**Graph Analysis**

Position: The availability of Social Networking was a requirement for turning the North African discontent into a rapid spread of revolution in North Africa.

***Figure 1 - Egyptian March/April 2011 Gallup World Poll survey or 812 Sympathizers with the Arab Spring – Adapted from (Brym, Godbout, Hoffbauer, Menard & Zhang, 2014, p. 269)***

Figure 1 is based upon the Gallup poll given to Egyptians over 14 in March- April 2011. Interviewers went in person to ask questions of the respondents just a few months after the January 25 uprising in Egypt began. Only people who answered “support” to the following question were included in this graph: “Overall, did you support or not support the protestors who called forformer President Mubarak’s resignation?’ (support/not support/don’tknow/refused)” (Brym, Godbout, Hoffbauer, Menard & Zhang, 2014, p. 277).

Those who indicated they personally participated are represented in orange and those who supported Mubarak’s resignation but did not demonstrate are in blue. There are far more onlookers than demonstrators.

A question worded as “Did you rely on the following sources to get your news on the nationwide pro-tests, or not?” (Brym, Godbout, Hoffbauer, Menard & Zhang, 2014, p. 281) with Twitter/Facebook as one of the possible answers determined the Facebook/Twitter category. This means 19% of people who were demonstrating got their news from facebook or twitter while fewer of the onlookers, only 7%, got their news from the same place.

To determine how many people trusted new media, Gallup asked, “‘Sometimes people use technology such as cellphone cameras, video recorders, and Web sites to post pictures, stories, andvideos of news events. Do you trust these sources of news to be more accurate, less accurate, or about as accurate as traditional news media?” (support/not support/don’tknow/refused)” (Brym, Godbout, Hoffbauer, Menard & Zhang, 2014, p. 277). This means demonstrators had a very high trust of new media, with 62% answering “accurate” while onlookers trusted new media much less. New media would include texting and other new media that is not specifically social networking.

**What the graph proves:**

This graph proves that Egyptians who protested in the Arab Spring were almost 3 times as likely (7% vs 19%) to get their news from facebook or twitter than onlookers. It also proves that the Egyptians who protested in the Arab Spring were 25% more likely to trust new media, and that more than half the protesters(62%) did trust new media.

**The argument the graph supports:**

The graph in figure 1 supports the argument that Political organizers successfully used social networking to gain support for their message. The graph proves that a large portion (19%) of demonstrators, people who were mobilized by something, were relying on facebook or twitter for their news. This likely means political organizers did reach 19% of people who chose to demonstrate via social networking. Political organizers might not have been able to motivate the onlookers because they used social media much less and had much less trust in new media.

**Assumptions and weaknesses:**

The study does have some factors that could be questioned. Gallup is an American company, so it may have cultural misinterpretations, but this is mitigated by Gallup having the study created by specialists in the study of the Middle East and who spoke Arabic fluently, and it was directed by someone born in Egypt (Brym, Godbout, Hoffbauer, Menard & Zhang, 2014, p. 276). The questions in this graph were more concrete and did not involve abstract concepts, which also minimizes the intercultural bias potential. Also, people might not answer honestly because they fear an authoritarian government.

**Works Cited:**

Brym, R., Godbout, M., Hoffbauer, A., Menard, G., & Zhang, T. H. (2014). Social media in the 2011 Egyptian uprising. British Journal of Sociology, 65(2), 265–292. https://doi-org.libproxy.adelphi.edu/10.1111/1468-4446.12080