

bloggers would immediately claim that the images were photo-shopped or digitally altered, or that the Palestinians in the photos were actors, and thus not really injured at all (pp. 60-61). The government's assertion that Israel's military behaved ethically while the Palestinians were guilty of deception was frequently seen on pro-Israel websites.

In 2014, when Palestinians killed three Israeli teens, expressions of anger and demands for vengeance were prominent on many pro-Israel social media sites. The authors describe how supporters began posting "revenge selfies," holding signs with anti-Arab slogans and demands for retribution (pp. 92-94). Their cries were heeded by the Israeli government: Israel soon launched an invasion of Gaza, and social media was employed to reassure the public and promote the discourse of necessary and justified militarism all over again.

The authors are to be commended for introducing this exploration


of social media in a time of war, and for taking on the task of archiving online messages, which can often be ephemeral. They are also to be praised for tackling such a contentious subject — any time the Middle East is written about, intense debate always seems to follow, and this book will certainly be part of that conversation.

But despite the authors' good intentions, *Digital Militarism* has some flaws. For one, it is very short — only about 100 pages of content. For another, despite the authors' assertions that they wanted to do a scholarly study, the tone of the book is often polemical. It is very clear where the sympathies of Kuntsman and Stein lie — they rarely miss an opportunity to criticize Israel, whether locating its origins in "colonial fictions" (p. 15) or minimizing the times that Israel really was under threat from its Arab neighbors. In page after page, one sees Israel at its worst, with little context provided for why the government or its Jewish citizens felt so

beleaguered; lacking any information about what the Arab world's social media were saying, the reader is left with the impression that Israelis are callous and bigoted, and they hate Palestinians for no apparent reason. Thus, while the material in this book may indeed be accurate (and there is no reason to believe that the authors invented it), the examples may have been compiled in a way that confirms what the authors already believe.

That said, there can be no denying that digital militarism exists and is now a real factor in war; nor can it be denied that many governments use social media to inflame and manipulate, or to hide unpleasant truths and shape the discourse. I only wish that Kuntsman and Stein had not made it seem as if only Israel does these things.

### Reviewer Information

*Donna L. Halper* is an Associate Professor of Communication at Lesley University, Cambridge MA. Email: dlh@donnahalper.com. 

## Corrections

In the March 2016 issue of *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*, the article "Designing a Novel ECG Simulator," by Sohyung Cho, Youngseok Lee, and Inbae Chang, appearing on pp. 75-84, should have carried the notation, "First author Cho and second author Lee contributed equally to this work."

In the same issue of *T&S Magazine*, in the Letter to the Editor by Michael Eldred appearing on p. 39, third column, fourth line, the word "later" should be "latter."

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MTS.2016.2564505