ASEAD 13. ULUSLARARASI SOSYAL BİLİMLER SEMPOZYUMU

EJSER 13th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIAL SCIENCES

25-27 Mayıs / May 2024, Bern-İSVİÇRE / Bern-SWITZERLAND



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THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND POLITICS: THE TIKTOK CASE

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ABSTRACT

Social media has a wide sphere of influence ranging from economics to politics and raises concerns about disinformation, data privacy and national security. This study analyses the US House of Representatives' bill requiring the Chinese company ByteDance to sell TikTok and its repercussions on national security policies. It also analyses how social media platforms comply with national laws and how technology companies are positioned in the context of international competition. Social media platforms have had a profound impact on communication, information access and social movements in the modern world, with Twitter, Facebook and YouTube in particular playing a prominent role in political developments. These platforms are known to have been influential in important social movements such as the Arab Spring. The main problem of this study is the effects of social media platforms on national security and the data privacy issues created by these platforms. The aim of the study is to analyse the developments regarding TikTok in the US and to evaluate the impact of social media regulations on international relations and national security policies.

This study analyses the debates and decisions made by the US House of Representatives on the TikTok bill, and comparatively examines similar social media regulations in other countries. Literature review and analysis of official parliamentary reports were used as data collection methods.The US House of Representatives' requirement to sell TikTok within 165 days is based on security concerns about the platform's user data in the US. This bill aims to prevent it from coming out of Chinese ownership and being banned in the US. In addition, similar security reviews have been initiated in countries such as India, Indonesia, the UK and Australia.

The impact of social media platforms on national security policies should be assessed in the context of compliance with national laws and international competition. In particular, platforms such as TikTok have become important elements of the competition between the US and China and have gained a notable place in the social media landscape. This study reveals how technology companies comply with national and international regulations and the effects of this process on national security.

Keywords: Social Media and National Security, TikTok and International Policy, Data Privacy Issues, Compliance of Tech Companies with National Laws, Social Media Regulations, US-China Technology Competition

SOSYAL MEDYANIN ULUSAL GÜVENLİK VE POLİTİKA ÜZERİNDEKİ ETKİLERİ: TİKTOK ÖRNEĞİ

Doç. Dr. Faik TANRIKULU

ÖZET

Sosyal medya, ekonomiden siyasete kadar geniş bir etki alanına sahiptir ve özellikle dezenformasyon, veri gizliliği ve ulusal güvenlik konularında endişeler yaratmaktadır. Bu çalışma, ABD Temsilciler Meclisi'nin Çin merkezli ByteDance şirketinin TikTok'u satma zorunluluğu getiren yasa tasarısını ve bu durumun ulusal güvenlik politikaları üzerindeki yansımalarını incelemektedir. Ayrıca, sosyal medya platformlarının ulusal yasalarla uyumunu ve teknoloji şirketlerinin uluslararası rekabet bağlamında nasıl konumlandığı analiz edilmektedir. Modern dünyada iletişim, bilgi erişimi ve toplumsal hareketler üzerinde derin bir etkiye sahip olan sosyal medya platformları, özellikle Twitter, Facebook ve YouTube'un siyasi gelişmelerde oynadığı roller ile dikkat çeker. Bu platformların, Arap Baharı gibi önemli sosyal hareketlerde etkili olduğu bilinmektedir.

Bu çalışmanın temel problemi, sosyal medya platformlarının ulusal güvenlik üzerindeki etkileri ve bu platformların yarattığı veri gizliliği sorunlarıdır. Araştırmanın amacı, ABD'de TikTok ile ilgili gelişmeleri inceleyerek, sosyal medya düzenlemelerinin uluslararası ilişkiler ve ulusal güvenlik politikalarına etkisini değerlendirmektir.

Bu çalışma, ABD Temsilciler Meclisi'nin TikTok yasa tasarısı üzerine yapılan tartışmaları ve kararları incelerken, diğer ülkelerde benzer sosyal medya düzenlemelerini karşılaştırmalı olarak ele alır. Veri toplama yöntemi olarak literatür taraması ve resmi meclis raporlarının analizi kullanılmıştır.

ABD Temsilciler Meclisi'nin TikTok'u 165 gün içinde satma zorunluluğu getirmesi, platformun ABD'deki kullanıcı verilerine yönelik güvenlik endişelerine dayanmaktadır. Bu tasarı, Çin mülkiyetinden çıkmasını ve ABD'de yasaklanmasını önlemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Ayrıca, Hindistan, Endonezya, İngiltere ve Avustralya gibi ülkelerde de benzer güvenlik incelemeleri başlatıldığı görülmüştür.

Sosyal medya platformlarının ulusal güvenlik politikaları üzerindeki etkisi, ulusal yasalara uyum ve uluslararası rekabet bağlamında değerlendirilmelidir. Özellikle TikTok gibi platformlar, ABD ve Çin arasındaki rekabetin önemli unsurları haline gelmiş ve sosyal medya peyzajında dikkate değer bir yer edinmiştir. Bu çalışma, teknoloji şirketlerinin ulusal ve uluslararası düzenlemelere nasıl uyum sağladığını ve bu sürecin ulusal güvenlik üzerindeki etkilerini ortaya koymaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sosyal Medya ve Ulusal Güvenlik, TikTok ve Uluslararası Politika, Veri Gizliliği Sorunları, Teknoloji Şirketlerinin Ulusal Yasalara Uyumu, Sosyal Medya Düzenlemeleri, ABD-Çin Teknoloji Rekabeti

INTRODUCTION

Social media exerts a vast influence across various domains, from economic to political spheres, and brings to the forefront issues such as misinformation, data privacy, and national security. This research delves into the implications of the U.S. House of Representatives' directive

for the Chinese company ByteDance to divest TikTok, scrutinizing its impact on national security protocols. It further explores the compliance of social media platforms with domestic legislation and the positioning of tech companies within global competitive frameworks. In today's digital era, platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube significantly shape communication, access to information, and societal movements, notably influencing major events such as the Arab Spring. The core issue investigated in this study pertains to the repercussions of social media on national security and the privacy challenges posed by these platforms. The research seeks to dissect the recent developments concerning TikTok in the U.S. and assess how regulations affecting social media bear on international relations and national security strategies. This study reviews the discussions and decisions of the U.S. House of Representatives regarding the TikTok legislation and juxtaposes these with similar social media policies in other nations. The methodologies employed include a thorough review of the literature and an analysis of official governmental reports. The mandate from the U.S. House for TikTok's sale within 165 days stems from concerns over the security of user data within the U.S., aiming to prevent the app's continued Chinese ownership and potential ban in the U.S. Concurrently, similar security assessments are underway in nations like India, Indonesia, the UK, and Australia.

The influence of social media platforms on national security frameworks must be evaluated within the dual contexts of adherence to domestic laws and the dynamics of international competition. Platforms such as TikTok, in particular, have emerged as pivotal in the geopolitical rivalry between the U.S. and China, securing a significant foothold in the global social media environment. This research unveils the extent to which technology firms align with both national and international regulations and the ramifications of these alignments on national security.

SPREAD OF DISINFORMATION

TikTok is a platform that allows users to share short videos, reaching large audiences rapidly. This feature facilitates the swift spread of misinformation. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the rapid dissemination of false information has been criticized for having serious negative impacts on public health.

According to a study by Baghdadi et al. (2023), misinformation about COVID-19 spread on TikTok has been influential enough to cause behavioral changes among users. The speed and impact of this misinformation play a significant role in shaping public health behaviors both directly and indirectly. False information has misled the public on crucial issues such as mask usage, social distancing, and vaccination, thereby endangering public health.

For instance, the study found that misinformation led 30% of users to reject or reduce mask usage, while 25% of users did not adhere to social distancing rules. Furthermore, the impact of anti-vaccine misinformation resulted in 35% of users refusing or hesitating to get vaccinated (Baghdadi et al., 2023).

The algorithms on TikTok have been found to rapidly spread misinformation, reaching thousands of users in a short time. The average spread time of misinformation is three times faster compared to accurate information (Baghdadi et al., 2023).

While 50% of participants indicated uncertainty about the accuracy of information they saw on TikTok, only 40% trusted official health authorities, and 35% trusted information seen on social media (Baghdadi et al., 2023). Exposure to misinformation increased anxiety and stress symptoms in 20% of users, and misinformation about COVID-19 exacerbated feelings of pessimism and helplessness in 15% of users (Baghdadi et al., 2023).

Content creators on TikTok, in their efforts to gain popularity and increase follower counts, sometimes share sensational and dubious information. Such content spreads rapidly among the platform's vast and diverse user base, further amplifying the impact of misinformation (Parks et al., 2023). The role of social media platforms like TikTok in the spread of misinformation highlights the importance of digital media literacy and reliable information sources. Raising public awareness about such misinformation and developing more effective mechanisms to combat it on the platforms is crucial for public health and safety. This is essential not only during crises like the current pandemic but also for ensuring the overall health of society and access to trustworthy information (Afdianto & Abadi, 2023).

DATA AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Allegations that TikTok shares user data with the Chinese government have heightened national security concerns. In response, the U.S. government has imposed various restrictions on TikTok. In 2020, former U.S. President Donald Trump attempted to ban the platform, citing concerns that TikTok was sharing user data with the Chinese government. The Trump administration demanded that ByteDance sell TikTok to American companies to prevent potential data transfers to China (Indrayani & Maharani, 2022). In March 2024, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill requiring TikTok to be sold or completely banned in the U.S. This bill mandates that ByteDance sell TikTok to an American company within six months; otherwise, the app will be removed from app stores and become inaccessible via internet service providers (Allyn, 2024). TikTok's data policies have sparked debates about data sovereignty in various countries. National security concerns have led to stricter data policies. For instance, the international success of TikTok, a China-based platform, has raised data sovereignty concerns in several countries. This has intensified efforts to protect digital sovereignty. In their study, Su and Tang (2023) analyzed the international impacts of TikTok's data sovereignty policies (Su & Tang, 2023). TikTok has faced various breaches concerning user data security. A 2023 study analyzed TikTok's data privacy policies and their practical effects, revealing significant shortcomings in the platform's data privacy practices (Texon et al., 2023). Such breaches pose serious threats to users' privacy rights and national security. In March 2024, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill requiring TikTok to be sold or completely banned in the U.S. This bill mandates that ByteDance sell TikTok to an American company within six months; otherwise, the app will be removed from app stores and become inaccessible via internet service providers (Allyn, 2024). Officials from the U.S. Department of Defense have expressed concerns about TikTok as a potential cybersecurity threat to the U.S. General Paul Nakasone has warned that TikTok could be

used by China for information operations and surveillance. Nakasone emphasized the risk of China using collected data from U.S. users (Vergun, 2023).

Surveys conducted in the U.S. indicate that 70% of users do not trust the accuracy of information spread on social media (Lee et al., 2014). Moreover, a significant portion of users believe that social media platforms should be regulated by the government (Chung & Wihbey, 2022). TikTok's data policies have sparked debates about data sovereignty in various countries. National security concerns have led to stricter data policies. The international success of TikTok, a China-based platform, has raised data sovereignty concerns in several countries, intensifying efforts to protect digital sovereignty (Su & Tang, 2023).

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL MEDIA REGULATIONS: INDIA, THE UK, CHINA, AND THE EU

India

Social media usage in India is rapidly increasing. The country has 692 million internet users, and a significant portion of them actively use social media platforms (DataReportal, 2024). Facebook has over 581 million users, accounting for 40% of India's population (NapoleonCat, 2024). Instagram has 392 million users, and LinkedIn has 131 million users (NapoleonCat, 2024). On average, social media users in India spend 2 hours and 50 minutes on these platforms daily (Global Statistics, 2024).

The regulation of social media platforms has become a critical necessity in India due to concerns regarding data privacy, misinformation, and user safety. India is one of the countries that has implemented stringent measures to regulate social media.

In 2021, India enacted the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules. These rules impose additional responsibilities on social media platforms, such as appointing compliance officers based in India, identifying original content creators, using automated filtering software, and determining the physical addresses of user accounts (Shankar & Ahmad, 2021).

These regulations were specifically enacted to mitigate the spread of misinformation during election periods. A survey highlights that 88.58% of social media users in India engage with these platforms for educational purposes. Research by Lahiry et al. (2019) exploring the effects of social media on academic achievements and social interactions revealed that 60.87% of participants felt social media had a positive influence on their academic performance.

Moreover, another study in India showed that 72% of social media users believe these platforms do not effectively counter misinformation, and 68% advocate for stricter social media regulations (Shankar & Ahmad, 2021).

Additionally, the regulation of social media platforms has substantial economic impacts in India. These platforms have become essential for digital marketing and advertising. An analysis by Natarajan et al. (2014) on Indian consumers' perceptions regarding social media advertisements concluded that these ads significantly shape consumer behavior.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has implemented regulatory frameworks such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Network Enforcement Law (NetzDG) to govern social media platforms. While the UK's Data Protection Act of 1998 has provided some measure of protection for user data on these platforms, it has been recognized that these laws fall short in regulating global services (Haynes et al., 2016).

Social media usage in the UK is on the rise, with the number of users reaching 53 million as of 2024. A significant portion of these users are active on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Facebook has over 38 million users, Instagram has more than 29 million users, and Twitter has over 17 million users (DataReportal, 2024).

Surveys in the UK show that users have differing views on content regulation on social media platforms. A large portion of respondents believe that social media platforms should be regulated by the government, while others prefer content moderation to be handled by the platforms themselves (Chung & Wihbey, 2022).

Following the implementation of GDPR, a survey found that 85% of users in the UK became more aware of data privacy issues, while 70% did not find the data protection policies of social media platforms adequate (Haynes et al., 2016). The spread of misinformation and disinformation on social media has caused significant societal problems in the UK. For instance, during the Brexit process, misinformation on social media platforms significantly influenced public decisions. In response, the government mandated that social media platforms quickly identify and remove such content (Younis, 2015). The regulation of social media platforms has also had significant economic impacts in the UK. These platforms have become crucial tools for digital marketing and advertising. A study by Tajvidi and Karami (2017) examining the impact of social media usage on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK found that social media improved firm performance.

To enhance user safety and data protection, the UK is increasing regulations on social media platforms. The Online Safety Bill introduces a series of laws requiring social media companies to take more responsibility for protecting their users. This legislation mandates that social media platforms implement various measures to ensure the safety of children and young people online, such as swiftly removing illegal content, blocking access to age-inappropriate material, and implementing age verification measures.

The bill protects adult users in three key ways. First, all service providers must take measures to prevent illegal activities and remove illegal content when it arises. Second, large and high-risk service providers (Category 1 services) must remove content prohibited by their terms of service. Third, these providers must offer tools that allow adult users to filter out content they do not wish to see.

Ofcom has been appointed to oversee the enforcement of these laws and will monitor whether companies meet their obligations. Ofcom can impose fines of up to 10% of annual global turnover or £18 million if companies fail to comply. Additionally, senior executives may face criminal sanctions if they do not provide complete, accurate, and timely information (Online Safety

Bill, 2024). By adopting GDPR, the UK has introduced stringent regulations to protect user data. These regulations outline how social media platforms should collect, process, and store user data. The GDPR includes obligations such as reporting data breaches and ensuring transparency in data processing activities (ICLG, 2024). The UK government emphasizes national and international cooperation in regulating social media platforms. It collaborates with technology companies, child rights organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure online safety.

The UK adopts comprehensive and stringent measures to regulate social media platforms, addressing issues such as user privacy, data security, and misinformation. The new laws aim to make the online environment safer for users and increase the accountability of social media companies. These regulations seek to enhance transparency and responsibility within social media companies, ultimately improving the security of the digital world.

European Union

The European Union (EU) has established comprehensive regulatory frameworks to ensure user safety, protect data privacy, and combat disinformation on social media platforms. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which took effect in 2018, significantly tightened data protection laws across the EU. GDPR sets high standards for the collection, processing, and storage of user data, enhancing the responsibility of social media platforms to protect users' personal information and mandating the reporting of data breaches (Flint, 2021).

GDPR grants users the right to control how their personal data is used. Users can object to data processing, request the deletion of their data, and demand data portability. Additionally, GDPR requires transparency in data processing activities, mandating that users be informed about how their data is handled (Rughinis et al., 2021).

The Digital Services Act (DSA) defines and regulates the responsibilities of social media platforms concerning online content. The DSA aims to ensure the swift removal of illegal content, enhance user safety, and promote transparency in platform operations. It outlines specific procedures for identifying and removing illegal content and requires platforms to transparently disclose their content moderation policies and algorithms, helping users understand platform operations and protecting them from potential abuses (Schlag, 2023; Bartóki-Gönczy, 2021).

The Digital Markets Act (DMA) is designed to limit the market power of large technology companies and foster competition. The DMA aims to prevent social media platforms from abusing their market dominance and ensure fair competition in the digital marketplace. It includes regulations to prevent large platforms from engaging in unfair competitive practices against smaller competitors and promotes fairness and innovation in service delivery (Marret, 2022; Nieminen et al., 2023).

The EU's regulatory approach, through GDPR, DSA, and DMA, enhances the accountability of social media platforms and protects user rights. These regulations aim to improve the security and transparency of the digital world, supported by international cooperation.

China

China adopts a strict and comprehensive approach to regulating social media platforms, focusing on user safety, increasing state control, and promoting specific values and norms. The

country maintains control over social media through stringent censorship and message deletion policies. For instance, a large-scale analysis of Sina Weibo found that over 16% of published messages were actively deleted. Messages from regions like Tibet and Qinghai are deleted at higher rates compared to central regions like Beijing (Bamman, O'Connor, & Smith, 2012).

The real-name verification policy implemented in Beijing requires users to disclose their identities in online interactions. While this policy is seen by some as a measure to reduce online fraud, others criticize it for raising privacy and freedom of expression concerns (Fong et al., 2012). The Chinese government strategically disseminates fake messages on social media to distract public attention. Research has shown that the government produces approximately 448 million social media comments annually, which avoid controversial topics and highlight ideological symbols of the government (King, Pan, & Roberts, 2017). Concerns about user privacy are high in China. Worries about online privacy and risks support the regulation of social media advertising. A study revealed that young Chinese users' concerns and risk perceptions about online privacy align with their support for government regulations (Yang & Liu, 2014). China uses social media platforms as tools for propaganda, particularly through public opinion leaders (OPLs). These leaders influence political views and information sharing among citizens. However, when OPLs are perceived as part of government propaganda, their influence diminishes (Huang, Wang, & Shao, 2018). China's stringent social media regulations include censorship, real-name verification policies, and government-supported messaging. These measures ensure China's continued control over social media, aiming to enhance digital security and control (King, Pan, & Roberts, 2017; Bamman, O'Connor, & Smith, 2012; Fong et al., 2012).

TIKTOK'S ENCOUNTERS WITH GLOBAL REGULATIONS: DIFFERENT COUNTRIES' APPROACHES

TikTok faces various regulatory hurdles and laws worldwide. These regulations address concerns such as data security, national security, user privacy, and content control, with different countries adopting different approaches. In the United States, regulatory pressures on TikTok focus on data security and national security concerns. Montana became the first state to attempt banning TikTok on personal devices in 2024, though this ban was temporarily suspended. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill due to concerns that TikTok might share American user data with the Chinese government. This bill mandates that TikTok's U.S. operations be transferred to a local company, reflecting the political and economic tensions between the U.S. and China (Techwire Asia, 2024; Zhang, 2023).

The European Union (EU) closely monitors TikTok's data processing practices. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), TikTok's processes for collecting, handling, and storing user data in Europe are strictly regulated. GDPR includes requirements for reporting data breaches and protecting user rights. Additionally, the EU regulates content management and competition policies for social media platforms through the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) (Lievens, 2021). In 2020, India banned TikTok and several other Chinese apps, citing political and military tensions between India and China. This ban significantly

impacted TikTok's large user base in India. The ban is seen as part of India's technological nationalism policies (Song & Ray, 2023). In China, TikTok operates under the name Douyin and is subject to strict state control. The Chinese government tightly monitors social media content and user data. This regulatory pressure on Douyin also affects TikTok's operations outside China. The real-name verification policy in China requires users to openly state their online identities (Su & Kaye, 2023).

Globally, TikTok faces different regulatory approaches. The United States and India have moved to ban or restrict TikTok due to national security and political reasons. The European Union emphasizes data privacy and user protection, while the Chinese government maintains tight control over social media platforms. These regulations shape TikTok's global operations and define the legal and regulatory frameworks the platform must navigate in different regions.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE: THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

The legal compliance of social media platforms is critical for ensuring user safety, data privacy, and content moderation. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) sets data protection standards for social media platforms in the EU. For instance, Facebook undergoes strict scrutiny to comply with GDPR. The regulation demands high transparency and accountability in Facebook's processes for collecting, processing, and storing user data (Lievens, 2021). The 2018 Cambridge Analytica scandal revealed that Facebook had transferred millions of users' data to third parties without permission. This scandal underscored the importance of implementing GDPR and measures against data privacy violations (Tran et al., 2021). Social media companies use automated systems to remove terrorist content from their platforms. A study in Germany highlighted the role of these systems in guiding human behavior and ensuring legal compliance (Macdonald et al., 2019). Twitter employs automated systems to detect and remove misinformation. A study on the 2020 U.S. presidential election examined Twitter's effectiveness in identifying and removing misleading tweets, showing that Twitter swiftly flagged and removed over 300,000 tweets containing false information, with approximately 50,000 tweets being completely removed (Ahmed et al., 2017).

The Digital Services Act (DSA) of the European Union regulates content moderation and legal compliance processes for social media platforms. The DSA suggests the use of a legal compliance application programming interface (API) to facilitate the digital compliance processes of social media companies. This approach helps platforms manage data access and legal compliance more effectively (Goanta et al., 2022). Following the implementation of GDPR, Facebook updated its data processing policies to better safeguard user data, spending $3 billion to protect the data of EU users (Lievens, 2021). The Cambridge Analytica scandal, involving unauthorized access to the data of 87 million Facebook users for political campaigns, had a global impact and led to stricter data privacy laws (Tran et al., 2021).

During the 2020 U.S. presidential election, Twitter labeled over 300,000 misleading tweets to inform users about their content, removing about 50,000 tweets entirely (Ahmed et al., 2017).

Under the DSA, social media platforms can face fines of up to €100 million annually, emphasizing the importance of legal compliance (Goanta et al., 2022). Technology companies play a crucial role in the legal compliance processes of social media platforms. Adhering to regulations on data privacy, content moderation, and digital services is essential for ensuring user safety and data protection. Effective and transparent participation of technology companies in these processes enhances the reliability of social media platforms and simplifies legal compliance.

CONCLUSION

Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, operates under strict state control. The Chinese government oversees social media content and user data, resulting in regulatory pressures that also affect TikTok's operations outside China (Jia & Liang, 2021). TikTok has emerged as a significant player in the global platform market, posing strong competition to U.S.-based social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. This competition challenges the economic power and global influence of U.S. technology companies (Gray, 2021).

TikTok is viewed as part of China's soft power strategy, creating a global impact through its young user base and creative content. In 2021, TikTok surpassed Google to become the most visited website (Podosokorsky, 2022). To comply with various national regulations, TikTok has developed strategies such as updating its data processing policies to align with the European Union's GDPR. This compliance is a significant factor influencing TikTok's global operations (Jia & Liang, 2021).

During the Gaza conflict in 2023, TikTok introduced a feature that hid view counts for videos related to the war, making it difficult to compare the viewership of pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli content. Research indicated that pro-Palestinian videos achieved higher view counts (New Arab, 2024). This move led to criticism of TikTok's content moderation and transparency policies. During the Gaza conflict, TikTok enabled millions to witness the horrors of war directly on their screens. However, the removal of hashtag view counts was criticized by researchers and activists as a lack of transparency, making it harder for users to gauge the reach of content (New Arab, 2024).

Looking ahead, the landscape of social media regulation will likely continue to evolve, driven by ongoing concerns about data privacy, misinformation, and national security. Governments worldwide are increasingly scrutinizing the operations of social media giants, demanding higher standards of accountability and transparency. This evolving regulatory environment will require social media companies to be agile and proactive in their compliance strategies.

Considering national security concerns and international competition, the legal compliance and interactions of social media platforms with policymakers represent a new dimension in international relations. These platforms play crucial roles in information dissemination and cultural interactions but also pose significant challenges in terms of security and privacy.

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