability. And all the limited Persian works available in this field have many references to this book. In this work, Saunders has been able to provide criteria for recognizing the state of stability and instability.

Another book is "Political Competition and Political Stability in the Islamic Republic of Iran" written by Gholamreza Khajesarvi. This book is among the useful works that have been published regarding political stability in Iran. Khajesarvi has finally explained the concept of stability from Sanders point of view.

The article "Media, Surveillance, Security" written by Asghar Eftekhari can be considered as one of the useful works done in this field (Eftekhari, 2000). In this article, using the theory of functionalism, which is one of the most widely used theories in the field of media theories; Eftekhari examines the positive and negative functions of the press on political stability.

Theory and Concepts

Functionalism

The theory of functionalism is still one of the theories proposed in the field of communication and this research tries to use this theory to examine the flaws of the mass media in relation to the stability of the political system.

Functionalism explains how the social institutions that make up society, such as economy, education, family, religion, and media, all perform a useful purpose, and also influence the members of society.

Emile Durkhyim believes that there were various means by which individual and society could be connected.

Talcott Parson organized social systems in terms of action unit. He defines a social system as network interactions between actors.

This research adopted, the term of Merton's functionalism, which is considered as a revision of the basic principles of functionalism, will be used.

Robert k. Merton developed a theory of deviant behavior based on different type of adaptation. He denied the interrelationship between social theory and empirical research, advancing structural-functional approach to the study of society, which is revision of the basic principles of functionalism.

Function

Functionality is the kind of service that each component performs in relation to the whole. Function has been defined as the effect of factors in social activities. According to Parsons,

the social system [in its macro and general sense and not in the sense of the social sub-system] is much broader than the concept of construction and plays a fundamental role in the concept of function. The coherence of a system is in its functional relationships. In sociology, the concept of function has been related to the three meanings of work, duty and role; And anyway, function is the work or impact that a phenomenon leaves in the social system. In the functional approach, all social structures and phenomena have a function in the society and are therefore necessary and inevitable. Functioning at different levels is imaginable; at the individual level, individual roles and their impact on the society and social environment, at the institutional level, the impact or function of institutions (as a collection of people) and at the societal level, the functions and duties of the entire society are examined (Haghighat, 1387).

Dysfunction

Early functionalists believed that function has only a positive dimension and the value and normative view of function was very strong. They considered the positivity of functions as a basic assumption, and this assumption caused basic criticisms to be made to functionalism from the beginning. However, the principle of functional unity and to some extent the principle of functional necessity, which are considered as the assumptions of functionalism, were criticized by later functionalist theorists, especially Robert Merten by proposing negative functions and subsequent hidden functions. Merten gave new functionality to functionalism and made this theory applicable in many more cases. In fact, the term skewed performance indicates negative performance. In this research, an attempt is made to use Merten's dysfunctional term to explain the mass media in relation to the issue of political stability.

Mass Media

From the discussion of the media with the Platonic model (which considers knowledge as synonymous with virtue), the simplest conclusion is that the media in today's world, to the extent that they provide information to people and make them aware, can help them avoid social harm. Based on this, the two serious functions of the media, i.e. education and information, fulfill Plato's expectation of spreading virtues (by expanding knowledge). The positive and correct functioning of the media in the two mentioned dimensions can make the power and ability flourish in the audience and strengthen their will for transformation and development. Furthermore, wherever more information, which is one of the essentials of development, is accumulated, the eruption of more power will be seen, which guarantees security and deep political-social stability (Mohamadi, 2013).

The extensive scientific discussion about the nature, course, and the impact of communications revolution and the beginning of the digital age in the lives of individuals and so on. In any case, the category of communication plays a significant role in the process of developing nations and strengthening the foundations and national pillars of countries, and its manifestations, mass media, can be a powerful tool for establishing unity and cohesion between different parts of societies that differ in terms of religion, ethnicity, language, and local tendencies, and they are grouped regionally and do not have the necessary national interweaving, to act and help reduce social gaps. It is obvious that such a great function that rightfully promotes national interests and promises the ground for uplifting and prosperity of human societies, is subject to the fulfillment of the prerequisites, one of the most important of

which is the awareness of the media and their audiences to such capability and its limits (Zare, op.c).

Therefore, we can also talk about the dimensions and positive effects of the mass media and other new communication technologies, although at least in the context of political stability, which is aimed at the political system. The impact of mass media can be seen in our everyday lives, and mass has become a basic need of human society as a whole (Sinaga l.r, Larasati, A., 2024).

The debate on the effects of the media in different areas and dimensions is ongoing, and this is especially related to mass media, considering the power and scope of influence of mass media and the ever-increasing number of its audience, and especially the various facilities that this media provides to its users. Maurice Duverge believes that the media and new tools in general (as one of the weapons of political struggle) have a dual function, therefore they work both in the direction of spreading homogeneity and compromise (or stability) in society and in political struggle. They act in the direction of conflict in society too. Duverge, Mass media, despite its many advantages in the direction of development and increasing the stability of the political system, which is not in doubt, also poses threats to the political system that ignoring them will definitely have consequences (Minavand, 2015).

Political Stability

political stability, despite the fact that it is very important, has received less attention, and of course, like many other concepts of political science, there is no theoretical consensus among the thinkers who have discussed this term.

From a macro perspective, political stability has been and is the ultimate goal of all political systems in history, regardless of any ideology or profession, and regardless of the way of governance. Therefore, without a doubt, all political systems use any means to maintain stability, and on the other hand, they stand against any factor or factors that cause the instability of the political system and do not hesitate to make any efforts to remove the destabilizing factors.

The definitions of stability from a political perspective (priority of political will over social issues) and social (priority of national will over political considerations) are generally different from each other. From a political point of view, stability is more about maintaining the previous constructions of power and at the same time legitimizing power to create order. And any message transmission is done easily and without body defense, and in the future the source of this effect will be completely hidden. However, from a sociological point of view, stability is more about maintaining social constructions and preventing the creation of social-political chaos, in this sense, more satisfaction with political construction and the realization of social rights is considered. Five different approaches have been used by researchers to study political stability, each of which provides a criterion for examining the mentioned phenomenon.

These approaches include:

- 1- Political stability means non-violence
- 2- Political stability means the continuity and stability of the political system
- 3- Political stability in the sense of the existence of legal political regimes
- 4- Political stability means lack of structural change

- 5- Political stability in the sense of the existence of multiple social criteria (Ahmadi, 1997).

Political Instability

Political instability can be defined based on indicators of political and social disorder. Based on this, cases such as massive protests, general strikes, riots, demonstrations and any other form of collective action that endangers political stability are defined under the term political instability. In an article titled Political Instability Criteria and Its Impact on Economic Growth, Jang Pin has named 24 important indicators of political instability. Due to the importance of recognizing political instability criteria in understanding political stability, these 24 factors are listed in full in the table on the next page.

Table 1: Instability Indicators From Jang Pin's Point of View

1. Guerrilla war	7. Assassinations	13. The number of years the main party has been in power	19. Changes in the leadership of the executive
2. Revolutions	8. Religious conflicts	14. Number of elections	20. Cabinet changes
3. Civil war	9. Internal media conflicts	15. Settlement of political or party accounts	21. General changes to the constitution.
4. Internal conflicts	10. Polarization of elites	16. Rebellions	22. Coups
5. Ethnic tensions	11. Social divide	17. Demonstrations	23. Political regime changes
6. Strikes	12. Superficial internal conflicts	18. Important government crises	24. Government stability

Development

The ends and means of development require examination and scrutiny for a fuller understanding of the development process; it is simply not adequate to take as our basic objective just the maximization of income or wealth, which is, as Aristotle noted, “merely useful and for the sake of something else”. For the same reason, economic growth cannot sensibly be treated as an end in itself. Development has to be more concerned with enhancing the lives we lead and the freedom we enjoy. Expanding the freedom that we have reason to value not only makes our lives richer and more unfettered, but also allows us to be fuller social persons, exercising our own volitions and interacting with – and influencing – the world in which we live. In chapter 3, this general approach is more fully proposed and scrutinized and is compared with other approaches that compete for attention in an evaluative manner (Sen, Amartya, 2001).

Sen explains how in a world of unprecedented increase of overall opulence millions of people living in the third world are still unfree. Even if they are not technically slaves, they are denied elementary freedoms and remain imprisoned in one way or another by economic poverty, social deprivation, political tyranny or cultural authoritarianism, social institutions like markets, political parties, legislatures, the judiciary, and the media contribute to development by enhancing individual freedom and are in turn sustained by social values. Values, institutions, development, and freedom are closely interrelated, and send linked them together in an elegant analytical framework (Sen, Amartya, 2001).

Mass Media Freedom

Sen treats the freedom of individual as the basic building blocks. Attention is thus paid particularly to the expansion of the “capability” of persons to lead the kind of lives they value and have reason to value.

There are two distinct reasons for the crucial importance of individual freedom in the concept of development, related respectively to evaluation and effectiveness. First, in the normative approach used here, substantive individual freedoms are taken to be crucial. The success of a society is to be evaluated, in this view, primarily by the substantive freedoms that the members of the society enjoy. This evaluative position differs from the informational focus of more traditional approaches, which focus on other variables, such as utility, or procedural liberty, or real income (Sen, Amartya, 2001).

The instrumental role of freedom concerns the way different kinds of rights, opportunities, and entitlements contribute to the expansion of human freedom in general, and this to promoting development. This relates not merely to the obvious connection that expansion of freedom of each kind must contribute to development since development itself can be seen as a process of enlargement of human freedom in general. There is much more in the instrumental connection than this constitutive linkage. The effectiveness of freedom as an instrument lies in the fact that different kinds of freedom interrelate with one another, and freedom of one type may greatly help in advancing freedom of other types. The two roles are thus linked by empirical connections, relating freedom of one kind to freedom of other kinds.

Mass Media Freedom in Developed Countries

Norway’s strategy for promoting freedom of expression in foreign and development policy was launched in 2021. The strategy sets out the priorities and objectives of Norway’s efforts to protect and promote freedom of expression internationally.

Norway’s efforts are intended to promote a diversified, independent media sector, ensure access to information, and protect the freedom of expression of journalists, writers, artists and other vulnerable groups. In the light of the rapid pace of development of digital technologies, Norway puts emphasis on safeguarding freedom of expression and information online.

Norway promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the press through its participation in the UN and other international and regional organizations, through bilateral dialogue and cooperation, and by providing support to media organizations, civil society organizations and human rights defenders (<https://www.regjeringen.no>).

Japan's highest RSF ranking of 11, scored in 2010, was an anomaly. For most of the previous two decades since the early 2000s, Japan hovered in the twenties to forties, falling to its lowest of 51 in 2008. The defeat of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 2009 created expectations that its more liberal rival, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) would challenge or scrap the press club system. On 10th May 2024, Japan's parliament enacted an amended law aimed at facilitating the swift removal of defamatory content on social media platforms like Facebook and X with more transparency.

The revised provider liability limitation law mandates the operators of such platforms to set up points of contact for accepting deletion requests and disclose criteria for removing posts, among other measures. It will take effect within a year. The law also requires operators to notify people within a specified time frame whether posts will be deleted.

However, it's unclear if the law adheres to international human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to protect freedom of expression and the Manila Principles on Intermediary Liability (Manila Principles, 2015), which holds that content should not be required to be restricted without a judicial order, and that requests for restriction of content to be clear, unambiguous, and follow due process on social media platforms like Facebook and X with more transparency.

The revised provider liability limitation law mandates the operators of such platforms to set up points of contact for accepting deletion requests and disclose criteria for removing posts, among other measures. It will take effect within a year. The law also requires operators to notify people within a specified period whether posts will be deleted.

Mass Media Freedom in Underdeveloped Countries

Yemen

Six years of war have changed the Yemeni media landscape for worst in terms of number of publications, independence, freedom of the media and the press and distribution. According to Freedom House "Freedom in the World" report Yemen received 11 out of 40 points for political rights, 10 out of 60 for civil rights, and a Not Free Status. These numbers indicate that Yemen belongs to the 25 least free countries in the world. On the scales of the Internet Freedom Scores and Democracy Scores Yemen did not even appear (<https://www.regjeringen.no/>).

Afghanistan

As part of its extremist rule, one of the major undertakings by the Taliban was a widespread ban on journalism and photography. The few media sources were strictly controlled by the Taliban and became a means to convey their radical perspective and legitimize their rule. Hence, media by definition became a propaganda tool for the Taliban.

2015 World Press Freedom Index ranks Afghanistan 122 out of 180 countries, increasing its rank by 6 from the 2014 results.³ But, taking into account the political context of the country, freedom of expression in practice has actually been in decline since 2013. The unique political structure formed by a President and a Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan and the continued presence of the Taliban at different levels of power have increased competition among the various leaders and factions to influence and gain public support. Influential

power holders push their personal political agendas onto media personnel thus restricting the practice of free, democratic, and protected media in Afghanistan.

Finding: Mass Media Freedom

According to following data, developed countries also stand on top of the list in terms of mass media, while some underdeveloped countries did not even make the list. In what follows, freedom scores are shown in more details. As evident in Figure 1, Norway is in the first place with the score of 91.89. Japan is number 70 with the global score of 62.12; Yemen is number 154 with the global score of 33.67 and Afghanistan is number 178 with the global score of 19.09.

Pos.	Countries	Global Score	Pos.	Countries	Global Score	Pos.	Countries	Global Score	Pos.	Countries	Global Score
1	Norway	91.89	17	Czechia	80.14	32	Austria	74.69	47	Poland	69.17
2	Denmark	89.6	18	Iceland	80.13	33	Mauritania	74.2	48	Croatia	68.79
3	Sweden	88.32	19	New Zealand	79.72	34	Namibia	74.16	49	Romania	68.45
4	Netherlands	87.73	20	Timor-Leste	78.92	35	Dominican Republic	73.89	50	Ghana	67.71
5	Finland	86.55	21	France	78.85	36	North Macedonia	73.78	51	Uruguay	67.7
6	Estonia	86.44	22	Samoa	78.41	37	Seychelles	73.75	52	Chile	67.32
7	Portugal	85.9	23	United Kingdom	77.51	38	South Africa	73.73	53	Ivory Coast	66.89
8	Ireland	85.59	24	Jamaica	77.3	39	Australia	73.42	54	Belize	66.85
9	Switzerland	84.01	25	Trinidad and Tobago	76.69	40	Montenegro	73.21	55	United States	66.59
10	Germany	83.84	26	Costa Rica	76.13	41	Cabo Verde	72.77	56	Gabon	65.83
11	Luxembourg	83.8	27	Taiwan	76.13	42	Slovenia	72.6	57	Mauritius	65.55
12	Latvia	82.9	28	Suriname	76.11	43	Armenia	71.6	58	Gambia	65.53
13	Lithuania	81.73	29	Slovakia	76.03	44	Fiji	71.23	59	Bulgaria	65.32
14	Canada	81.7	30	Spain	76.01	45	Tonga	70.11	60	Liberia	65.13
15	Liechtenstein	81.52	31	Moldova	74.86	46	Italy	69.8	61	Ukraine	65
16	Belgium	81.49							62	South Korea	64.87
Pos.	Countries	Global Score	Pos.	Countries	Global Score	Pos.	Countries	Global Score	Pos.	Countries	Global Score
63	Malawi	64.46	78	Guinea	59.97	93	Haiti	55.92	110	Ecuador	51.3
64	Sierra Leone	64.27	79	Botswana	59.78	94	Senegal	55.44	111	Indonesia	51.15
65	Cyprus	63.14	80	Niger	59.71	95	Zambia	55.38	112	Nigeria	51.03
66	Argentina	63.13	81	Bosnia-Herzegovina	58.85	96	Chad	54.81	113	Togo	50.89
67	Hungary	62.98	82	Brazil	58.59	97	Tanzania	54.8	114	Mali	50.56
68	OECS	62.83	83	Panama	58.55	98	Serbia	54.48	115	Paraguay	50.48
69	Congo-Brazzaville	62.57	84	Qatar	58.48	99	Albania	54.1	116	Zimbabwe	50.31
70	Japan	62.12	85	Eswatini	58.31	100	Madagascar	54.07	117	Brunei	50.09
71	Comoros	61.47	86	Burkina Faso	58.24	101	Israel	53.23	118	Tunisia	49.97
72	Andorra	61.44	87	Thailand	58.12	102	Kenya	53.22	119	Colombia	49.63
73	Malta	60.96	88	Greece	57.15	103	Georgia	53.05	120	Kyrgyzstan	49.11
74	Nepal	60.52	89	Benin	56.73	104	Angola	52.44	121	Mexico	49.01
75	Kosovo	60.19	90	Northern Cyprus	56.72	105	Mozambique	52.42	122	Lesotho	48.92
76	Central African Republic	60.12	91	Papua New Guinea	56.02	106	Maldives	52.36	123	Democratic Republic of Congo	48.91
77	Guyana	60.1	92	Guinea-Bissau	55.95	107	Malaysia	52.07	124	Bolivia	48.88
						108	Burundi	51.78	125	Peru	47.76
						109	Mongolia	51.34			

Figure 1: Mass Media Freedom by Data From the UN Finding

POS.	COUNTRIES	GLOBAL SCORE	POS.	COUNTRIES	GLOBAL SCORE	POS.	COUNTRIES	GLOBAL SCORE	POS.	COUNTRIES	GLOBAL SCORE
126	Singapore	47.19	141	Ethiopia	41.37	158	Türkiye	31.6	164	Azerbaijan	27.99
127	Equatorial Guinea	46.49	142	Kazakhstan	41.11	159	India	31.28	165	Bangladesh	27.64
128	Uganda	46	143	Libya	40.59	160	United Arab Emirates	30.62	166	Saudi Arabia	27.14
129	Morocco / Western Sahara	45.97	144	Rwanda	40.54	161	Djibouti	30.14	167	Belarus	26.8
130	Cameroon	44.95	145	Somalia	39.4	162	Russia	29.86	168	Cuba	25.63
131	Kuwait	44.66	146	Honduras	38.18	163	Nicaragua	29.2	169	Iraq	25.48
132	Jordan	44.3	147	Bhutan	37.29	164	Azerbaijan	27.99	170	Egypt	25.1
133	El Salvador	44.01	148	Uzbekistan	37.27	165	Bangladesh	27.64	171	Myanmar	24.41
134	Philippines	43.36	149	Sudan	35.73	166	Saudi Arabia	27.14	172	China	23.36
135	Hong Kong	43.06	150	Sri Lanka	35.21	167	Belarus	26.8	173	Bahrain	23.21
136	South Sudan	42.57	151	Cambodia	34.28	168	Cuba	25.63	174	Vietnam	22.31
137	Oman	42.52	152	Pakistan	33.9	169	Iraq	25.48	175	Turkmenistan	22.01
138	Guatemala	42.28	153	Laos	33.76	170	Egypt	25.1	176	Iran	21.3
139	Algeria	41.98	154	Yemen	33.67	171	Myanmar	24.41	177	North Korea	20.66
140	Lebanon	41.91	155	Tajikistan	33.31	172	China	23.36	178	Afghanistan	19.09
			156	Venezuela	33.06	173	Bahrain	23.21	179	Syria	17.41
			157	Palestine	31.92				180	Eritrea	16.64

Figure 1 (cont.): Mass Media Freedom by Data From the UN Finding

Ranking

The IOS ranking, or International Organization for Standardization ranking, typically refers to a system that evaluates various aspects of a country's political stability, governance, and overall effectiveness. Political stability is crucial for a country's development, as it affects economic growth, social cohesion, and the ability to implement policies effectively. A higher IOS ranking usually indicates a more stable political environment, while a lower ranking may suggest challenges such as political unrest, corruption, or ineffective governance.

Political Context

In a political context, "meaning ranking" typically refers to the process of prioritizing or evaluating the significance of various meanings, interpretations, or messages within political discourse. This can involve assessing how different political statements, policies, or ideologies resonate with the public, influence opinions, or shape political narratives. It helps in understanding which ideas or messages are most impactful or relevant in a given situation, allowing political actors to strategize effectively.

POL Economic Context

The term "POL" in an economic context typically refers to "political" factors that influence economic conditions and decisions. It encompasses how government policies, political stability, and regulatory environments can impact economic performance, investment decisions, and market dynamics.

ECO Legal Context

In a legal context, "ECO" typically refers to "Environmental Compliance Obligation." This term encompasses the responsibilities and requirements that individuals, businesses, or organizations must adhere to in order to comply with environmental laws and regulations.

These obligations can include managing waste, reducing emissions, and ensuring that operations do not harm the environment.

Leg Social Context

In social discussions, it might also refer to the idea of "legit in social discussions, it might also refer to the idea of "legitimacy" or "standing" within a community or group.

SOC

SOC safety involves ensuring that the integrated circuits and systems are designed to operate safely and reliably, on medical concept.

Safe Situation Zone Country

“Safe situation zone country” refers to a country or area that is considered secure and stable, where individuals can live without the immediate threat of violence, conflict, or significant danger. It often implies a place where the rule of law is upheld, and basic human rights are respected.

Table 2: Political Stability by Analysis of Seven Indicators

ISO; Score	Rank; Political Context	Rank_Pol	Economic Context	Rank_Eco	Legal Context	Rank_Leg	Social Context	Rank_Soc
NOR:91	89;1:94	87;1:89	84;1:89	5;2:90	48;1:94	74;7; Bonn	18; -3	29
DNK:89	6;2:94	11;2:83	07;4:88	82;3:86	9;5:95	09;5; Bonn	48;0	12
SWE:88	32;3:91	03;4:85	5;2:90	16;1:82	78;20:92	12;22; Bon	15;0	17
NLD:87	73;4:88	41;7:84	09;3:87	59;4:87	34;4:91	23;28; Bon	73	
FIN:86	55;5:89	05;6:80	9;5:86	16;6:84	52;14:92	13;21; Bon	94; -1	39
EST:86	44;6:86	88;10:76	77;8:83	65;12:90	88;6; Bonn	31;1	13	
PRT:85	9;7:91	51;3:72	92;10:83	79;10:88	27;3:93	03;15; Bon	6;1	3
IRL:85	59;8:89	86;5:77	45;18:86	61;6:94	05;9; Bonn	91; -4	32	
CHE:84	01;9:87	78;8:72	32;11:78	85;27:85	2;11:95	92;4; Situa	4; -0	39
DEU:83	84;10:85	22;14:77	63;6:84	69;8:82	38;22:89	29;40; Situ	91;1	93
LUX:83	8;11:87	74;9:71	53;13:77	56;34:85	32;10:96	83;1; Situa	98;1	82
LVA:82	9;12:84	42;15:74	69;9:80	29;19:83	21;17:91	9;26; Situa	27; -0	37
LTU:81	73;13:80	84;17:70	72;15:81	41;15:83	6;15:92	1;23; Situa	79; -5	6
CAN:81	7;14:86	23;11:66	35;21:83	75;11:82	38;22:89	76;36; Situ	53; -1	83
LIE:81	52;15:85	55;12:62	35;31:84	84;7:78	72;32:96	16;2; Situa	47; -2	95
BEL:81	49;16:81	96;16:71	41;14:79	49;24:86	51;7:88	1;52; Situa	47;5	2
CZE:80	14;17:80	21;18:62	58;30:80	18;21:85	16;12:92	58;19; Situ	58; -3	44
ISL:80	13;18:79	94;20:65	1;24:79	11;25:83	28;16:93	24;12; Situ	19; -3	6
NZL:79	72;19:85	36;13:72	8;12:71	15;54:79	76;29:90	24;32; Situ	23; -4	51
FRA:78	65;21:78	93;21:66	27;22:78	18;31:81	5;26:88	38;49; Situ	72; -0	7
WSM:78	41;22:74	9;23:68	98;19:69	11;62:83	03;18:96	03;3; Situ	15; -3	74
GBR:77	51;23:80	12;19:69	42;18:74	35;42:75	38;40:88	29;50; Situ	51; -1	
JAM:77	3;24:66	39;43:70	31;17:72	6;49:84	97;13:92	25;20; Situ	89;1	41
TTO:76	69;25:66	97;39:66	76;20:71	26;53:86	41;8:92	06;24; Situ	54;0	15
CRI:76	13;26:57	41;58:63	89;28:93	97;9:82	8;19:92	59;18; Situ	2; -4	7
TWN:76	13;27:74	7;24:56	77;41:80	05;23:76	39;38:92	76;16; Situ	54;0	59
SUR:76	11;28:66	67;40:70	66;16:71	79;51:79	56;30:91	87;27; Situ	62;5	49
SVK:76	03;29:65	52;44:64	84;25:80	53;17:80	85;27:88	39;48; Situ	22; -7	19
ESP:76	01;30:68	96;31:59	72;36:81	73;14:79	56;30:90	08;33; Situ	37;0	64
MDA:74	86;31:66	51;42:56	48;42:80	13;22:82	67;21:88	49;46; Situ	62; -2	76
AUT:74	69;32:68	99;30:60	2;34:78	45;29:75	3;41:90	53;30; Situ	3; -2	61
MRT:74	2;33:67	23;35:54	05;50:79	06;26:76	98;36:93	65;10; Situ	45;14	75
NAM:74	16;34:65	46;45:63	37;29:77	08;35:75;4	88;34; Situ	91; -6	75	
DOM:73	89;35:72	61;26:53	54;51:86	92;5:82	14;24:74	24;95; Situ	88;2	1
MKD:73	78;36:66	98;38:54	17;49:83	17;13:75	15;42:89	43;39; Situ	35; -5	57
SYC:73	75;37:67	1;37:59	79;35:74	23;43;75;4	62;17; Situ	71; -1	96	
ZAF:73	73;38:72	57;27:58	78;38:80	29;19:82	06;25:74	95;94; Situ	6; -4	57
AUS:73	42;39:74	43;25:64	58;27:69	23;60:70	41;59:88	44;47; Situ	24; -4	82
MNE:73	21;40:68	31;33:56	06;43:78	15;32:73	05;52:90	48;31; Situ	28; -1	7

CPV:72	77;41;69	51;28;54	25;48;74	7;39;73	35;50;92	03;25; Situ	72; -2	95
SVN:72	6;42;67	85;34;49	81;59;81	03;16;73	7;47;90	58;29; Situ	59;2	1
ARM:71	6;43;63	13;47;48	18;70;78	25;30;78	57;33;89	88;34; Situ	61;0	99
FJI:71	23;44;59	26;52;64	66;26;69	04;63;74	35;45;88	86;43; Situ	27;11	96
TON:70	11;45;66	52;41;57	92;40;61	35;90;71	43;55;93	33;11; Situ	29; -1	18
ITA:69	8;46;64	44;46;52	75;53;72	94;47;69	98;60;88	86;44; Situ	05; -2	25
POL:69	17;47;51	63;75;59	46;37;70	19;57;77	38;35;87	2;54; Situ	66;1	51
HRV:68	79;48;57	81;56;49	42;63;78	1;33;68	92;64;89	68;37; Situ	95; -3	16
ROU:68	45;49;61	92;48;48	2;69;70	54;55;73	38;49;88	2;51; Situ	04; -0	59
GHA:67	71;50;59	5;51;47	92;72;74	79;38;73	41;48;82	94;72; Situ	93;1	78
URY:67	7;51;53	62;71;48	36;67;76	65;36;70	58;58;89	29;40; Situ	33; -2	63
CHL:67	32;52;68	84;32;46	98;76;68	75;64;68	45;65;83	57;68; Situ	09;7	23
CIV:66	89;53;61	43;49;55	05;45;74	63;40;73	08;51;70	28;99; Situ	83; -1	94
BLZ:66	85;54;51	57;76;49	48;62;62	18;86;77	98;34;93	06;14; Situ	49; -3	64
USA:66	59;55;69	03;29;61	07;33;74	49;41;72	06;54;56	31;118; Situ	22; -4	63
GAB:65	83;56;58	51;54;49	74;60;70	19;57;71	09;57;79	59;82; Situ	12;7	71
MUS:65	55;57;50	43;79;47	4;74;62	88;83;80	12;28;86	9;56; Situa	56; -0	1
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BGR:65	32;59;60	63;50;41	6;105;72	24;50;67	06;70;85	08;61; Situ	98;2	34
LBR:65	13;60;54	87;64;45	98;80;73	08;45;71	43;55;80	27;78; Situ	34;0	79
UKR:65;61	15;36;62	24;32;78	61;28;75	89;39;41	11;142; Situ	19;3	83; -5	
KOR:64	87;62;51	11;77;54	9;46;69	51;59;61	77;89;87	04;55; Situ	34;4	96
MWI:64	46;63;58	78;53;46	06;79;64	96;75;68	12;66;84	39;64; Situ	55;1	12
SLE:64	27;64;54	55;67;43	56;92;69	23;60;72	62;53;81	39;77; Situ	62; -5	72
CYP:63	14;65;55	8;61;47	44;73;67	9;66;55	4;111;89	19;42; Situ	36; -10	48
ARG:63	13;66;54	83;65;38	45;119;76	12;37;63	89;80;82	34;75; Situ	96;0	23
HUN:62	98;67;38	55;124;48	23;68;67	88;67;74	29;46;85	97;58; Situ	36;4	2
CSS:62	83;68;54	63;66;50	4;56;57	01;105;65	28;75;86	82;57; Situ	42;2	47
COG:62	57;69;54	28;70;42	92;95;63	27;82;67	14;69;85	24;60; Situ	95; -1	15
JPN:62	12;70;53	07;73;55	83;44;64	35;80;54	38;113;82	95;71; Situ	25; -0	83
COM:61	47;71;48	84;85;52	19;54;62	02;87;65	71;74;78	57;86; Situ	05; -13	78
AND:61	44;72;55	07;63;36	46;130;65	38;74;57	14;105;93	15;13; Situ	76;1	61
MLT:60	96;73;45	35;99;49	57;61;60	1;95;61	9;88;87	9;53; Situ	89;2	2
NPL:60	52;74;55	46;62;52	92;52;71	41;52;61	43;90;61	41;109; Situ	38; -8	63
XKX:60	19;75;56	61;59;48	05;71;73	92;44;67	56;67;54	81;121; Situ	56;2	19
CAF:60	12;76;48	55;87;44	97;84;64	42;78;62	9;86;79	76;80; Situ	5; -7	56
GUY:60	1;77;44	93;103;46	61;77;60	46;94;65	18;76;83	33;69; Situ	46	
GIN:59	97;78;49	28;83;50;5	58;77;69	05;62;66	95;103; Situ	51;0	61; -4	4
BWA:59	78;79;49	9;80;42	56;97;57	28;103;69	56;61;79	59;82; Situ	84; -7	83
NER:59	71;80;54	35;68;44	58;87;67	69;68;67	5;68;64	42;107		13
ISR:53	23;101;56	34;60;58	33;39;49	04;127;60	42;94;42	02;137; Situ	57; -4	34
KEN:53	22;102;38	97;122;37	04;127;59	4;96;58	6;101;72	09;96; Situ	15;2	7
GEO:53	05;103;36	23;127;39	93;114;67	31;72;60	45;93;61	35;110; Situ	69; -8	64
AGO:52	44;104;40	82;115;36	81;128;55	98;109;58	33;102;70	25;100; Situ	3;4	14
MOZ:52	42;105;40	76;116;46	18;78;64	18;81;62	3;87;48	68;129; Situ	13; -3	71
MDV:52	36;106;43	48;109;36	04;133;54	42;111;48	1;131;79	76;80; Situ	93; -4	57
MYS:52	07;107;44	35;106;45	63;82;34	04;156;52	62;119;83	72;67; Situ	83; -10	76
BDI:51	78;108;45	32;100;44	89;85;53	32;113;58	01;103;57	37;115; Situ	14; -0	36
MNG:51	34;109;40	35;118;32	75;151;56	31;107;61	31;91;65	96;105; Situ	33; -7	99
ECU:51	3;110;39	57;120;43	33;94;60	77;92;47	38;136;65	48;106; Situ	51; -9	21
IDN:51	15;111;38	95;123;33	46;150;57	57;101;47	77;133;77	98;87; Situ	83; -3	68
NGA:51	03;112;47	26;95;41	9;104;61	65;89;62	96;85;41	4;141; Situ	56;1	47
TGO:50	89;113;44	38;105;42	27;100;51	2;119;59	82;96;56	76;116; Situ	06; -12	17
MLI:50	56;114;48	12;89;44	41;89;59	27;97;63	53;81;37	47;149; Situ	29; -1	73
PRY:50	48;115;40	9;114;34	95;139;64	42;78;56	88;108;55	27;119; Situ	96; -5	48
ZWE:50	31;116;36	96;126;40	63;110;52	76;114;52	68;118;68	5;101; Situ	17;2	14
BRN:50	09;117;49	42;82;45	16;83;41	08;141;37	83;146;76	99;89; Situ	2;5	89
TUN:49	97;118;48	04;91;40	94;109;50	19;123;59	76;98;50	92;126; Situ	11; -0	14
COL:49	63;119;48	05;90;37	58;124;72	71;48;48	08;132;41	75;139; Situ	23;4	4
KGZ:49	11;120;30	19;149;48	73;64;48	4;129;50	66;124;67	59;102; Situ	91; -0	8

Note: "EN, FR," refers to a country where English, French, etc., is the primary or widely spoken language.

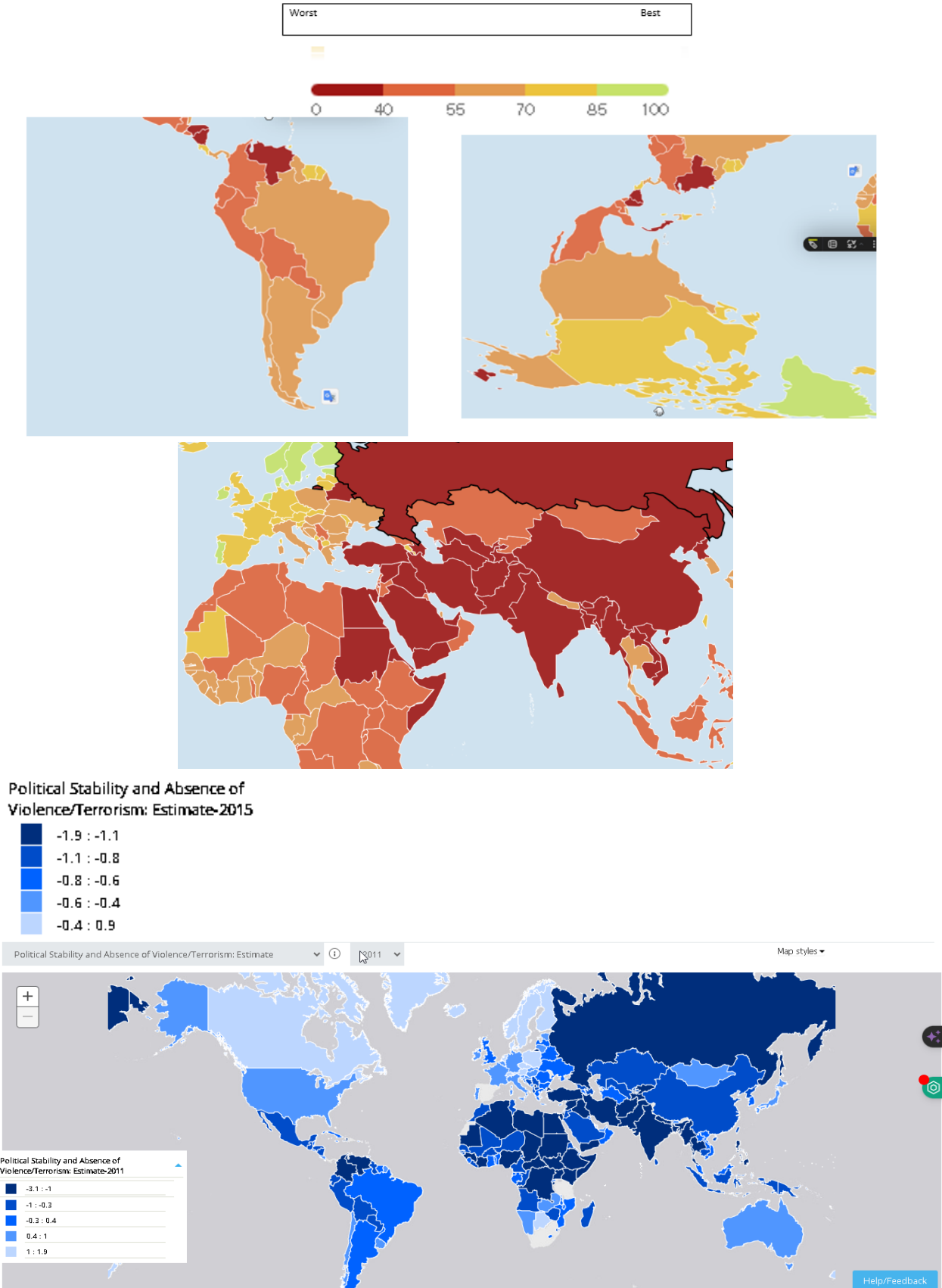


Figure 2: Color Coded Map of Political Stability Worldwide

Conclusion

The presented work came to the conclusion that mass media can provide the means for development. More specifically, our findings suggest that mass media promotes social order and political stability in developed political systems but could promote opposition in under-developed political systems. The quality of communication between state and the people plays a significant role in the process of developing nations and strengthening the foundations of countries, and its platform. Mass media can be a powerful tool for establishing unity and cohesion between different parts of societies that have differences in their religion, ethnicity, language, and local tendencies. This is particularly effective when these subsets of the society are grouped regionally and do not have the necessary national interweaving, to act and help reduce social gaps. It is clear that this effective tool, which could promote national interests and promises the ground for uplifting and prosperity of human societies is subject to the fulfillment of many prerequisites for optimum performance, one of the most important of which is the awareness of the media and their audiences to its capabilities and limitations.

The positive and correct functioning of the media in the two mentioned dimensions, information and education, can make the power and ability flourish in the member of society and strengthen their will for transformation and development. As a result, wherever more information, which is one of the essentials of development, is accumulated, the eruption of more power will occur, which guarantees security and deep political-social stability.

The data from united nation and world bank supports our assumption about the relation between freedom of mass media and political stability. Therefore, we can conclude that more freedom means more political stability.

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