Boarders of Communications In China

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Internet access has influenced many people around the globe, and it has developed communication among people. Having access to internet means that, people can connect to internet through different technological devices such as mobile phones, computers, and other devices; and they also have access to internet services such as email, and social media platforms. Internet has its pros and cons while starting a discussion with big countries and restrictions on internet, there comes only one superpower country; China. The government of China limits its citizens to use internet by blocking the usage of some websites and it is also monitoring internet accessibility of individuals. This paper will also include a discussion about the impacts of limitations of internet access on the business sector, people and its citizens.

**Internet Access**

Internet access is the accessibility of internet to people who have technology and are willing to pay for internet services. People have been using technology with internet access for years for their development, to gather information about current affairs, and to promote their business. Internet has changed people and their societies by letting them adopt new trends and patterns that are beneficial. People have transformed their living standards and lifestyles with the help of the latest technological tool ‘internet.” This allows people to access information, interact with other people and to connect with other market segments in this global world. Interactions are important to grow and develop, while, communication gap may lead to misinterpretations and misperceptions about each other whether it is on micro levels or macro levels. Foundation of internet can be marked to 1969 when military personnel was allowed to have access to each other and share information by the US Department of Defense. For this purpose, the department introduced ARPAnet. Internet accessibility, on the other hand, has allowed people to have information by making its availability on web content in the shape of websites, news sources, and social media platforms.

Internet accessibility has helped people to change their lifestyles and living standards, which means that they have developed and many people around the globe are still developing. Internet access and development can be related in a way that, they have started communicating with each other, people have started their online businesses, and they are still using this internet source to promote their concerns of backgrounds and geography. Accessibility of the internet has strengthened people in the 21st century, which can be considered as a well-matched to them with internet accessibility. This access to internet has also allowed socializing, while it depends on people whether they socialize with people on community levels or global levels. This internet accessibility has helped people to develop and grow indeed but unfortunately, it has made a huge impact on people and their nations in a negative way. It is noteworthy to highlight the destruction made by the internet.

People using internet have been engaged with the internet and technological devices. They allow these internet tools and technological devices to have access to their information. While having access to information that is available on the internet, people allow these technological devices to have access to their personal information. This can be termed as the business of information without being aware of privacy risks, that are being threatened by this accessibility. People are not aware of these privacy risks; therefore, they allow these technological devices and the internet to have access to their activities. This internet has controlled the lives of people in these last few decades, while half the population using this, are still unaware of this control. Personal information is shared within the organizations, activities are being monitored, more importantly, this has changed behavioral patterns of people towards each other. But the main question is about who controls the media? To have an answer, it is important to know about networked authoritarianism, while it is the controls over internet access and control on the internet.

Internet authoritarianism is the process of limiting internet access by authoritarians which may be the government and agencies which are working for the development and policy-making of the countries[[1]](#footnote-1) . People are limited to use internet and internet sources like China has limited its citizens from using social media platforms and other content available on the internet.

With emerging trend of internet trend, it does not only threats personal privacy of people but it is threatening policymakers, governments, and organizations. These are threatened in a way that their internal organizational plans and policies are accessed without asking to have access to their information. There are several anonymous people and organization who are involved in such activities which are against cybersecurity. While cybersecurity ensures privacy of people about their activities and their information which is saved in their mobile phones or other technological devices.

Adding more, to avoid these threats, organizations, and governments make policies regarding limitations on internet availability. One of the drawbacks of the internet is that it has made everything public and anyone can have access to information on their fingertips. The concept of personal privacy has become very unpopular because of the internet. People have provided access to their privacy knowingly or unknowingly. When it comes to misuse of internet, it has also become a trend that has threatened people, societies, and their governments. Their private life activities are accessed by the internet sources, organizational and governmental secrets and their secret policies are also accessed. This is a threat because it risks the development of organizations and state institutions because they become limited regarding policy-making and their policies are publicized. Sometimes there are likely chances that it does not allows organizations to compete with other organizations and States because their policies are already publicized by accessing their information which is later made available online.

**Internet Freedom and China**

China has restricted its citizens to have access and to use internet according to their choices. There have been some issues that have threatened the state institutions by making their information publically available. China may be the best example of internet censorship regulations which have contributed to limitations on internet freedom. This is the country where there is communism, later which began to globalize with the other countries and regions in terms of technology. But, China has controlled its information technology and it has control over its media whether it is print media or traditional media. China has maintained a clear climate of limiting information technology and access to internet by its citizens. The limitation over internet and information technology is considered equal to restriction of enjoying human rights which include access to information, freedom of speech, and distribution of information with others[[2]](#footnote-2).

The Chinese government has kept very tight policies to limit the freedom of new media, traditional media and internet accessibility. Government institutions have made strict plans and policies, therefore, they have started monitoring systems of organizations, individuals, and institutions. Any action leading to acting against government policies regarding information sharing and having access to banned content may lead jailing of individuals.

However, the constitution of China does not limit its citizens from freedom of speech, and media including print media and soft media. But, China cannot afford any threatening situation to the government and its institutions, exposing secrets that may endanger their security and state. Chinese government has initiated a program that requires internet ensures and organizations that also include international agencies and organizations working in China to sign a pledge which ensures internet sovereignty. For Chinese government, certain websites may harm their policies, and they are Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and YouTube[[3]](#footnote-3).

China has restricted information technology and having access to internet because it threatens its political and socio-economic policies. People are not allowed to share pictures videos and other content which may threat to their political stabilities. There are also some limitations on micro-blogging which shares content about corruption and this also includes rumors. These have made huge impact on people and other countries because they are limited to share and have access to information. People do not get the idea about what is happening around them and they are on the other hand limited to share information whether it is about their country, organizations and their social activities. Young generation is unaware of the internet world because many platforms are banned, they do not have options to socialize as other youth and generations do in other countries[[4]](#footnote-4). Socializations through internet have helped people to develop by exploring new opportunities, and they have advanced their communication by interacting with other people. Allowing people of China to use information technology and internet may help them to know about western media and this will also encourage students to appear on websites like New York Times[[5]](#footnote-5).

**Impacts on Chinese Culture**

The influence of media censorship in the region of China can be observed in the case of many different areas. It is observed that the Chinese government has strict regulations and restricted domains considering the use of different sites on the internet. It is noteworthy to mention that the government of China has strict compliance and restricted domain referring the access to various forms of media. The influence of the growing approach of restricted internet eventually appeared in the form of various concerns for the people of China. The major argument or concern in the case of limited media policy by China government appeared as its great influence on the culture of China.

The basic citizenship right of freedom of speech and press is greatly affected by the idea of restricted media policy in the country. Chinese people have limited chances to deliver their thoughts to others in an easy manner. The phenomenon of a one-party state made it eventually difficult for others to openly share their opinions. Media restricted policy is characterized as the immense oppression for the public of the country. It is also significant to indicate that the government of the country is immensely concerned to have proper scrutiny that what Chinese people read in English and it influences their thought process. This domain is categorized as a major reason for the controlling of media and other networking platforms by the government. It is established that change in the form of media access eventually appeared in the form of chronic change in the overall culture of the country. It is greatly argued that the restricted approach of using media hinders the creative approach of Chinese people. They eventually have a restricted form of knowledge that decreases their chances of understanding changing perspectives at a global level. The paradigm of censoring limits the country’s options to successfully involve in the international business scenario.

1. Dakuo Wang and Gloria Mark, “Internet Censorship in China,” *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction* 22 (November 2, 2015): 1–22, https://doi.org/10.1145/2818997. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ZAINUDDIN MONGGILO, “Internet Freedom in Asia: Case of Internet Censorship in China,” *Journal of Government and Politics* 7 (February 1, 2016), https://doi.org/10.18196/jgp.2016.0026. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Being Xu and Eleanor Albert, "Media Censorship in China," *Council on Foreign Relations* 25 (2014): 243. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Yuyu Chen and David Y. Yang, *The Impact of Media Censorship: Evidence from a Field Experiment in China* (Stanford University, 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Yuyu Chen and David Y. Yang, “The Impact of Media Censorship: 1984 or Brave New World?,” *American Economic Review* 109, no. 6 (2019): 2294–2332. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)