

Game Changer 9: Self-organized Citizen Movements

Transcript

Our 9th major transformation is rise of the self-organized. Which we can also think of as the decentralizing possibilities of technology. This is emerging from a number of different things. We have of course online collectives, and there are many types of online collectives today, we see everything from people coming together to self-organizing and provide assistance and information and generate resources and coordinate help in disasters and for disaster victims. On the other end of the spectrum, famous online collectives like Anonymous and hacktivist and things like that, we have people being increasingly assertive today and so we have protest movements and the ability now in our digital lives today to create and diffuse, disseminate social movements at incredible speed. And so, looking at how protest movements are emerging and evolving today.

And then we have more sort of on the edge possibilities, where folks looking at virtual nations, nations and states that don't actually have land that aren't defined by territory. And so, when we are stepping back from these things and trying to anticipate what some of the Implications might be, you know you're looking at the ability now and increasingly in the future for anyone and everyone to organize to pursue whatever ends they can think of. It is so easy to do this today. There is very little sort of cost to it. And so, you expect that many more folks in the future to avail themselves of these possibilities.

And at the same time, you're looking at increasingly fragmented populations, you know again when it's very easy and even encouraged or valorized for folks to segregate into their own groups, to be able to sort of pull back and create their own safe sort of groups and communities. You are concerned about increasingly fragmented populations. But of course, this technology, this capability to self-organize is also seen by many to point to the further erosion of the authority and the power of the nation state. And so, we've been seeing this for a while and now I think we're you know anticipating seeing it evolve more rapidly and into new forms as were moving forward. So, looking at the rise of self-organized again, sort of decentralizing possibilities of technology, as a potentially powerful counterpoint to in particular one of our other major transformations which is the rise of authoritarianism.