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REVIEW

The Influence of Digital Social Networks on Contemporary Cuban

La influencia de las redes sociales digitales en la democracia cubana contemporánea

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ABSTRACT

The article addresses the relationship between digital social networks and democracy in the contemporary Cuban context. From a theoretical perspective, key concepts of democracy are explored, according to authors such as Plato, and contrasted with the Cuban political system. The arrival of information and communications technologies has profoundly modified social interaction, promoting the exercise of the right to freedom of expression. However, in the case of Cuba, this phenomenon represents a challenge for the government, which faces citizen discontent reflected in social networks and the proliferation of critical digital media. The Cuban sociopolitical situation, influenced by the US embargo, has generated uncertainty about the nature of its political system, described as totalitarian by some and democratic by others. Social networks have allowed citizens to express their dissatisfaction and organize themselves, as occurred in the protests of 2021. These platforms represent a new space for democratization and political participation, although they also pose challenges for the government, such as the management of disinformation and public criticism.

Keywords: Digital Social Networks; Democracy; Cuba; Freedom Of Expresión; Political System.

RESUMEN

El artículo aborda la relación entre redes sociales digitales y democracia en el contexto contemporáneo cubano. Desde una perspectiva teórica, se exploran conceptos clave de democracia, según autores como Platón, y se contrasta con el sistema político cubano. La llegada de las tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones ha modificado profundamente la interacción social, promoviendo el ejercicio del derecho a la libertad de expresión. Sin embargo, en el caso de Cuba, este fenómeno representa un desafío para el gobierno, que enfrenta el descontento ciudadano reflejado en redes sociales y la proliferación de medios digitales críticos. La situación sociopolítica cubana, influida por el embargo estadounidense, ha generado incertidumbre sobre la naturaleza de su sistema político, descrito como totalitario por algunos y democrático por otros. Las redes sociales han permitido a los ciudadanos expresar su insatisfacción y organizarse, como ocurrió en las protestas de 2021. Estas plataformas representan un nuevo espacio de democratización y participación política, aunque también plantean retos para el gobierno, como el manejo de la desinformación y la crítica pública.

Palabras clave: Redes Sociales Digitales; Democracia; Cuba, Libertad de Expresión; Sistema Político.

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INTRODUCTION

In contemporary societies, digital social networks have revolutionized how we communicate and relate to each other. Their impact has transcended the personal and commercial spheres, becoming fundamental tools for citizen participation, political expression, and social mobilization. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have redefined the processes of public opinion building, challenging traditional models of vertical communication and fostering more horizontal and dynamic interactions.

In the Cuban context, social networks have emerged as a transformative force characterized by a centralized political system, state control of traditional media, and a growing demand for openness and plurality. This phenomenon has become particularly relevant in recent years, as internet access has expanded on the island, providing citizens with new tools for social interaction and political criticism.

Social networks have allowed the creation of alternative spaces for public debate and facilitated the organization of social movements and protests, demonstrating an unprecedented capacity to challenge established structures. These spaces have given a voice to sectors of the population that traditionally did not have access to official communication channels, becoming a means of denouncing social, economic, and political problems and articulating collective demands.

This analysis explores how digital social networks are shaping new scenarios for citizen participation in Cuba, with special attention to their impact on democratic processes, social mobilization, and the generation of alternative narratives to the official discourse. It will also examine the challenges and limitations these platforms face in a complex political environment marked by tensions between government control and aspirations for greater openness and pluralism.

DEVELOPMENT

The relationship between democracy, social networks, and philosophical criticism since Plato

Digital social networks and democracy have maintained a very close relationship since their emergence; both have established a permanent dialogue with citizens, facilitating the strengthening of links with the environment of society. Creating new spaces for communication and guidelines for interaction between citizens and the State. Furthermore, they have served as a tool capable of observing, analyzing, and criticizing the management of those in power.

Democracy manifests the will of societies through its rulers. It is a form of government in which citizens assume the direction of public affairs. However, this only occurs in societies in which the rule of law dominates and where there is constituted legality. Thus, in an authoritarian state, there is no full democracy.

In his work The Republic, one of the best known and most recognized as his political anthology in the form of a Socratic dialogue, Plato logically explains the best government system for a society in civilized coexistence. He shows us that the best and fairest system is one in which society is in charge of the succession of the rulers of the State, which allows for a logical way of demonstrating the democracy existing in society.

"Democracy is born when the poor, after obtaining victory over the rich, kill some, banish others, and share with those who remain in the government and public offices, a distribution usually cast by lot in this political system". (Plato, op. cit. 557a.)

Plato also explains that the creation of Greek democracy was influenced by the Sophists or by the rulers. He explains that democracy was a system of government to be rejected since, for him, any citizen was competent to hold public office without having to receive prior training and did not need to demonstrate knowledge and integrity in order to be in government.

Plato argues that democracy in Greece was in the hands of politicians and demagogues who were only interested in their government position and, profiting from their office and abusing the political incapacity of the Greek people, coming to power through lies and deception. These were the reasons for his definitive rejection of the system of government since this system was also the cause of the most just and valuable men who opposed this form of government being judged and executed, including his teacher Socrates, who openly demonstrated that democracy was not a symbol of justice in the country.

According to Plato, oligarchy degenerates democracy into a place where freedom becomes slavery. It. It becomes the slavery of the State, which takes over the common property. The State, in trying to stay in power, ends up in the hands of the ignorant and manipulative masses of society who are only interested in enriching themselves and taking over all the property without caring about the needs and suffering of the citizens.

The Athenian democracy that ruled was a group of corrupt politicians and demagogues who trampled on and hindered the Greek people, abusing the political incapacity that ruled in society. Democratic leaders could be seen as demagogues, corrupt, ambitious, power-hungry, conniving, and educated by the Sophists with the aim of achieving power through flattery and deceit.

This is the cause of the disappointment that Plato demonstrates in his works on democracy. This political system was the cause of the extreme injustice of judging and executing the most just of men, the man who taught him everything he knew and who saw him as a paradigm to follow, his teacher Socrates. This fact showed him that democracy was not synonymous with justice.

"Democracy is then irreversibly degraded by the "freedom and debauchery" that prevail in it, since, without a socially defined hierarchy, "unnecessary desires" end up multiplying and occupying the entire field of the possible. Just as the excess of the principle of oligarchy — the immoderate desire for wealth — necessarily ends up tearing it down, the excess of the democratic principle — total freedom of action and expression — ultimately produces its opposite, tyranny." (Vernazza, 2012: p. 36).

It can, therefore, be understood that this phenomenon of democracy arises at the very moment when the desire for freedom begins to invade all areas of existence, public and private. During the establishment of a strictly egalitarian relationship between parents and children, citizens and the metic, teachers, and their pupils, the young and the old, it can also be said that at the moment when slaves and free men begin to feel the need to oppose the tyranny into which the government had been transformed.

The exercise of democracy best reflects a society's civic habits and customs. Today, this practice calls for the procurement of a

political experience in which citizens exercise their rights and have the knowledge to make better decisions.

Hence, the relationship between democracy, social networks, and philosophical criticism, as has been argued from Plato to the present day, reveals both the challenges and the possibilities inherent in the democratic exercise. Throughout history, democracy has been viewed with ambivalence as a system of government that can lead to either justice or tyranny, depending on its structure and the integrity of those in power. Plato's critique of Athenian democracy, reflected in his rejection of the manipulation of the people by demagogues and his diagnosis of political degeneration, offers valuable lessons for contemporary analysis.

Today, social networks act as an amplifier of citizens citizens' voices, providing a platform for exercising freedom of expression and exposing society to the risks of disinformation and manipulation. In this context, social networks become a new space for democratization and a battlefield where disputes are waged over the control of truth and power. The challenge for contemporary democracies and political systems such as the Cuban one lies in finding a balance between freedom of expression and the need to maintain an order that promotes social justice and collective well-being.

In this sense, Plato's philosophical reflection is still relevant for understanding how power dynamics, civic education, and political participation should align to build an indeed just democracy. Democracy, far from being an end in itself, is a constant process of vigilance, critique, and renewal, in which social networks play a crucial role as tools for interaction and visibility of social demands. As societies advance, the lessons of history and political philosophy, such as those of Plato, continue to illuminate the path toward a more authentic and balanced democratic practice.

The impact of social networks on the transformation of the Cuban political landscape

With the emergence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), humanity is going through an extraordinary stage of its development as an interconnected living organism. As Izquierdo, Del Río, and Silva (2020) point out, "The change it is experiencing is more than technological and economical; it is socio-cultural. In this convergence framework between various multimedia communication devices, everyday life is developing. These technological tools no longer just mediate the ways of existing, but constitute them in an increasingly indivisible way" (p. 12).

The development and evolution of ICTs gave rise to the emergence of the Internet, which has revolutionized how we communicate, inform, and interact. Since its creation, the internet has gone from being a niche tool used in academic and scientific circles to becoming a central pillar in the daily lives of millions of people. Its impact is not limited to interpersonal communication but extends to practically all social, economic, political, and cultural spheres.

In contemporary societies, the internet has established itself as a key tool for exercising the right to freedom of expression. Through its multiple applications and platforms, it has democratized access to information and has allowed millions of people to actively participate in public debates, something that was previously reserved for traditional media.

Digital platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube have profoundly transformed social and political communication dynamics. In this sense, they have allowed political actors, social movements, and ordinary citizens to reach mass audiences without needing costly infrastructure or a physical presence. In this way, social networks have facilitated the quick dissemination of proposals, ideas, and messages globally.

However, this expanded access to communication has also generated significant challenges. For example, the spread of fake news has become a critical problem, affecting the quality of information and trust in democratic institutions. This phenomenon has been exploited in disinformation campaigns to manipulate public opinion and, in some cases, influence key electoral processes.

Garrido (2020) explains that ICTs have not only changed how we communicate but have also redefined how we experience everyday life. Online interaction, often mediated by algorithms, has given rise to new socialization and identity construction forms. For example, social networks allow users to create and share content that reflects their interests, values, and aspirations, but they can also foster dynamics of social comparison, polarization, and isolation.

These tools have facilitated the creation of more personalized and targeted campaigns in the political arena. Political parties and candidates use data-driven strategies to segment their audiences and deliver messages specifically designed for specific demographic groups. This has led to more dynamic political communication, but it also raises questions about transparency and manipulating public opinion.

Despite the benefits associated with ICTs, their negative impact on inequality, privacy, and regulation cannot be ignored. The digital divide continues to be a significant barrier that excludes specific population sectors from accessing these technologies, especially in regions with limited infrastructure or marginalized communities. This perpetuates existing inequalities, hindering the full integration of these populations into the digital society.

Furthermore, privacy erosion has become one of the main concerns of the digital age. Companies and governments' mass collection of personal data poses serious risks to individual rights and security. In many cases, users are unaware of the extent of the information they share online and how it can be used for commercial or surveillance purposes.

Finally, to ensure that these tools are used ethically and sustainably, it is necessary to reflect on internet governance and the shared responsibility between state actors, private companies, and civil society. Regulating content on digital platforms, combating disinformation, and protecting user privacy are fundamental challenges that require a comprehensive and collaborative approach.

Casero-Ripollés (2018) argues that, in democratic societies, social networks have acquired a fundamental role in multiple areas: electoral processes, cyber activism, the fight against gender violence, cyberfeminism, and the spread of fake news, among others. These digital spaces have not only transformed political communication but have also redefined the interaction between citizens, institutions, and political power. However, their impact is not limited to consolidated democracies; in authoritarian or less democratic contexts, such as Cuba, social networks generate significantly transforming the dynamics between the State, citizens, and public

discourse.

In democratic systems, social networks have revolutionized politics by enabling direct, two-way communication between political actors and citizens. These platforms provide a space for social mobilization and cyberactivism, facilitating the organization of protests, awareness campaigns, and social movements around specific causes, such as the fight against gender violence and cyberfeminism.

Global movements such as #MeToo and #NiUnaMenos have shown how social networks can amplify voices, connect communities, and pressure institutions to bring about structural change.

However, these platforms are also fertile ground for information manipulation. The spread of fake news, disinformation campaigns, and conspiracy theories has undermined public confidence in electoral processes and democratic institutions. Social media algorithms, designed to maximize user interaction time, tend to prioritize emotional or polarizing content, exacerbating political fragmentation and the radicalization of opinions.

In authoritarian contexts, such as Cuba, social networks have acquired a particular political significance by becoming a tool for resistance and protest. For decades, state control over the traditional media guaranteed a monopoly on the official narrative, limiting citizens' access to alternative information. However, the arrival of the mobile internet in 2018 marked a turning point in the island' communications landscape.

Through social networks, citizens have made visible structural problems such as the economic crisis, the shortage of food and medicine, and the lack of civil liberties. These platforms have also served to denounce abuses of power, build solidarity networks, and challenge the official narrative promoted by the State. However, the use of social networks in Cuba is not without challenges. The government has intensified digital surveillance, blocking platforms and using technologies to track and repress dissidents and activists. In addition, the high cost of internet access remains a barrier for many of the population.

Social networks have redefined public discourse by blurring the boundaries between the private and the public in democratic and non-democratic contexts. These platforms allow for the construction of a digital public sphere where diverse voices converge. Still, they also pose challenges related to the quality of debate and the manipulation of narratives.

In democracies, access to a plurality of perspectives can enrich citizen dialogue. Still, it also encourages the fragmentation of the public sphere into "information bubbles" where users only interact with content that reinforces their pre-existing beliefs. In authoritarian regimes, social networks offer a space for dissent but expose users to significant risks, such as government repression and censorship.

Cuba: A peculiar and fascinating case study

Cuba represents a political and social laboratory unique in the world. Since 1959, the country has been ruled by the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), consolidated as the only political movement allowed on the island. This centralized model has exercised total control over economic, political, and social aspects, establishing an official narrative based on the principles of the Revolution. However, this system has operated in an adverse international context, as marked by the economic embargo imposed by the United States in 1960, which has been one of the most prolonged and severe in contemporary history.

The Cuban government has historically argued that the embargo is the leading cause of the country's economic difficulties. While this statement has merit, as trade and financial restrictions have significantly limited access to international markets and sources of financing, it does not fully explain the depth of the Cuban economy's structural problems.

Excessive economic centralization, inefficiency in state planning, and the reluctance to implement profound reforms without compromising political control have contributed significantly to economic precariousness. The lack of incentives for productivity, the rigidity of the distribution system, and the absence of a functional domestic market have generated an economy marked by chronic shortages, dependence on imports, and limited productive diversification.

In recent years, a combination of external and internal factors has led Cuba to face its worst economic crisis since the triumph of the Revolution. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the economy hard, mainly affecting tourism, one of the country's primary sources of foreign currency income. Global restrictions and the drop in international visitors left the Cuban economy without one of its most important safety valves.

Added to this is the impact of the global economic crisis and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has pushed up food and fuel prices internationally. For an economy highly dependent on imports, these dynamics have aggravated the shortage of essential goods, increasing the pressure on an already impoverished population.

Adverse economic conditions have triggered a massive migration unprecedented in Cuba's recent history. Young people, professionals, and entire families have chosen to leave the island in search of better opportunities in countries such as the United States, Mexico, and Spain. This migration not only reflects economic desperation but also a loss of confidence in the system' ability to guarantee a sustainable future.

The brain drain represents a critical challenge for the country, as it directly affects key sectors such as health, education, and technology. In the long term, this migration could further weaken the Cuban economy's productive and innovative capacities.

Amid this multifaceted crisis, access to digital social networks has had a transformative impact in Cuba. Since the arrival of mobile internet in 2018, Cuban society has undergone accelerated digitization, allowing citizens to connect with the outside world, access alternative information, and express their opinions more openly.

Social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and Telegram have become crucial tools for organizing social movements and denouncing structural problems. The mass protests of July 11, 2021 (11J), were an emblematic example of how these platforms can mobilize citizens in a context of authoritarianism. These demonstrations, primarily organized and amplified through digital

networks, broke decades of silence imposed by the State, making visible social discontent and demands for change.

However, using social networks has also unleashed a repressive response from the government. Digital surveillance, internet cuts, and the criminalization of online activists are strategies employed to maintain control over the flow of information and repress any form of dissent.

Access to social networks poses a new challenge for the Cuban government, which must adapt to an environment where information monopoly is no longer sustainable. At the same time, it offers citizens a powerful tool for building an alternative public sphere and demanding greater civil liberties.

However, social networks' transformative impact is conditioned by structural limitations, such as the high cost of internet access and restrictions imposed by the State. Although these platforms have opened a window of opportunity for social change, Cuba's future will depend on its citizens' ability to overcome these barriers and build a collective movement that articulates demands for reform.

Increasing access to social networks in Cuba has transformed how citizens interact with each other and how they relate to the State and the rest of the world. Before the massive arrival of the mobile internet in 2018, communication was practically monopolized by the official media, leaving little space for open criticism or the circulation of independent information. With digitalization, social platforms have broken this monopoly, becoming essential tools for organization, activism, and creating digital communities that transcend geographical borders.

Emergence of a digital public sphere

Today, social networks are not only channels for sharing personal content; they have also evolved into spaces where citizens express their concerns and denounce social, economic, and political problems. These platforms have democratized the production of and access to information, empowering users to document and make visible situations that previously went unnoticed or were silenced.

For example, through hashtags such as #SOSCuba, Cubans have drawn international attention to living conditions on the island, generating solidarity and support from abroad. This phenomenon has also contributed to creating collaborative networks between activists, journalists, and members of the Cuban diaspora, who play a key role in amplifying local voices and disproving state propaganda.

In addition to being a channel for mass protests such as those of July 11, 2021, social media has given rise to more everyday and subtle forms of digital resistance. Videos, memes, illustrations, and satirical posts criticize the government and express discontent, challenging official narratives in a creative and accessible way. These digital cultural manifestations function as an emotional outlet and strengthen the sense of community among users, who feel part of a collective movement in search of change.

In addition, the growth of independent digital media, such as CubaNet, Diario de Cuba, 14ymedio, and CiberCuba, has been instrumental in challenging the official government discourse. These media outlets, often run from exile, offer an alternative perspective on the Cuban reality, documenting human rights violations, corruption, and the difficulties of everyday life on the island. In doing so, they not only provide a space for plural debate but also become a reliable source for international journalists and researchers interested in the Cuban situation.

These media outlets have developed innovative strategies to circumvent censorship and reach audiences inside the island, such as using virtual private networks (VPN), distributing content through messaging applications such as WhatsApp and Telegram, or downloading materials in offline format. This has allowed them to maintain a constant flow of information, even in an environment marked by digital surveillance and restrictions on internet access.

The Cuban diaspora, empowered by social networks, has played a crucial role in transforming the island' media landscape. From outside Cuba, exiled Cubans have used these platforms to draw attention to the economic and political crisis, raise funds for social initiatives, and put pressure on foreign governments to take a stronger stance on human rights on the island. This exchange between inside and outside has created a unique synergy, where local voices are amplified, and those of the diaspora act as a bridge to connect the Cuban reality with international audiences.

Despite progress, the use of social networks and independent digital media in Cuba faces significant challenges. Internet access is still limited and expensive for a large part of the population, and the government uses tactics such as internet cuts, digital surveillance, and persecution of activists to maintain control. However, the creativity and resilience of citizens have shown that these barriers are not insurmountable.

The growth of social networks and independent media represents an irreversible change in the relationship between Cubans and the State. As more people connect and participate in the digital ecosystem, demands for transparency, civil rights, and greater freedoms will likely increase. This new paradigm redefines the Cuban media landscape and challenges the government's ability to maintain its information monopoly in an interconnected world.

Innovation versus censorship: Expanding the limits of digital creativity

In an environment marked by restrictions on internet access and government censorship, Cubans have cultivated ingenious strategies to circumvent these limitations and keep information and entertainment networks alive. El Paquete Semanal (The Weekly Package) is still one of the most emblematic examples of this inventiveness. However, the phenomenon does not stop there. New initiatives have emerged, taking advantage of available technological tools to expand access to content. Applications such as Zapya allow files to be shared directly between mobile devices without an internet connection. These informal distribution networks have become a parallel ecosystem where news, films, tutorials, software, and even speeches critical of the government circulate.

Another important innovation has been using virtual private networks (VPNs) to circumvent digital restrictions. Although these tools are often expensive and technically complex for many, they have allowed citizens and independent journalists to access blocked content and publish information in real-time. In addition, groups organized on platforms such as Telegram have created news and discussion channels where people can participate relatively anonymously, reducing the risk of state reprisals.

Young people, in particular, have found humor to be a powerful tool for challenging the status quo. Content creators using platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram have developed a language that combines satire and creativity, allowing them to address sensitive issues in a way that is accessible and engaging to audiences. The use of humor not only disarms the official narrative but also connects emotionally with viewers, generating a collective response beyond simple laughter.

Digital comedy programs and satirical sketches have flourished in the Cuban public sphere. These content dismantle official discourses with irony, showing contradictions in public policies or exposing leaders' disconnection from the people's real needs. The impact is particularly strong among young people, who not only consume this content but also redistribute it massively through private networks and groups on messaging platforms.

In addition to entertaining, these digital strategies have contributed to forming a more critical and informed citizenry. Online tutorials and forums allow Cubans to learn technical skills, access global knowledge, and better understand their rights as citizens. Digitalization has opened the door to debates on subjects previously considered taboo, such as racism, gender violence, and sexual diversity. This has promoted greater social awareness and fostered new forms of community organization.

For example, independent initiatives such as YucaByte and Periodismo de Barrio have combined journalistic research with digital storytelling to document stories from a humanist perspective. These platforms have created spaces where citizens can share their experiences, denounce injustices, and build support networks.

The growth of this digital ecosystem presents an increasingly complex challenge for the Cuban government. Although it has attempted to tighten control through laws such as Decree Law 370 and Decree 35, which penalize the dissemination of counter-revolutionary information, these measures have proven insufficient to stem the flow of critical content. Instead, they have had a counterproductive effect: greater creativity in resistance strategies and a growing rejection of censorship.

The government also faces a significant loss of legitimacy in the digital space. While social networks offer a showcase where citizens can expose everyday problems such as shortages, blackouts, and corruption, the government government' attempts to minimize these complaints reinforce the perception of disconnection between leaders and the population.

On the other hand, methods of repression, such as cutting off the internet during protests, arresting digital activists, and conducting smear campaigns against independent journalists, have intensified social discontent. Far from containing dissent, these acts feed a cycle of resistance in which more and more people join the critical movement.

The Cuban digital landscape is constantly evolving. Although the challenges are enormous, social networks and emerging technologies continue to open cracks in the system of state control. The expansion of internet access, driven by a growing demand for connectivity, and the resilience of citizens to overcome technical and financial obstacles augur a future where the digital public sphere will continue to consolidate itself as a key space for expression, organization, and social change.

The key question will be whether the government can adapt to this new reality or persist with an increasingly unsustainable model of censorship and repression. At the same time, the international community and the Cuban diaspora have a crucial role to play in supporting these processes, promoting initiatives that strengthen connectivity, digital literacy, and access to technological tools on the island.

CONCLUSIONS

The evolution of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has profoundly transformed the relationship between citizens and governments, changing the dynamics of power and communication. In the case of Cuba, access to the internet and the use of digital platforms have allowed citizens to challenge the official narrative, offering a space for free expression, political criticism, and social organization. Through initiatives such as the Weekly Package, the use of VPNs, and the proliferation of independent digital media, Cubans have demonstrated a remarkable capacity for innovation to overcome the restrictions imposed by the regime and stay connected to the world.

Digital activism and tools such as social networks have empowered young people, who have adopted humor and satire as strategies to question the system, spread alternative ideas, and make social and political problems visible. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube have become vehicles for criticism, dissent, and the construction of a new digital citizenship. This phenomenon has led to a reconfiguration of forms of political participation, empowering citizens to exercise their right to freedom of expression in innovative and challenging ways.

However, this boom in digital communication has not been without challenges. The Cuban government has responded to this transformation with repressive policies, censorship, and the criminalization of dissent, which has exacerbated tensions between state control and the growing demand for greater openness and freedom. Despite efforts to control the flow of information, the impact of social networks and digital platforms is irreversible, and new digital actors are effectively challenging government control over traditional media.

In general terms, Cuba's case demonstrates how ICTs can function as a catalyst for social change, offering new forms of political and civic interaction. As citizens continue to take advantage of technologies to organize, share information, and denounce injustices, censorship, and state repression become responses that are increasingly difficult to implement effectively. In this sense, the Cuban situation can serve as a model for other authoritarian contexts, showing both the potential and the limits of technology as a tool for resistance.

Cuba's digital future will depend on several factors, such as the development of technological infrastructures, increased internet access, and international cooperation to foster a more complimentary and open environment. However, it is indisputable that ICTs have left a deep mark on Cuban socety, and their capacity to promote political and social transformation continues to evolve in the context of growing digital dissent.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

CONTRIBUTION OF AUTHORSHIP

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