

A bit about Wikipedia and why it is important for the Arabic language region

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WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

Vision

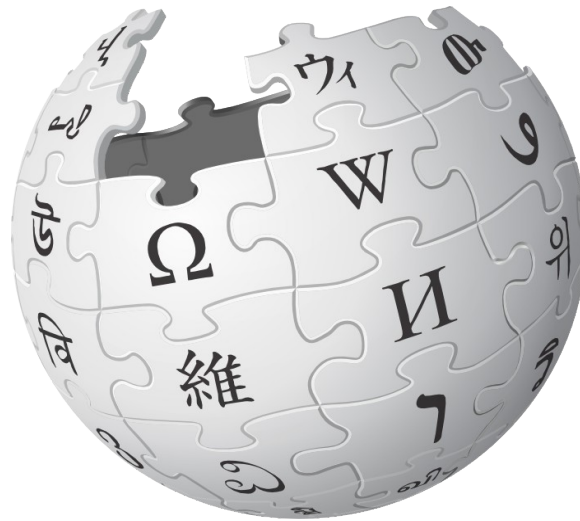
A close-up photograph of a young girl with large, expressive brown eyes. She is resting her chin on her clasped hands, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a red top with a white floral pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

A world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge

Wikimedia stats: #5 on the web

Monthly unique visitors	480,000,000
Articles available	21,000,000+
Photo and A/V Media files available	12,000,000+
Contributors to Wikipedia since inception	1,482,824
Active contributors each month	88,500

Why Wikipedia has worked: (at least) 4 innovations



1. An Internet with no limits

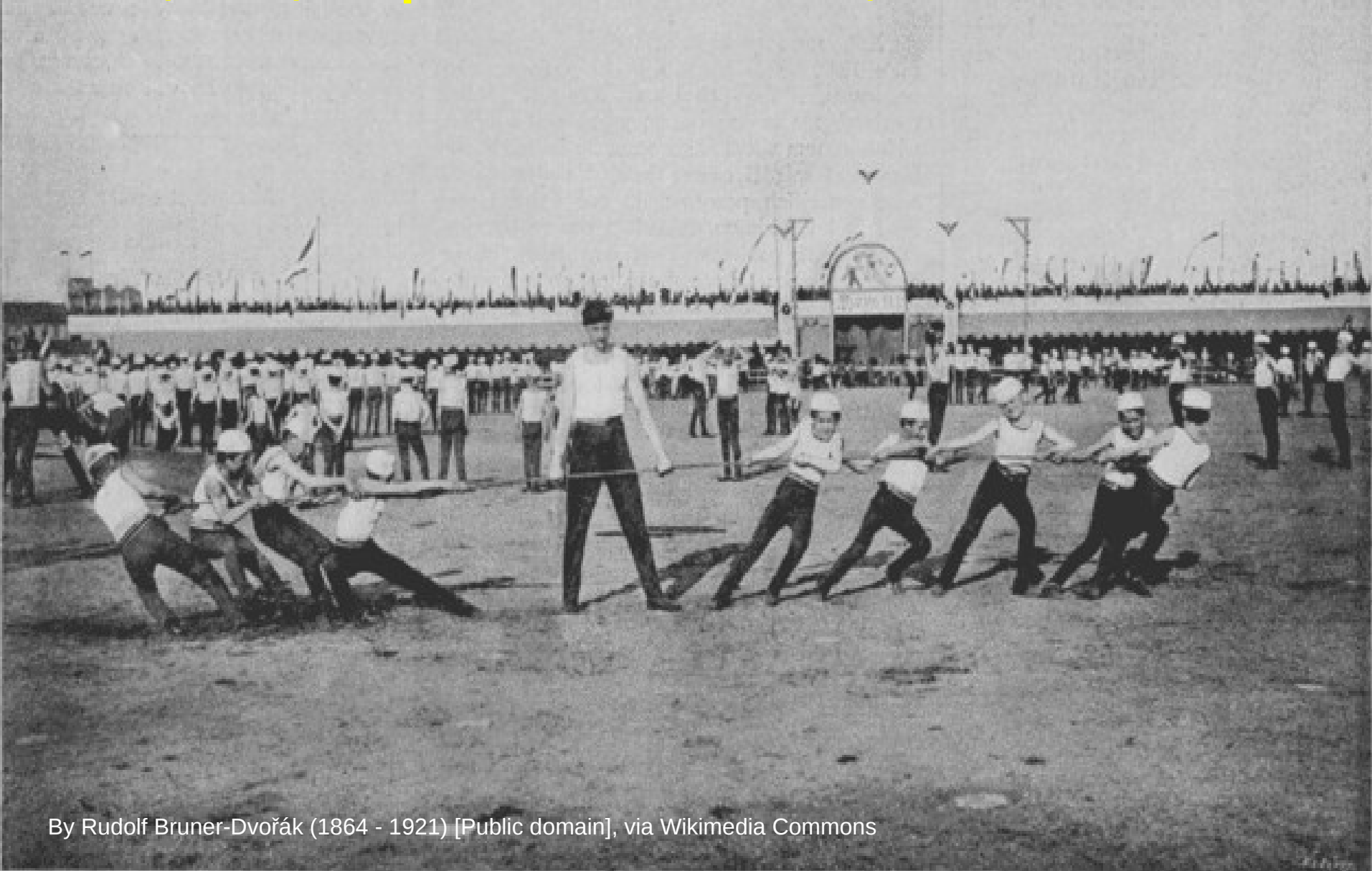


By United States Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Strang [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

2. *Anyone* can edit



3. Simple rules: Encyclopedia, neutral point of view, free, respectful interaction, no firm rules



By Rudolf Bruner-Dvořák (1864 - 1921) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

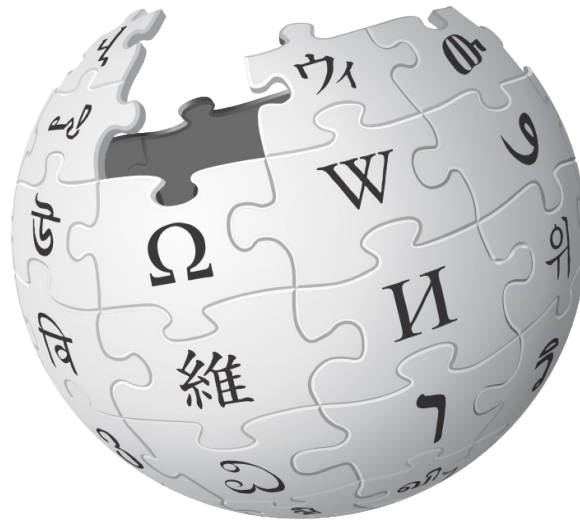
4. Free as in ice cream (with no ads)...and as in freedom



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Some useful lessons



Our community demonstrates the power of people to do great things together



Our approach to copyright challenges traditional notions of knowledge production

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You are free:

to Share

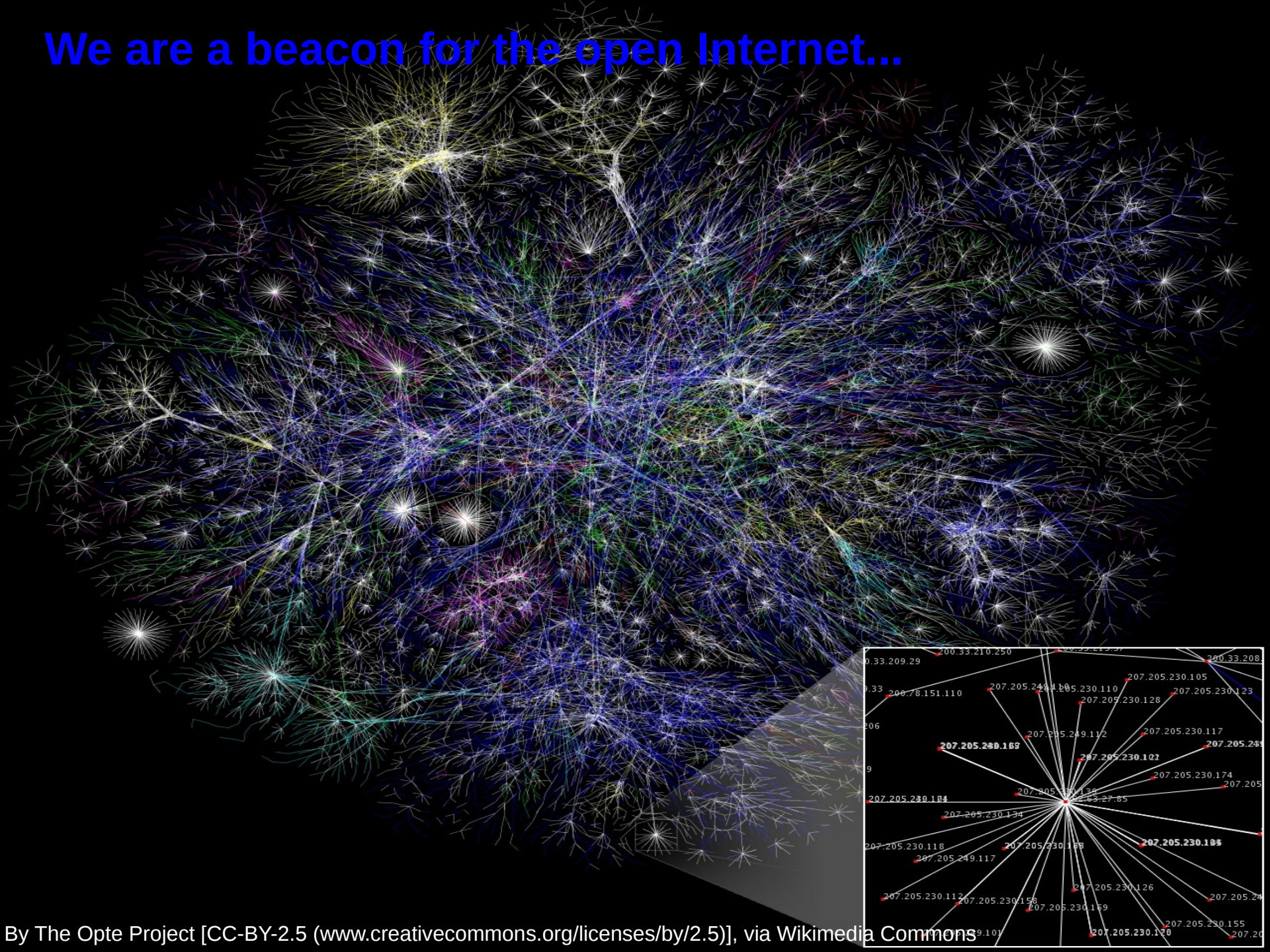
to Remix

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Attribution

Share Alike

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...and we are committing to defending the Open Internet

An important message from

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

18TH JANUARY, 2012

The internet must remain free.



For over a decade, global volunteers have compiled billions of facts and contributed millions of hours to build Wikipedia.

We have done this because we love to share knowledge with everyone. We have only been able to do this because the Internet is free and open. But right now, Congress is considering two bills that would hand repressive censorship tools to large commercial lobbyists.

If SOPA or the PROTECTIP Act pass, they would destroy the freedom and openness that has made Wikipedia what it is. We have blacked-out access to Wikipedia for today to show what might happen.

Please, consider whether a free and open Internet that includes Wikipedia is something you, too, care about. Use the tool below to contact your local representative or senator. Tell them that you oppose these acts. Tell them to protect the Internet. [Read more →](#)

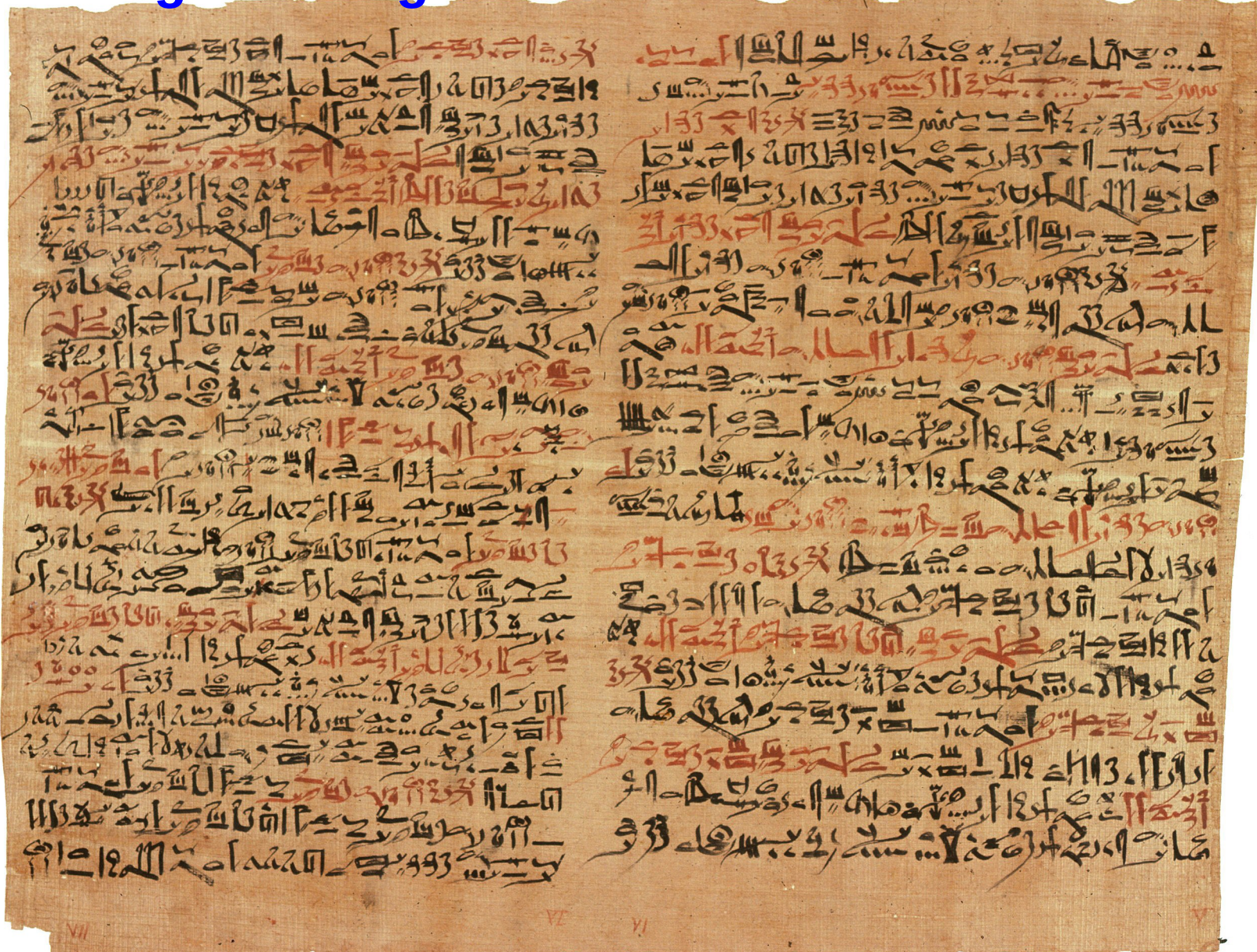
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Why the Arabic world needs a strong Arabic Wikipedia ...



Two reasons to do it: Restore historical role as a knowledge sharing culture....



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- **please contribute**

