#iranelection: Hashtag Solidarity And The Transformation Of Online Life
The protests following Iran’s fraudulent 2009 Presidential election took the world by storm. As the Green Revolution gained protestors in the Iranian streets, #iranelection became the first long-trending international hashtag. Texts, images, videos, audio recordings, and links connected protestors on the ground and netizens online, all simultaneously transmitting and living a shared international experience. #iranelection follows the protest movement, on the ground and online, to investigate how emerging social media platforms developed international solidarity. The 2009 protests in Iran were the first revolts to be catapulted onto the global stage by social media, just as the 1979 Iranian Revolution was agitated by cassette tapes. And as the world turned to social media platforms to understand the events on the ground, social media platforms also adapted and developed to accommodate this global activism. Provocative and eye-opening, #iranelection reveals the new online ecology of social protest and offers a prehistory, of sorts, of the uses of hashtags and trending topics, selfies and avatar activism, and citizen journalism and YouTube mashups.

Book Information
Paperback: 152 pages
Publisher: Stanford Briefs (July 15, 2015)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0804795878
Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 8 inches
Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item
Best Sellers Rank: #591,206 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #246 in Books > History > Middle East > Iran #432 in Books > Computers & Technology > Internet & Social Media > Social Media #795 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections

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