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Qadaya siyasiyyat

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي  
جامعة النهريين  
كلية العلوم السياسية

Ministry of Higher Education  
& Scientific Research  
Al-Nahrain University  
College of Political Science



# قضايا سياسية Political Issues

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العدد ٨٤

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كلية العلوم السياسية

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مجلة فصلية محكمة تعنى بنشر الأبحاث والدراسات السياسية العراقية والعربية والدولية  
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البحوث المنشورة تعبر عن آراء أصحابها وليس بالضرورة عن رأي المجلة

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- لغة المجلة هي اللغة العربية والانكليزية على أن يراعى الوضوح وسلامة النص.
- ترحب المجلة بنشر البحوث والدراسات السياسية النظرية والتطبيقية ولا سيما التي تجعل من قضايا المنطقة والعالم محط اهتمامها، ماضياً وحاضراً ومستقبلاً، وعلى وفق الآتي:
  1. أن لا يزيد عدد صفحات البحث أو الدراسة عن (15) صفحة مطبوعة بحجم خط (14) والتباعد (1,15) ونوع الخط Simplified Arabic تقدم عبر المنصة الاليكترونية للمجلة على الرابط :  
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  2. أن تتصف البحوث والدراسات بالموضوعية والدقة العلمية.
  3. أن تعتمد الترتيم العشري للعناوين الأساسية والفرعية او التصنيف المعياري العام.
  4. يرفق مع كل بحث او دراسة ملخصين (احدهما باللغة العربية والآخر باللغة الانكليزية/ يتضمن اهداف البحث ، المنهج والمعالجة ، ابرز النتائج واهم الاستنتاجات والمقترحات) مع ضرورة مراعاة ان الملخص مختلف اختلافا جذريا عن المقدمة وليس تكرارا لها .
  5. تخضع جميع البحوث المقبولة للنشر الى نظام الاستلال الالكتروني في كلية العلوم السياسية -جامعة النهريين.
  6. يرفق مع كل بحث ودراسة سيرة ذاتية مختصرة للباحث وتعهده .
- تقوم المجلة بإخطار الباحثين بإجازة بحوثهم أو دراساتهم من عدمها بعد عرضها على محكمين تختارهم على نحو سري من بين أصحاب الاختصاص.

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- يجوز للمجلة أن تطلب إجراء تعديلات شكلية أو شاملة على البحث أو الدراسة قبل إجازتها للنشر بما يتماشى مع أهدافها.
- البحوث المنشورة تعبر عن آراء أصحابها ، ولا تعبر عن رأي المجلة .
- ترحب المجلة بالمناقشات الموضوعية لما ينشر فيها أو في غيرها من الدوريات وبأية ردود فكرية أو تصويب، وكذلك ترحب بنشر التقارير عن المؤتمرات والندوات ذات العلاقة ومراجعات الكتب وملخصات الرسائل الجامعية التي تتم إجازتها على أن تكون من إعداد أصحابها.

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## The Digital Media and the Construction of the Violent Narratives: An Analytical Study of Media Coverage (Tawafan Al-Aqsa as a Case Study) <sup>▽</sup>

Assitant lecturer Sarah Adeb Rasheed \*

Assitant lecturer Shatha Lateef Abdul Rassul \*\*

Assitant lecturer Zainab Hassan Kate \*\*\*

### Abstract

This study examines how digital media coverage of the Tawfan Al-Aqsa events participate in the reproduction of violent discourse across the digital media. These events represented a vertex moment in both political and media scenes. This research focuses on analyzing the reality of foreign and Zionist digital media content in their coverage of these events with a sample of well-known digital newspapers. Also, through the discourse of Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after October 7, 2023. This study investigates how both media coverage and political discourse functioned as incitement tools aiming to justify the use of political violence by the Zionist entity against Palestine. The researcher employs qualitative content analysis methodology applied to a selected sample of digital news and media interactions. The significance of this study lies in concentrating on the relationship between digital media and the incitement to use violence, and how the digital media can evolve from being a mere channel for information resource into an active tool in the wars —by contributing to normalizing violence on both local and international levels.

**Keywords: digital media, digital political violence, misleading media coverage, Twafan Al-Aqsa.**

### Introduction:

Twafan Al-Aqsa Operation on October the 7<sup>th</sup> represented a pivotal moment in the Palestinian political issue and the global media engagement with it. After a long time of international neglecting, these events reinstated the Palestinian issue back into the global media spotlight. As much as this events escalating as the global media splinted significantly between the Palestinian narrative and the internationally supported Zionist narrative. This international misleading media

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coverage -characterized in selective reporting and distortion of information- played a massive role in legitimizing violence against Palestinians perpetuating direct, indirect (structural) and Cultural Violence according to Galtung (Culture Violence theory), throughout too many tools such as News on digital newspapers platforms and Hate speech which has manipulated public consciousness and produced one-sided view of reality. Finally, this research examines digital media warfare as a defining feature of modern conflicts and wars, by highlighting its impact on public perception, political attitudes and the opinion shaping in alignment with specific political interests.

**Importance of the Study:** the significance of this study lies in its focus on critical, modern form of digital violence that occurs within a vast, unregulated and unethical digital environment. This lack of oversight makes controlling the information and mitigate the harmful consciousness of this violence extremely challenging. Also. This research produces a critical perspective for media discourse which serve the journalists, media workers, policymakers and researchers in developing more objective narratives (for news writers and media reporters) and enhancing their understanding of how digital media content can reproduce Violence by using misleading information and news Report.

**Hypothesis of the study:** this study hypothesizes a correlation between Digital media coverage and promoting violence. Specifically, when it comes to the selective framing and biased content surrounding the events of “Tawfan Al-Aqsa” in October the 7<sup>th</sup> which contributed in proliferation of symbolic and psychological violence against Palestinians by serving the geopolitical interests of Zionist Entity.

**Statement of the Problem:** this study problem stems essentially by the shifting role of digital media -in this era – from a simple news reporting into an arena for conflict reproduction. Which examines three core questions:

- 1- How does the digital media influence the reproduction of violence, and which kind of role its play on it?
- 2- What specific disinformation and manipulation tactics were employed by foreign and Zionist media outlets to Control Narratives that support Zionist Entity?
- 3- How did the Zionist Entity Government’s discourse contribute in legitimizing and perpetuating political violence?

**Sample of the Study:** this research includes a chosen digital media Coverage (The daily Telegraph, the Gurdian, the Las Vegas Review, channel inews24, the Times of Isreal) for the period from October 2023 to Septmeber 2025 with a sample of political discourse by Zionist government represented by (Benjamin

Netanyahu) speech's, which it's the timeline of the events beginning until the researcher finish the study.

**Method of Research:** the researcher used the content analyze method by analyzing qualitatively both the chosen media coverage and Zionist political Discourse after October 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **First: A Conceptual Framework for Digital Media, Violent Narratives and the Relationship between them.**

- 1- The Concept of Digital Media:** The Term of Digital Media refers to digitized content which are encoded in machine readable formats and accessed, produced and distributed through digital technologies such as computers, the internet and the Smartphones (Lindgren, 2017, p. 3). this digital Content helped people to access to a massive amount of information and news daily which has transferred our communities from traditional ones into information communities by the consistent development of communication tools, media tools and the social media etc. (Haith Abboud , Mazhar Al-ani, 2014, pp. 66-67). The digital transforming began for more than two decades ago when the world gradually starts to be communities that depends on rapid access to news and information at any time and place. (Khader, 2014, p. 17).
- 2- The concept of violence:** we should define the meaning of the word violence first which goes back to Latin "Violentia" and the root comes from "Violare" which means vehement, forcible or intense, to use force upon or to violate and that depends on whose uses it, which has create more than point of view about legitimacy of using violence, as an example political pluralism countries sees violence that using by group of people is illegal cause its violates the nature of institutional state, on the other hand the authoritarian regimes sees the violence that using by people is legal or accepted given that there are no effective or legitimate ways to participate in authority. (Dakhil, 2017, pp. 411-413). Secondly, the meaning of violence Narratives or what is Johan Galtung Called as "Cultural Violence" refers to the cultural elements that serve to legitimize and justify both direct and structural (indirect) violence in a way that makes violence practice acceptable in societies. Galtung identify three Narratives of violence: the first one is direct violence "such as murder or a physical assault", structural violence which means injustice and inequality perpetrated by official institutions; and finally, widespread or cultural which its violence practiced and normalized due to the existence of justification, whether its religious, literary, linguistic or ideological. (Galtung, 1990, pp. 291-292)

### 3- The Role of Digital Media in the Construction of Violent Narratives

The essential role of Digital Media in violence reproduction firstly and formally came with Robert M. Entman Media Framing theory in 1993 which explained how the transform information has an influence over human conscious by many tools such as speeches and News Report. He defined Framing as “Selection and Saliency, to frame is to select a chosen aspects of perceived reality and make them more salient in communicating text in such a way to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation and Treatment recommendation for the described item” (Entman, 1993, pp. 51-52). Then, Entman developed his theory in 2004 by connecting (Media Framing) with Violence Framing, Political Communication, political legitimacy and Political psychology in his book “Projection of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy” (Molotch, 2004, p. 834). Wolfsfeld (1997) explains that the media has a central role in shaping political conflict and even Violence through framing. Also, the way media frame these events directly influence on how audiences interpret violence, evaluate legitimacy and assign responsibility. Therefore, violence framing can be known as a specific application of media framing within the broader context of political conflict (Nicolás-Gavilan, 2011, pp. 49-55). So, we could say that the Relationship Core between Digital Media and Violence explained by the Co-relating between Media framing and Violence framing, as we explained it in this table: (Table 1: Theoretical Dimension's: General Framing Vs. Media Framing)

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Media framing</b>	<b>Violence framing</b>
<b>Nature</b>	General Theory	Specialized Applications
<b>Scope</b>	All cases and subject	Violence and conflict cases
<b>Function</b>	Identification of the Media Construction of meaning	Identification of how Violence meaning is constructed
<b>Aim</b>	Understanding media effect on perception	Understanding how the meaning of “Media effect” on the perceptions of violence

Source: prepared by the Researcher based on previous references

**Second: analyzing a selected samples of global and Zionists news agencies**  
**Digital Media News Samples and their Selection Criteria**

Digital newspaper	Date of Creation	Country	News sample number	Coverage Timeline	Political agenda	Fund and accessibility
The Dailly Telegraph	1994	United Kingdom	2	August 2025	Conservative Right The client is a “conservative subscriber”	Paywall (Satisfying the Right base)
The Guardian	1995	United Kingdom	2	October 2024 August 2025	Left Labral (Influencing public perception and provides story to Different kind of readers”	Free Accsses- Depending on Readers Volunteering
Las Vegas Review	1996	U. S	2	November 2023 – May 2025	Conservative Right (Adopting the vision of the owner The Adelson Family)	Paywall (Owners Agenda)
The Times of Israel	2012	Zionist entity	2	August 2025 September 2025	Center-Left (Adopting a journalist style Simler to western newspaper)	Free Access (Relies on growth in value as an influence platform)
Channel i24news	2013	Zionist entity	2	October 2023	Center right (adopting the official Zionist Narratives)	Free Access Financed by billionaire Patrick Drahi, it is more of a strategic project than a profitable one.

Source: prepared by the Researcher based on multiple references.

**1- Foreign media agencies:** one of those is (the daily Telegraph) which it’s the formal newspaper of the United Kingdom, also it has been broadcasting its content digitally since 1994. However, in an article published lately in 29 august 2025 titled as “Palestine Actions Proscription may end up as a propaganda coup for Isreal haters” this article claimed that the protest that support Palestine in Britian is extremist, and it has a political purpose not a humanitarian motive. (Goodman, 2025) In addition, with different article of the daily telegraph “Netanyahu has pushed Hamas to the brink of destruction” the article talks about Hamas retreat and its desire to reach out to a ceasefire deal. Furthermore, the article considered “Hamas” as the first and last responsible in civilian Palestinian deaths, which an obvious tactic to left all the blame on “Hamas” behalf the scene of the real genocide. (Pollard, 2025) on other hand, there is also “Las Vegas Review” which it’s a radical American newspaper and in 28 November 2023 published an article titled “Editorial: Hamas indifferent to the travails of those living in Gaza” this article described Hamas continued

intentions to escalating the war by her ignoring and intending behavior to waste the Civilian lives. The article also, criticize Gaza people who've been burning Tires and sleeping at schools considering them as attention seekers and tiring to deliver unreal scene to the world. (Review, 2023) in another article titled as " Hamas strategy has been deadly miscalculation" they criticize Hamas strategy of embracing death and destruction. Furthermore, they claimed that Palestinians now knowing for sure that the Terrorist " Hamas" is the one has to blame for wasting their lives only for promotional purposes. (vegas, 2025) lastly, The Guardian newspaper which has been published in 7 October 2024 after a year to review the events saying "Morning Briefing: How the 7 October attacks changed Isreal, Gaza and the Future of middle east" which began with a phrase (Good morning. A year ago today, Hamas launched a brutal surprise attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people) then it re-telling Tawfan Al-Aqsa event with a detailed description of Hamas brutal and savage actions, then its justified Zionist attacks as a reaction on Hamas actions. However, this newspaper changed its vision later, even though it was a partially shifting standpoint but it was clear and obvious how the news content changed after the war kept going on, in August 2025 the newspaper published an article that goes: (Isreal should end up the Killing, its allies most not remain Complicit) this article was directly accusing the Zionist in using deliberate starvation policy on Palestinians, also it accused them in killing more than 62000 innocent human by using a cruel and sarcastic language referring to Zionist reliance on its allies from extreme right-wing (Guardian, 2025). On the other hand, (The Daily Telegraph) focused and kept on repeating same narratives about Zionist Entity right to defend itself and the dangerous of " Terrorist Hamas". Finally, the researcher notices that the Gurdian Sometimes used phrases like (Humanitarian Disaster or Starvation) which shows an Implicit confession of the Palestinians extermination. Meanwhile, (The Daily Telegraph) still choosing phrases like (Massacre: to exaggerating the event) and (Conflict: to minimize the scale of events) and (Collective Banishment instead of Genocide). Also, it refuses to recognize the events as happening genocide but rather considering it as form of war of some kind of conflict between comparable sides. (Omer, 2024)

- 2- **The Zionist Media agencies:** those digital Israel media specifically, has the massive effect on misleading the global public opinion by using a smart strategy such as making the history of this conflict root back to the October the 7<sup>th</sup> of 2023 and showing the Palestinian citizen as an aggressor. However, the Zionist propaganda has been going through three phases since then, firstly (the two first month right after the attack) in this phase Israel media tried to explain what's happened by gathering collective public opinion that support Israel narrative.

Secondly, the propaganda transferred to the second phase which it concentrates on justifying Israel air violations. In the third phase the propaganda worked on justifying forced displacement operations by showing the whole world their ethical war. (shaheen, 2025, p. 148) one of these agencies is I24 news Channel which it was the one whose publish false narration of killing 40 Zionist babies in 10 October 2023 by filming unclear live stream which has no single evidence about any attack back then. Also, on its digital website published an article titled as “it smells of death here: surveying the atrocities committed by Hamas in Kfar Aza”, this article has an emotional manipulation on recipients by taking them back to the mascara of Holocaust and described the similarity of event as if they’ve been retrieving the jews bodies of the streets, this article with the live stream which is available on X platform was framed and it has been refuted globally after a short time of the broadcast (Zedeck, 2023). Furthermore, the times of Zionist Entity agency which it publishing online in five languages with Arabic too so it’s directing their content into a broad segment of the public. Lately, on 4 September 2025 they published an article which goes “Israel says Hamas preventing Gaza City evacuation, but 70,000 have left anyway” this article claims that people in Gaza want to immigrate but Hamas forcing them to stay by making them as a human shields also, they’ve been deceiving the world saying that Zionist Entity is the one whose been forcibly displaced them when Zionist Entity was notifying the civilians to evacuate before taking any sort of violations, and the article refuse UN claims of there are 21000 human of Gaza became disabled person through the war justifying that the UN information’s source is unclear and may be even relaying on Hamas statics numbers (Levaton, 2025). In addition, with a different news framed as “Poll: Most Zionists fear they won’t be able to travel abroad as global anger months” which its purpose is obvious from the headline to gather public world empathy by showing how the world and the global media is cruel and injustice to the Zionist Entity Citizen. (Staff, 2025)

Finally, The Researcher explains his selection Criteria as a strategic lens to examine the (Reality Construction) through three different global filter , where the Gurdian represents liberal values and funding by Global Community, while The Daily Telegraph and Las Vegas Review represent the traditional Conservative interests shaped by elite subscriptions, and lastly, i24NEWS and the Times of Isreal reflect as a geopolitical filter where the digital Content is transformed as tool for public diplomacy to defend a National narrative against Global Public Opinion. Furthermore, that how we could observe how a single event can be mold into

multiple narratives dictated by intersection of national agendas, ideological orientation, and funding models.

3- **The hate speech used by Zionist Entity:** The researcher takes the famous digitally published speech of Zionist Prime Minister in front of United Nations General Assembly in New York on 27 September 2024 after a year of Palestinians Genocide when the Zionist entity was facing a wave of international criticism, which according to the official Zionist government website “Came only as response to the lies and false accusations against Isreal”. (gov.il, 2024)

- **The religious and Racist speech:** one of the most phrases that Netanyahu says is: “we are sons of the light and they are sons of the darkness” he has used this phrase frequently to frame the whole war scene as if it was a definitive conflict between absolute good and absolute evil. This (light/darkness) motif is common in his post-October the 7<sup>th</sup> speech’s not only his speech in General Assembly Un in September 2024. Furthermore, he also says “When I spoke here last year, I said we face the same timeless choice that Moses put before the people of Israel thousands of years ago, as we were about to enter the Promised Land.”.” This hint was widely taken as a justification for overwhelming military intervention, also it was criticized by those who saw it as invoking call for justifying a genocide action. (Nam, 2025, p. 15) on the other hand, with a racist word he says “it’s a war between the Civilization forces and terror forces” here he frames Zionist Entity’s fight as stand-in behalf the “enlightened civilized world” against “savage uncivilized world”. (Bouka, 2025, pp. 12-13)
- **The historical speech:** Netanyahu uses historical and biblical references such as Moses, the promised Land and Holocaust just to frame Zionist Entity’s actions as an absolute right, by invoking figures like Moses and Solomon he seeks to legitimize Zionist Entity eternal claim of the land and Jerusalem. then, them being exposed to injustice and extermination historically, which it’s a tactic that ethnically dismisses as a historical distortion. (Al-Astaal, 2024, pp. 212-213)

Finally, we could also mentioned that Zionist Entity is a global leader in utilizing cyber armies, they made a Unit called “Unit 8200 SIGNT” which its the world second largest digital surveillence agency after US. In addition, in 2017 Zionist Entity Mossad established the “Libertad Fund” to finance high-tech, espionage projects (600,000\$ per project) by recruit top global talent across multiple nation (Arabic, English, Persian and Russian) for intelligence info gathering and narrative dissemination. (AL-Mansuri, 2022, p. 73) we could see that Zionist Entity used this capabilites on unusual scale, particulary in gaza such as “Interent blackout, infrastructure attacks, power cuts and technical disruption”. And all

these served a specific political goal which it is block civilians access to essential aid, hide the massive attack actions and its outcomes, silenced the ground media and journalists who've been targeting since late 2023 until 2025. The ultimate goal is mislead public perception and control the information digital space as an exclusive theater of war.

## Conclusion

Zionist Entity Tactics to control the global narrative after October the 7th involved a massive effort to establish dominance over the digital Media. However, the difference between Zionist digital Media and foreign digital media seems to be clear by tracking each one political aims and agendas. So we could notice that the foreign media was more like adopting some kind of "responsible" journalism criteria, and that could be seen as the war goes on. Specifically, when we came across liberal left agendas. Meanwhile, the Zionist digital media was like "impact platforms" more than following a specific political agenda for instance "The Times of Israel" digital newspaper has been broadcasting its digital content since 2012 in five languages including (Arabic, English, French, Persian and Hebrew) which has been serving its geopolitical aims and visions to spread its narratives as much as it possible around the world across different cultures. At the same time, Zionist entity has been functioning hate speech in formal political discourse beyond reason, by using the religious and historical frameworks such as mentioning "chosen people" and "promised land" to manipulate facts and assert their actions as divinely or historically sanctioned. Furthermore, Netanyahu speech was an essential key, merging symbolic violence and political propaganda by combined religious incitement and discriminatory identity politics to minimize the Palestinian individual against Jewish individual, ultimately showing Zionist Entity as a sole victim rather than aggressor. Finally, this genocide witnessed a form of cognitive warfare, where digital actions transcended of simple censorship to a systematic delete of information, news and images, etc. Which represented a deep international violence aiming to control the meaning and accepted reality of the events itself, not just the physical occurrence.

## Recommendations to face Digital Disinformation

1. Create digital media alternatives to expose systemic bias in digital media.
2. Fund and support global institutions that keep on publishing verified content to combat media fabrication.

3. Provide specialized training in ethics, digital information check, and recognizing the digital disinformation and initement.
4. Execute broad awareness compaigns that using a humanity rational discourse in collaboration with global organizations.
5. Strenghten cooperation between researchers and legal institutions to document the societal effects of disinformation and symbolic violence.

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