Internet in the Post-Soviet Area

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**Elite Students in Kazakhstan: Attitudes Toward States in the International Arena**

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**Abstract**

New a generation after independence are thoroughly embedded in the internet world, stimulating comparisons of narratives from domestic and Russian media sources, in addition to web-based international sources. Using focus groups at Al-Farabi Kazakh State University in Almaty, the study analyzes contested identities in a new state. In particular, they are: Islam and religion more generally. The second is differing paths of development—economic and philosophical—the future offers, especially since the government has sent very large numbers to study in the West. Some firmly believe they are not Westerners and all ponder the role of a citizen. The third is cultural identity, from traditional norms and values to “modern” norms and values. The discourse of these students is active, often affect-driven, and thoroughly engaged in the intense sessions and in thinking about the future: their own and that of their country in an increasingly complex world and violent world.

**Keywords: generation, social media, cultural identity, Internet, focus groups, traditional norms and values**