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The Digital Age, Cyber Space, and Social Media

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The Challenges of Security & Radicalization

Edited by: **Syed Munir Khasru**
Chairman
The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

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Foreword

The Digital Age, Cyber Space, and Social Media
The Challenges of Security & Radicalization

As the cyber world continues to grow exponentially and emerging new technologies unleashed by the Industry 4.0 change the landscape of life and living for the human civilization, issues of security and radicalization are becoming more and more important. The publication of the book on 'The Digital Age, Cyber Space, and Social Media: The Challenges of Security & Radicalization', is a call to greater awareness and better actions to address these rising threats in the world of digital technology.

In participation of eminent experts, scholars, and researchers, the book provides valuable insights, in-depth analysis, multi-dimensional perspectives, and pertinent case studies to inspire quality intellectual discourses and thought provoking discussions among the key stakeholders which include the government & policymakers, security apparatus & intelligence agencies, tech industry & corporates, consumers & netizens, and civil society & media. The diverse nationalities and areas of expertise of the writers speak of the rich intellectual content of the book which will make a significant contribution in enhancing the knowledge and maturing the understanding on the key parameters of security and radicalization that are affecting the cyberspace, social media, and the digital ecosystem.

The Book addresses some of the key issues related to resolving the conflicting goals of increasing global security – both offline and online – as well as promoting wider application of digital transformation. It provides a set of guiding principles and instruments of achieving these goals by adopting a synergistic approach in close collaboration and cooperation by the world leaders, governments, citizen, business entities, technologists, and technocrats. It is a positive step by raising awareness through greater dissemination of knowledge and a better appreciation of the trade-offs

resulting from the choices that the countries will have to make in the coming days. Choices that will have a direct effect towards achieving a world free of crime & hatred, terrorism & radicalization through propelling a secured cyber-physical platform.

Given IPAG's geographic presence spread across four continents and well networked and rich pool of experts around the world, it has been an initiative that saw some of the best of the minds in the cyber world and ancillary industries come together in undertaking this book. In the process, there has been countless rounds of exchanges, interactions, and brainstorming as to what may be best way to do justice to the expectations of the stakeholders and readers who have been looking forward to this publication as one of the first of its kind in bringing a multi-sectoral approach towards addressing the common challenge we face today i.e. securing the cyber world and unleashing its potentials for the betterment of human lives.

IPAG is aware that this journey is continuous and nonstop and in that spirit we shall continue to value helpful feedback and suggestions from our colleagues in the industry as well as partners in progress whose goodwill and support have inspired us to undertake this project in the very first place. Finally, we express our sincere thanks to all the contributors to the book without whose support, commitment, and cooperation, we could not have done it.

Syed Munir Khasru
Chairman
The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

Felicitations

The Digital Age, Cyber Space, and Social Media
The Challenges of Security & Radicalization

I congratulate The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG) on the publication of the book "***The Digital Age, Cyber Space, and Social Media: The Challenges of Security & Radicalization***". The publication is timely in addressing some of the key online security challenges facing us all today. I hope the commentaries by the featured experts will find a wide audience and contribute to effective policy actions in the security field, both online and off.

Today's Internet has been deeply integrated into our societies, important to individuals, businesses and governments alike. Our economies could not function without it. Much of our critical infrastructure is connected to it. Our citizens are educated and socialized through it. For this reason, ensuring its security against traditional and non-traditional threats is critical to consolidating the benefits it has provided the world. But saying and doing are two entirely different things.

Because the Internet is woven into our societies securing it will require making trade-offs. Is privacy paramount? Is security? How can free expression be balanced effectively with the need to protect society from state-sponsored disinformation and extremist propaganda? How should the state's inclination to surveil be balanced with the individual's desire for privacy and anonymity? As the contest between superpowers deepens, and rogue states and terrorist entities, too, aim to destabilize the cyber domain, new ways of thinking about national security are urgently needed. Within many democracies, too, the openness of the Internet and many of its platforms mean contending with the challenge of radicalization by

numerous extremist groups. Concepts of "cyber security" need to be stretched to cover these threats as well.

The authors of this book provide both insights and ideas for how to navigate this complexity. Across each of the issues raised above - and others - they suggest possible solutions to safeguard our collective national interests and economic well-being. The articles range from intelligence and security in the digital age to those dealing with online surveillance, the causes (and the future of) online radicalization as well as the threat posed by targeted disinformation and our societies' existing echo chambers.

I hope the book will inform a wide readership among policymakers seeking to effectively deal with these emerging online/offline challenges and spark meaningful dialogue between government and the private sector on ways to strengthen national, regional, and global security.

Congratulations to the authors of the book and to IPAG for bringing this important publication to fruition. As a next generation think tank, IPAG has shown commendable leadership in leveraging its offices in South Asia, Europe, Australia, and the MENA region to deliver on this initiative from the Global South. For our part, we at Jigsaw are gratified to see the level of interest and attention these issues are generating and look forward to remaining engaged with all sectors of society (business, civil society and government) to find ways to address them. Working together we can assure the Internet continues to fulfill its promise for our societies while safeguarding the rights and safety of both individuals and institutions.

Best wishes,

Scott Carpenter
Managing Director
Jigsaw at Google

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