

The Role of Social Media in Fomenting Violence: Myanmar | Toda Peace Institute

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While social media opened up Myanmar's information and communication ecosystem in an unprecedented way, it also came with its share of challenges. Low levels of digital and media literacy, amidst a context of political transition, dominated by rising inter-communal tensions and the formalisation of a Buddhist nationalist movement, made for a dangerous cocktail. Facebook dominated the Myanmar internet ecosystem. This case study looks at the role of Facebook in fomenting violence in Myanmar, exploring how the social media platform was weaponised and reviewing Facebook's response to the situation. It concludes with learnings and recommendations for how risks may be better mitigated.

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