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## Crisis And Unrest In The Arab World Problems And Prospects

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### **Abstract:**

*It looks as if Arab Spring refuses to boil down. The Egypt Military coup in July 2013 involving overthrowing of President Mohammad Morsi has once again revived the Arab unrest at the International level. Earlier Arab Spring of 2011 launched an era of sweeping political changes in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, which has historically been the least free region in the world. The fall of longtime leaders and the people's rising demands for a stronger voice in their own governance have brought new opportunities for reform and democratic transition in countries otherwise marked by severe abuses of almost all fundamental political rights and civil liberties. In this write up, the Author has analysed the problems with which the Arabian countries are confronted with. The Article also examines the opportunities and prospects lying ahead for the citizens of these Nations in order to reform and restore the Democratic institutions within their concerned countries.*

**Key words:** Arab Spring, Civil and Political Rights, International crisis, Regional arrangements, North Africa

### **1.Introduction**

Arab Spring is a media term for the revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests (both non-violent and violent), riots, and civil wars in the Arab world that began on 18 December 2010. To date, rulers have been forced from power in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen; civil uprisings have erupted in Bahrain and Syria; major protests have broken out in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco and Sudan and minor protests have occurred in Mauritania, , Djibouti and Western Sahara. Hosni Mubarak and his former interior minister Habib al-Adli were convicted to life in prison on the basis of their failure to stop the killings during the first six days of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. His successor, Mohamed Mursi, was sworn in as Egypt's first democratically elected president before judges at the Supreme Constitutional Court. Political transition in Egypt is still unpredictable. Fresh protests erupted again in Egypt. On 3 July 2013, Egyptians gathered at Tahrir Square, the military overthrew the replacement Government and President Morsi is now removed from power. The demand for democracy - or better, the passion for democracy - is sweeping through the Arab world, inspiring popular movements that demand political change. As it does, there are legitimate fears among many of the middle-east's citizens about what democratic states there will look like. The central question is: how will this democratic and profoundly anti-authoritarian moment, led by peoples ready for a government based on popular sovereignty, live on in the hearts of Tunisians, Egyptians, and others?<sup>1</sup>

### **2.Techniques Of Civil Resistance Used In Arab Unrest**

The protests have shared some techniques of civil resistance in sustained campaigns involving strikes, demonstrations, marches, and rallies, as well as the effective use of social media to organize, communicate, and raise awareness in the face of state attempts at repression and Internet censorship. Many Arab Spring demonstrations have been met with violent responses from authorities, as well as from pro-government militias and counter-demonstrators. These attacks have been answered with violence from protestors in some cases. A major slogan of the demonstrators in the Arab world has been the people want to bring down the regime. The Arab spring is widely believed to have been instigated by dissatisfaction with the rule of local governments, though some have speculated that wide gaps in income levels may have had a hand as well.

### **3.Reasons Behind The Eruption Of Agitation In Arab Countries And North African Countries**

Numerous factors have led to the protests, including issues such as dictatorship or absolute monarchy, human rights violations, political corruption (demonstrated by Wikileaks diplomatic cables), economic decline, unemployment, extreme poverty, and a number of demographic structural factors, such as a large percentage of educated but dissatisfied youth within the population. In recent decades rising living standards and literacy rates, as well as the increased availability of higher education, have resulted in an improved Human Development Index in the affected countries. The tension between rising aspirations and a lack of government reform may have been a contributing factor in all of the protests. Many of the Internet-savvy youth of these countries have, increasingly over the years, been viewing autocrats and absolute monarchies as anachronisms. To quote a University Professor of Oman, Al-Najma Zidjaly "this upheaval of Arab Spring is like a youthquake." Egypt, the first to witness major uprisings, differ from other North African and Middle Eastern nations such as Algeria and Libya in that they lack

significant oil revenue, and were thus unable to make concessions to calm the masses.

With the success of the protests in Tunisia, a wave of unrest sparked by the Tunisian "Burning Man" struck Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, and Yemen, then spread to other countries. The largest, most organised demonstrations have often occurred on a "day of rage", usually Friday afternoon prayers. The protests have also triggered similar unrest outside the region. The governments have been overthrown in four countries. Inspired by the uprising in Tunisia and prior to his entry as a central figure in Egyptian politics, Former IAEA Chief Mohamed El Baradei warned of a "Tunisia-style explosion" in Egypt. Protests began on 25 January 2011 and ran for 18 days. Beginning around midnight on 28 January, the Egyptian government attempted, somewhat successfully, to eliminate the nation's Internet access, in order to inhibit the protesters' ability use media activism to organize through social media.

#### 4. Prospects and opportunities for Arab and rest of World

The Arab spring is a work in progress. It cannot be constrained by any timeframe, and may yet extend to 2014 or beyond. But it has already set free almost 100 million Arabs in north Africa, about a third of the whole. As the other two-thirds continue to press for change, they will be crucially empowered by Egypt and Tunisia's ability to lead by example. These countries' re-emergence as democratic, independent and just states will help to turn the movement of 2011 into an unstoppable wave to end tyranny in the Arab world.<sup>ii</sup> Alliances and interests shift over time. The Arab spring is a good opportunity for western countries to rethink their interests in the middle east. They need to engage with movements that are genuinely representative, not just leaders that are pro-western. In any case, the west will not be able to dictate the future political landscape of the region.<sup>iii</sup> The newly liberated regimes have rushed to write or amend their constitutions, instead of taking time to reconsider their countries' needs as a whole and from all aspects. The two-year process in the United States, and Japan and Germany after their defeats in 1945, are examples of polities where long reflection preceded calm implementation. The regenerated Arab states need a similar preparatory period; and they could benefit by looking closely at the Turkish model, where democracy, Islam and modernity have come to coexist and where a variant of the aforementioned mix is practiced. Yet the day of the dictator is over in the middle east. An important agent of the change is a middle class desirous of a better life and convinced that the existing order is incapable of delivering it. This is reflected in the entry to public life of a new breed of Arab freedom fighters armed with college degrees and social-networking tools - yet crushed by unemployment, dismal career prospects, and the sight of their leaders' pervasive corruption. The lessons are for the United States and its allies too. They need urgently a soft-power approach to the Arab world, and to move beyond the confused pre-war policy and without a clear post-war policy. It is the right time for America to recalibrate its Arab policy as a whole, including its unqualified support for Israel. The "Arab spring" has unleashed forces that cannot yet be harnessed into a system of government unless ably guided by responsible leaders. Their agenda should be to deliver a free and democratic society. Any failure could turn hope into an Arab winter of discontent. The stakes are very high. A century of disappointment is enough.<sup>iv</sup>

#### 5. Conclusion

The violent agitations and demonstration are going on in Egypt, which has claimed many precious human lives so far. The current upheavals in the Arab region particularly the recent Egyptian crisis is not going to be over soon. As of now Arab Spring refuses to boil down. The Arab Spring is a long-term realignment of regional societies and the politics that serve and define them. This does not necessarily mean, of course, that we will necessarily see large-scale upheavals in the streets for years to come. But it does mean that we are unlikely to see a settled regional order out of all this soon, it will take time. While there is a broad set of ideas and grievances that are motivating the so-called Arab Spring, the situation will play out differently in each country based on specific conditions there. There can be no one-size-fits-all response to the region. We may anticipate, for example, that regional governments, if not necessarily democratic in many cases, will have to be more responsive to what they perceive as public opinion in their countries. For the first time in the recent history of the region, the people have effected change on a large scale and they are not likely to accept the kinds of governments they had before. The people are marching and the despots are falling. Therefore, this is the most profound period of post-Caliphatic history in the Arab-Islamic world. Yet it would be analytically naive and strategically mistaken to assume that the sweeping changes in Egypt and Tunisia will be copied throughout the region in a similar way and within a comparably "managed" context. Where does all this leave the Arab spring? To retaining its momentum will be crucial. The autocratic regimes of the middle east will use everything within their means to stay in power. Western military intervention has not proven to be an effective way to promote democratic forces within the region, nor will it be possible in every case. Yet international pressure, so vital in restricting the use of regime violence against the opposition movements in Tunisia and Egypt, must be applied elsewhere in the region if the momentum of the Arab spring is not to be lost. Here comes in , the role of International Arrangements like Arab League, Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), Non Alignment Movement Countries (NAM). All these regional arrangements have to come forward and work in Co-ordination and Co-operation so that ideals of peace, justice, reform, political stability and Democratic institutions are restored back in the Arab World. The Author thinks that instability will be the rule for some time to come. But as the idea of democracy advances, it can establish itself as the best solution for political and peaceful handling multiple and different interests in Arab World. The wave of real democratisation has started in the Arab countries, unfolding new era and new political phase to come.

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