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Empowering and Depowering Twitter in China

As a website newly imported to China, Twitter has already experienced notable ups and downs, which reflect emerging consciousness of digital citizens and strict censorship of Chinese government over social network. Through examining its major advantages and disadvantages with special attention on the tweets about president Obama's visit to China, we can find that Twitter is both empowered and depowered in China. On one hand, with the amazing speed in releasing news and convenience for people to deliver opinions through mobile devices, Twitter is empowered to gather "monitorial citizens" to speak against mainstream ideology and fight for democracy. On the other hand, state regulation and digital divide in China result in the polarization of Twitter users, and make it difficult for E-democracy or public sphere to emerge. This article aims to analyze how the counterbalance of empowerment and depowerment functions in *Twitter's* development and guides its future.