Preface

Political scandals, corruptions and legitimacy crises are the substantial components of current politics at both national and international levels. The character of political scandals, corruptions and the problems of legitimacy in a country are the strong indicators of the nature of political culture, democratic development, socio-political and economic institutions. Social media as a new information and communication platform has a growing role in the control and in the manipulation of the public opinion during the times of scandals and crisis. Social media is widely believed to be a space for a more interactive public discussion, political propaganda and opinion formation. It is also possible to talk about a considerable amount of opponents seeing social media as the perpetuator of the conventional relations of power. Accordingly, there is a growing interest in the relationship between social media and politics. However, the impact of social media on political scandals, corruptions and legitimacy crises remains a less investigated topic.

*Political Scandal, Corruption and Legitimacy in the Age of Social Media* includes chapters mostly on popular political corruptions and political scandals from researchers all around the world. The authors of this book mostly stress the relationship between social media and corruptions. In some chapters of this book, social media is handled as a way to cope with corruption. However, there are some chapters in this book in which the relationship between corruptions, political scandals and social media is indicated as a double-sided issue. Various cases from various countries help to increase our understanding toward the nature of the political scandals and corruptions. This book is designed to be a useful work to evaluate the political scandals, corruptions and legitimacy in the age of social media.

The target audience includes, but is not limited to, researchers in political science and public administration, researchers in communication and media studies, political science professionals, media and communication professionals, political science students, media and communication students, politicians, politicians’ advisors, public officials, journalists, computer scientists, technology and society specialists, members of civil society organizations, public relation professionals, government agents, and public policy actors.
In “Neo-Populist Scandal and Social Media: The Finnish Olli Immonen Affair” by Juha Herkman and Janne Matikainen, the authors researches Olli Immonen, an MP of the Finns Party. Regarding this scandal, the authors point out the social media and news media as the ones inspiring and feeding each other.

In “Scandal Politics and Political Scandals in the Era of Digital Interactive Media” by Kamil Demirhan, the author evaluates the maintaining role of traditional media in the era of digital media, and the features of scandal politics and political scandals in the era of digital interactive media to analyze the constructive functions of political scandals in democracies. In this respect, the author focuses on the cases of WikiLeaks and Ashley Madison affair.

In “Information Control, Transparency, and Social Media: Implications for Corruption” by Chandan Kumar Jha, the author points out social media as an important tool in fighting corruption. In this chapter, Jha supports freedom on Internet for the effects of social media on corruption are to be fully realized.

In “There Is an App for That Too: Citizen-centric Approach to Combating Corruption in the Digital Age through the Use of ICTs” by Lloyd G. Waller, the author researches the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by citizens. The author, in this chapter, has the aim to address the citizen-centric empowerment strategies to fight with corruption all around the world.

In “Hashtag Ideology: Practice and Politics of Alternative Ideology” by Smarak Samarjeet, the author searches for the power relations in social media and cross-media focusing on #HeForShe and #BringBackOurGirls campaigns. The author argues that hashtags have become a site for political and cultural appropriation.

In “The Role of Social Media in Enforcing Environmental Justice around the World” by Gayle M. Pohl, the author analyzes the role that social media plays enforcing environmental justice around the world and focusing on the cases from three different countries; India, Canada and Russia. The author concludes that social media is possible to be used to promote environmental justice globally.

In “Navigating the Nexus between Social Media, Political Scandal, and Good Governance in Nigeria: Its Ethical Implications” by Essien D. Essien, the author claims the social media as a platform for citizen participation in governance. Analyzing the Nigerian case, the author demonstrates the conventional mass media as incapacitated in societal challenges due to its ties with political and economic sources.

In “Government Website, Social Media, and Citizens’ Perceptions of Corruption: Evidence from Chinese Cities” by Liang Ma, the author empirically examines the impacts of media channels on citizen perceptions of corruption. The author concludes that e-government plays a key role in anticorruption.

In “Social Media’s Role in Alleviating Political Corruption and Scandals: The Philippines during and after the Marcos Regime” by Cecilia G. Manrique and Gabriel G. Manrique researches how the use of social media in the Republic of the
Philippines has been used to enhance political awareness and political participation. The authors support the idea that the use of social media can reduce corruptions.

In “Participation, Civil Society and the Facebook Use of NGOs in Turkey” by Kamil Demirhan, the author examines the use of Facebook by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Turkey and searches social media’s potentiality for being a new channel to promote civic and political participation. The author emphasizes social media as the one promoting social and political life.

The researches and analyzes in these chapters help to develop a new perspective on the changing nature of media and politics. They help the reader see the different sides of the popular public events. Is a scandal just a scandal? The book helps the audience to see the winner/loser dichotomy in political scandals or corruptions. Technology has changed the nature of social life as well as the nature of politics. This book questions the relationship between social media and political scandals being a significant sample of a neglected literature.

*Derya Çakır-Demirhan*
*Bülent Ecevit University, Turkey*