



The Revolution will be Hactivated: Turkish Marxist Hacker Groups

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The Revolution Will Be Hacktivated

Turkish Marxist Hacker Groups

Murat Akser

In March 2012, the Turkish Police Department website was hacked and secret government documents were released to the public. Several new attacks in the next three months targeted the departments of defense, foreign affairs, education and finally the ruling governmental, justice and development (AKP) party website. The perpetrator(s) of the attacks was Redhack, an anonymous Marxist/socialist hacker group. This paper focuses on the analysis of this new Turkish hacktivist group and their cyber cold war against the government, operating as a self-proclaimed revolutionary group. Their support for Turkish Airlines's (THY) striking workers, their anti-fascist stance by attacking police and military sites, their anti-corruption discourse through the attack on the ÖSYM (Öğrenci Seçme ve Yerleştirme Merkezi/ The Central Student Selection and Placement Board, an institution similar to ETS) site and finally their leaking of information on Turkish citizens held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs points towards the idea that a new hacktivist movement is born, as hackers act as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and conduct micro-politics on the Internet. This paper intends to analyze the activities of Redhack from the perspective of a soft power revolutionary NGO that hacks for social benefit and acts as an oppositional force for social change.

In January 2013, Redhack leaked documents from the Board of Higher Education's system, publicizing monetary and other scandals present in numerous universities. Redhack attacked through the board's file sharing system, successfully obtaining 60,000 documents, most of which were confidential. These documents showed bank statements listing purchases of luxurious vehicles for university presidents in exchange for their agreement to deposit university tuition fees at a particular bank. Another document showed that a tender given to a cleaning company at Uludağ University in Bursa led to a three million TL public loss (approximately \$1.5 million), while another showed that an academic position was offered to a candidate