



Tweets from Tahrir

Nadia Idle (Editor) , Alex Nunns (Editor)

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Egypt's revolution as it unfolded, in the words of the people who made it.

The Twitter accounts of the activists who brought heady days of revolution to Egypt in January and February this year paint an exhilarating picture of an uprising in real-time. Thousands of young people documented on cell phones every stage of their revolution, as it happened. This book brings together a selection of key tweets in a compelling, fast-paced narrative, allowing the story of the uprising to be told directly by the people in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Many of the activists were "citizen journalists", using Twitter to report what was happening. Others used the social network to organize, communicating the next steps necessary for the revolution to move forward. Nearly everyone online gave instant reactions to the extraordinary events occurring before their eyes.

History has never before been written in this fashion. The tweet limit of 140 characters evidently concentrated the feelings of those using Twitter. Raw emotion bursts from their messages, whether frantic alarm at attacks from pro-government thugs or delirious happiness at the fall of the dictator. To read these tweets is to embark a rollercoaster ride, from the surprise and excitement of the first demonstration, to the horror of the violence that claimed hundreds of lives, to the final ecstasy of victory.

Many of those tweeting also took photographs with their phones and these illustrate the book, providing remarkable snapshots from the heart of the action.

Edited by young activists Alex Nunns and Nadia Idle, an Egyptian who was in Tahrir Square when Mubarak fell, *Tweets from Tahrir* is a highly original take on one of the most important and dramatic events in recent world politics. The result is as gripping as any thriller – but it's all real.

Tweets from Tahrir Details

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Author : Nadia Idle (Editor) , Alex Nunns (Editor)

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From Reader Review Tweets from Tahrir for online ebook

Melissa says

This book collected (English only?) tweets from those on the ground of the Egyptian Revolution, and it's fascinating to see a revolution in real time.

Basma Aal says

My review:

On January 25, the people of Egypt decided to protest to demand their rights. The planned protest turned into a revolution. It was suppose to take place only in Cairo but, surprisingly, the revolution swept the nation. Social media had its role in the Egyptian revolution. People of Egypt used it as a way to communicate and report what was going on in Egypt. Twitter was the most used tool to get the news across. Social activist, bloggers,etc would tweet what was happening in Egypt in 140 characters or less. "Tweets from Tahrir" focused on people tweeting from Tahrir square.

The book takes you onto an epic journey to one of the most amazing revolutions of all times. The book starts with Egyptians following the Tunisian's revolution and ended by tweets that reflected the success of the Egyptian revolution.

The book is composed of introductions at the beginning of each chapter to inform you what the chapter is going to be about. Then it follows with tweets from well-known tweeps. Reading what is happening in Egypt from different people added to the richness and the information that this book contained. It made me feel like I am back to the glorious days of the revolution. At the beginning of the book, there is a map of Tahrir Square and its surrounding areas to help identify the locations that are mentioned in the tweets.

If you follow me on twitter, you would know that I've been following this revolution via twitter. Therefore, I was super excited when I knew that the virtual data will be in a hard copy form to keep it forever. At the beginning, I found it a hard read. I started crying from the first chapter. Well, in total I cried 3 times reading this book. But as much as there were tears, there were smiles too.

Basically, when you are reading this book, you will feel as if you were in Tahrir Square. The tweeps, in the Tweets from Tahrir, did a great job in describing so much in only 140 characters.

And did I mention that there are pictures too in the book. It's a way to help you create an image of what it was like in Tahrir Square.

Overall, this was a magnificent book. It delivered real scenes from Tahrir Square. I hope you get to enjoy it as much as I did.

One final thought: shouldn't there be a sequel for this book. Or maybe there could be a book called "Tweets from Libya" soon. Who knows?

Tata for now

Dina Mohammad says

۱۱. آیا در صورتی که در یک شرکت دولتی کار می‌کنم و حقوقم را به حساب خودم واریز می‌کنند و من آن را به حساب خودم می‌زنم، آیا این کار تخلف است؟
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Kathryn says

Made me wish that I had flown to Egypt to be there on Tahrir with the protesters. They were so brave, and quite honestly the way that they conducted the revolution restored my faith in humanity. #Egypt #Jan25

???? says

You can easily finish it in a couple of hours, yet it's a book that can break those who witnessed it all to tears. I'm grateful for those who've compiled those tweets on the same year. I still remember the release of that book and I believe there was even an event about it at Cairo Uni. Somehow I was never interested in reading what I've seen with my own two eyes ??? ????? ?? ?????? ??? ????

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On a side note: I'm not sure how much was the book originally, but I saw it today marked down from almost 100 to 20LE, and when the vender saw me holding it, he said ??? ????.

Ahmed Zaki says

A concise and fast paced diary-like account of the 25th of January revolution, narrated through a selection of tweets by activists who instigated and took part in the uprising. The tweets are presented chronologically, and in conjunction with the introductory passage which precedes each chapter, succeed in painting a vivid picture of the events which unfolded during the 18 days, conveying the general drive and aspirations of the revolutionaries.

The book falls short in that it only uses English tweets- one could argue that the majority of social media political activism at the time was conducted by the liberal educated middle class, but by doing so (restricting it to English only tweets), the book has paradoxically eliminated sects and classes of Egyptian people in a

revolution that was meant to represent all.

The nature of a tweet and its limited word count leaves little scope for elaboration. Thus, a lot of the book is mere reporting of proceedings. However, due to the magnitude of the event, the narrative is by no means boring. In fact, the book is funny at parts and emotional at others.

In conclusion 'Tweets from Tahrir' is an impressive feat. It manages to communicate the rawness and pureness of the revolution and the grandeur of its achievement, via an amassment of tweets. It even unintentionally highlights the somewhat naivety and political inexperience of those who took part in it, and the lack of any real opposition leadership which subsequently led to the hijacking of the revolution by the Muslim brotherhood and the army afterwards.

Menna Kh. says

Shivers Shivers Shivers!

I'm proud of everything the book carries. I'm proud that I bought this book so that I can give it to my children one day.

Great documenting for a revolution started by networks such as Twitter.

The revolution started from Twitter and never slept so far, and only on Twitter.

I think the perspective of the revolution from this book is the purest, most emotional and captivating ever, as the tweets are words from the hearts of the people who made this revolution.

Reading this book made me feel every heart beat, every drop of blood, every emotion from Tahrir square's happy moments, sad moments, and proud moments.

Shane says

Cool concept, but as you might guess, tweets don't make such a great book. I do follow some of the people in this book on twitter now though, which is kind of cool.

Yasmin says

I think it was a little too soon for me to read this, but it's a great historical document.

Sarah says

If you want to live the Egyptian Revolution, read this book :)

???? says

"To live the Revolution". Amazing book! Lest we forget the martyrs and the killers, what we've been through and what we've accomplished and what we wanted and dreamed of.

Rania El-badry says

Too depressing for words; I've had this book for years and would start reading it each January 25th, but this is the first time I finished it. It amazes me how they slowly diluted our spirit....the people who existed on the 11th of February 2011 would not be quiet with what's happening now. But they drained us bit by bit, executed our hope, and we have forgotten what it means to truly stand up unrelentingly for something....or maybe we're not drained and we're just cynical....which may be even worse

Joy says

A very moving and powerful read.

???? ????? says

I almost cried at some tweets! it's the story of the Egyptian Revolution right from the people who made it and right from the heart of Tahrir Square and other spots in Cairo, however I still have a few notes:

1. The tweets mentioned in the book are limited to people who tweet in English which deprived us from maybe 95% of activists and eyewitnesses who - obviously in such critical circumstances - tweeted in Arabic so that they can reach the majority of people in Egypt.
 2. I like how the editors copied the tweets as they were spontaneously written and even with syntax errors.
 3. It was important and critical to document the daily events of the revolution before it gets counterfeited by certain forces, people now know exactly what happened in every day, I already felt like these tweets were written 10 years ago, the current situation is much different, a lot has happened since Feb 11th.
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Mona says

I loved it of course. But a book collecting Arabic tweets too would have documented the 18 days much better.
