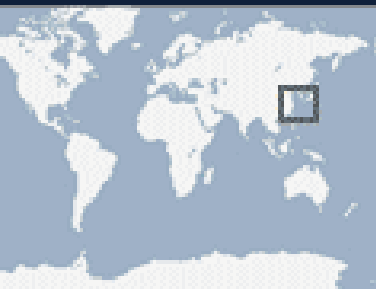


MODELING INTERNET-BASED CITIZEN ACTIVISM AND FOREIGN POLICY: THE ISLANDS DISPUTE BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN

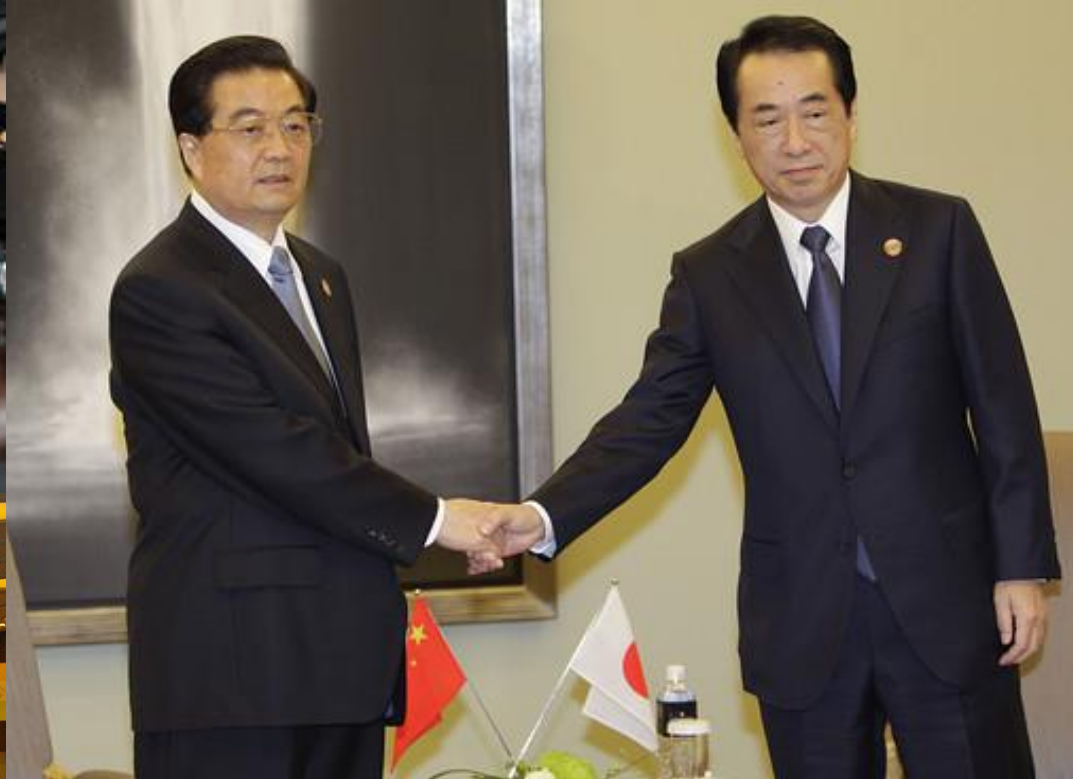
Brown University'15
Tomonobu Kumahira





Source: Chinese Defence Ministry, EIA, Yonhap





Does the Internet empower citizens?

Research Question:

*To what extent has the increased use of the Internet among **citizens** affected **foreign policymaking**?*

*What are the **mechanisms** through which citizens utilize the Internet to influence foreign policymaking?*

How Conventional Scholarship Explains Internet-based Citizen Activism?

Internet and Citizen Behavior

Political Representation

Foreign Policy Decision Making

Bottom-up Activism

Top-down Structure

International/Domestic Decision Factors

Scarce Analytical Models

Scarce Analytical Models

Models before the Internet

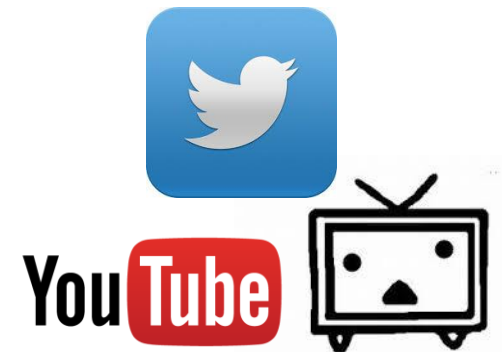
Research Methods and Sources: Process Tracing and Discourse Analysis

Case: 2010 Boat Collision Incident

Time Frame: September 7th, 2010 – January 31, 2011



朝日新聞社
THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN
讀賣新聞
日本經濟新聞



Policymakers

News Reporting

Citizen Activism

Comparative Case Study: Conditions for Successful Activism

Policy Impact?

Collaboration with Other Actors?

Masaharu Isshiki
YouTube Whistleblowing

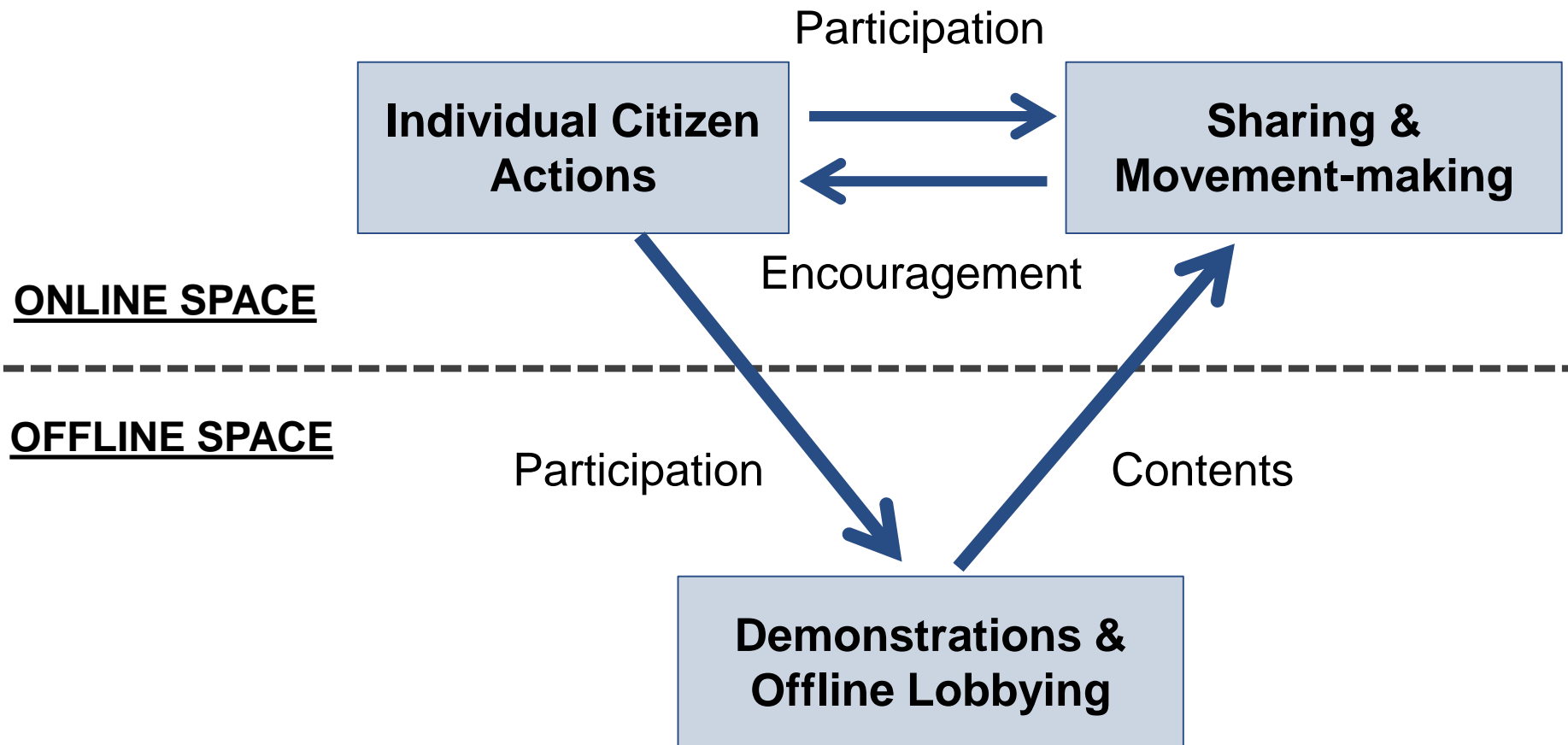
Ganbare Nippon!
Inclusive Rallying Platform

Zaitoku-Kai
Anti-China Exclusionists



FINDINGS

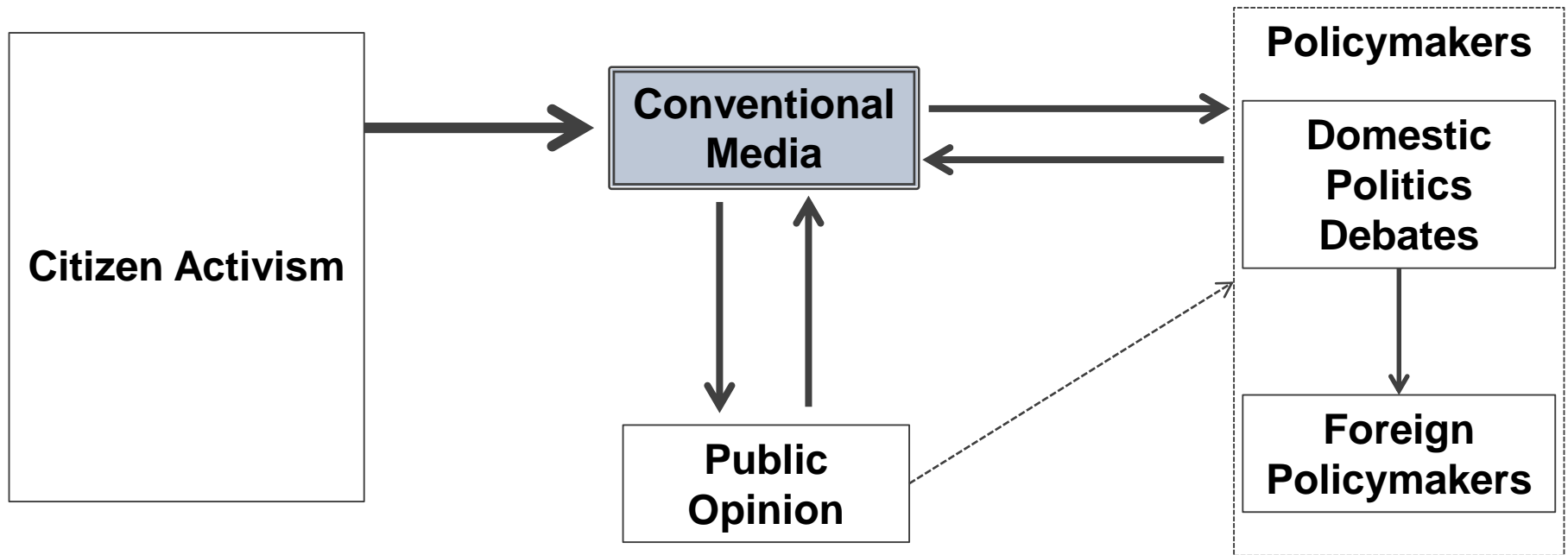
Finding 1: Hybrid Strategy of Citizen Activists



Finding 2: Media as Translator of Significance

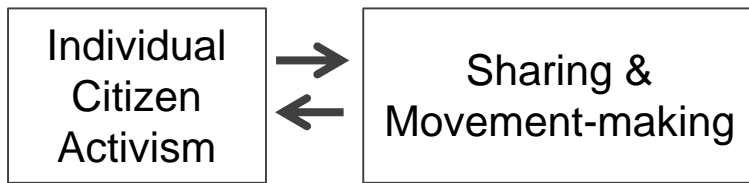
“Watching the leaked video felt just like watching a movie. Although it was the first time we watched the full version, we were already familiar with the storyline because we saw the trailers over and over on the news.”

— Parliament Member Jiro Ono

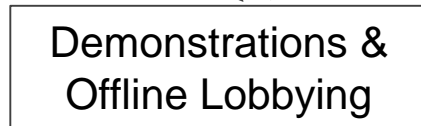


Finding 3: Competition between Citizen Activism and Conventional Media

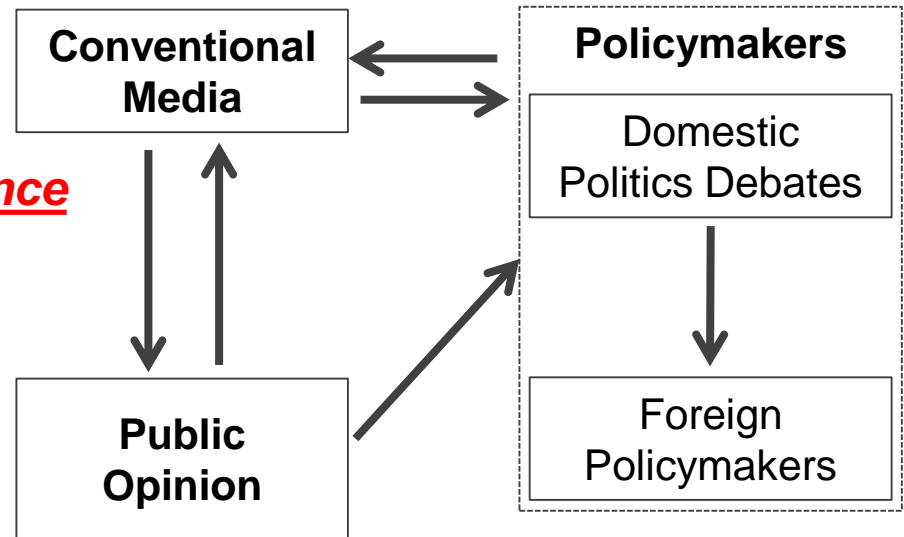
ONLINE SPACE



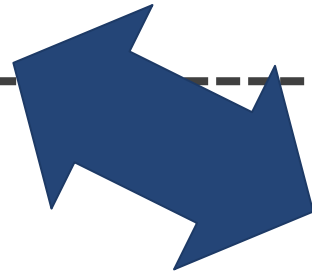
Monitor Reporting



OFFLINE SPACE



Translate Significance

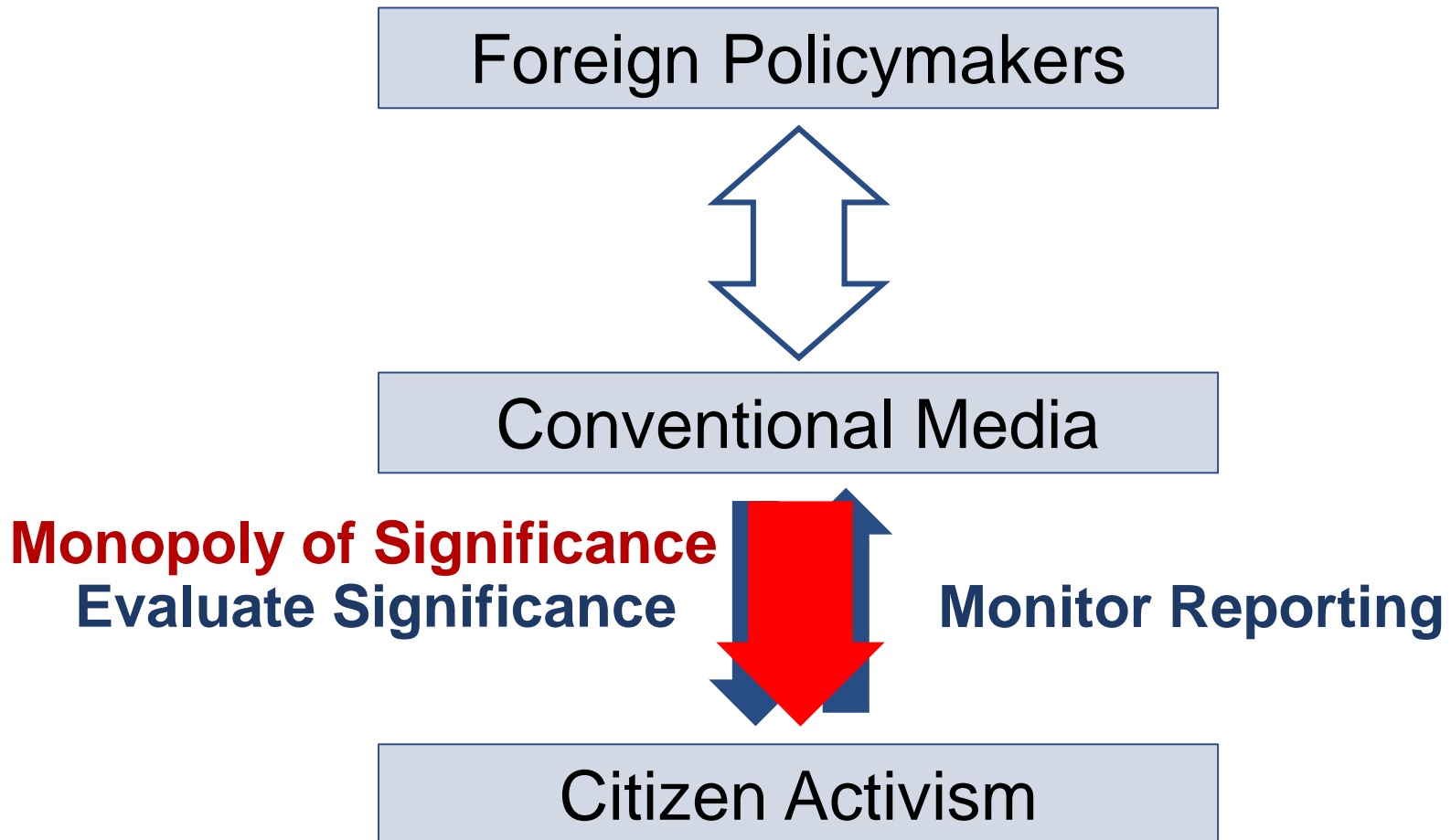


Findings of Hybrid Model:

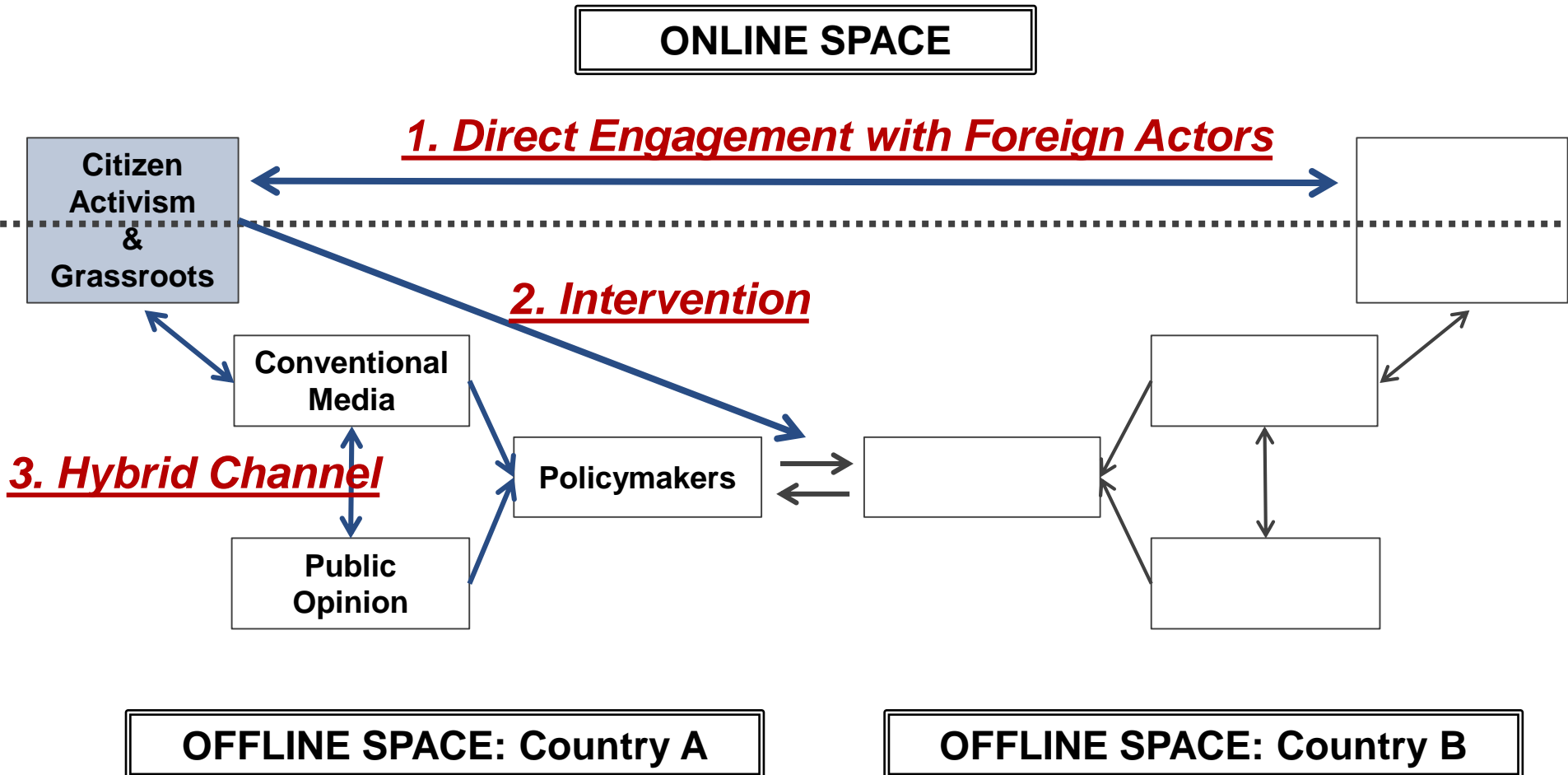
- Hybrid Model of Internet-based Citizen Activism
- Self-Reinforcing Cycle of Citizen Movements
- Persistent Role of the Conventional Media

ANSWER TO RESEARCH QUESTION

Does the Internet empower citizens? Citizens as Watchdog of Watchdogs



3 Channels of Citizen Influence on International Relations



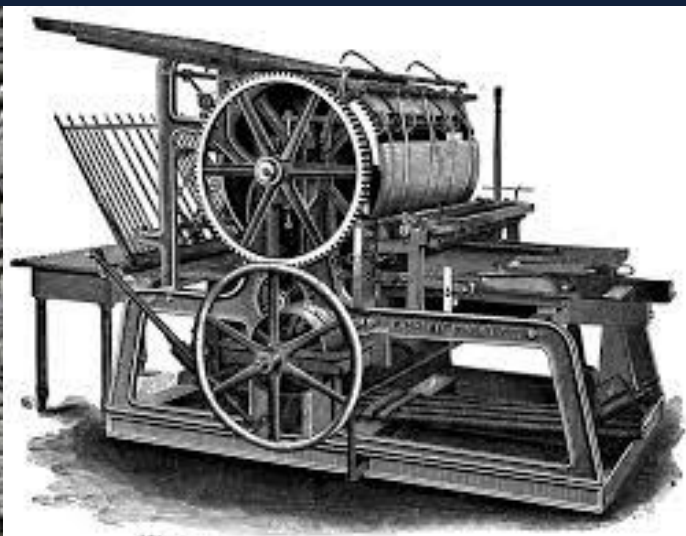
Implications and Future Research

- Theory:**
- Online citizen activism alone cannot create policy impact

- Policymakers:**
- Tool to monitor radical online extremism

- Conventional News Media:**
- Competitive advantage beyond news sharing

- Future Research:**
- International collaboration?
 - Alter/weaken national identity?
 - New forms of political representation?



“The Internet is a tool just like pencils and erasers.”

