

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to investigate and identify the present status of the internet as a platform for the presentation of conservative political and religious groups in today's Iran. In its first part, a brief historical survey is presented, suggesting that the internet was initially perceived by these groups with suspicion. The thesis then proceeds to explore how all of them have gradually embraced the internet as a tool to achieve their particular goals.

In a detailed central section, the thesis explores the structure and content of the web presentation of important Shia institutions and clerics, religious students, the Revolutionary Guards, and influential conservative weblogs offered by individuals. The analysis of their content hopes to provide an insight into the methods used to target the audience and also to demonstrate the diversity of opinion and degree of internal strife among these groups and their supporters.

On the basis of this research, the final part of the essay concludes that the internet is both a new and indispensable tool of analysis for current Iranian politics and society, providing a previously hidden insight into the immense diversity of opinion among pro-regime groups.