

WORKSHOP ON
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE ARAB AWAKENING
MARCH 24, 2012
CAIRO, EGYPT

In light of the recent events in the Middle East, ERF has launched a new research theme on the ongoing political and economic transformations taking place in the Arab World and the Middle East more generally.

Besides the need to reconstruct analytically sound frameworks to characterize the past, the efforts of the new thematic group will be devoted to exploring policies which could lead to a better future. The revolutions' core demands include recognition (liberty, fairness, and dignity), a more equitable process of accumulation and job creation and more effective social provisioning. Researchers need to imagine the types of policy reforms which are not only technically sound, but also politically and administratively feasible.

The main questions for the Cairo meeting are: In which ways are the existing political economy settlements in the Arab World changing? What are the driving forces and how was the status quo changed in several countries? How do we understand the ongoing revolts; why now, why are they leaderless, how does regional contagion work? What do the ongoing changes imply for capital accumulation and social provisioning?

The workshop will focus on four issues:

- (i) It will explore the contours of a rational framework to understand the ongoing revolutions with applications for Egypt and Tunisia.
- (ii) It will then ask what we can learn from the experiences of change in other countries with similar characteristics.
- (iii) It will discuss the reasons behind the rise of corruption and will ask whether a similar rise can be tackled in the future.
- (iv) And finally, it will begin to explore whether and how religious beliefs and practices can be harnessed to solve particular developmental constraints.

In developing this agenda, some of the innovative methods that will be considered include analyses of opinion survey data and of stock market prices.

The initiative is part of a larger effort by ERF to foster an inter-disciplinary community of researchers with a common goal of finding innovative approaches to understanding the current social, political, and economic transformations taking place in the Middle East.

ERF is organizing this workshop to present the results of a first set of draft papers. A group of about 30 researchers will be invited to discuss these papers and explore views on how best to frame this new effort, with the objective of defining priority areas for research for ERF and setting its research agenda on this theme for the coming years.

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**MARCH 24, 2012
MARRIOTT CAIRO, EGYPT**

AGENDA

- 08:30-09:00** **Registration**
- 09:00-10:30** **SESSION 1: POLITICAL-ECONOMY SETTLEMENTS 1**
Moderator and Introduction: *Ahmed Galal*, Economic Research Forum
Speakers: *Stephen Kosack and Evann Smith*, Arab Mass Movements in Comparative Perspective
Ishac Diwan, A Framework to Understand the Arab Revolutions
Discussant: *Mushtaq Khan*, University of London
Open Discussion
- 10:30-12:00** **SESSION 2: LESSONS FROM PAST TRANSITIONS**
Moderator: *Mahmoud El-Gamal*, Rice University
Speakers: *Jillian Schwedler*, Does political participation lead to Moderation? Political Islam in Jordan and Yemen
Hadi Esfahani and Esra Çeviker Gürakar, What Drove Changes in Political Settlements in Iran and Turkey?
Akhmad Rizal Shidiq and Philips Vermonte, Indonesia before and after the revolution
Discussant: *Pratap Mehta*, Centre for Policy Research
Open Discussion
- 12:00-12:15** **Break**
- 12:30-14:00** **SESSION 3: ONGOING TRANSITIONS**
Moderator: *Hazem El Beblawi*, Former Minister of Finance of Egypt
Speaker: *Fadhel Kaboub*, Tunisia's Revolution and Aftermath
Mohamed Hassan, Egypt's Revolution (tbc)
Michael Robbins: Public Opinion about Islam and Democracy before and after the Revolutions
Discussant: *John Waterbury*, AUB
Open Discussion
- 14:00-15:00** **Lunch**
- 15:00-16:30** **SESSION 4: ARAB CAPITALISM – CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**
Moderator: *Mustapha Nabli*, Central Bank of Tunisia
Speakers: *Saifedean Ammous*, Arab Corporatism
Hamouda Chekir, What do Stock Markets tell us about Corruption?
Izak Atiyas, The Political Challenge of Enhancing Competition
Discussant: *Daniel Kaufmann*, Brookings Institution
Open Discussion
- 16:30-17:30** **SESSION 5: DISCUSSION ON RESEARCH AGENDA FOR PHASE 2**

Moderator: *Ahmed Galal, Economic Research Forum*
Speakers: *Ishac Diwan, Harvard Kennedy School*
TBD
TBD

Open Discussion

MARCH 25

Parallel

SESSION 6: ISLAM AS PART OF THE SOLUTION

Moderator: *Hadi Esfahani, University of Illinois*

Speakers: *Hassan Ersel, Are the rises of the AKP and SMEs interconnected?*
Mahmoud El-Gamal, Democratizing Credit by including Islamic Characteristics

Imane Chaara: Educating Girls in Morocco

Discussant: *Ibrahim El-Badawi, Dubai Economic Policy and Research Institute*

Open Discussion

MARCH 26

Parallel

REPORTING BACK ON THE WORKSHOP ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE ARAB AWAKENING AND A DISCUSSION OF A FUTURE RESEARCH AGENDA

Moderator:

Speakers: **Ishac Diwan**

TBD

TBD

Open Discussion

Preliminary List of Participants

	Name	Affiliation	Country
1	Ahmed Galal	Economic Research Forum	Egypt
2	Stephen Kosack	Harvard Kennedy School	UK
3	Ishac Diwan	Harvard Kennedy School	UK
4	Mushtaq Khan	University of London	UK
5	Hadi Esfahani	University of Illinois	USA
6	Esra Çeviker Gürakar	University of Illinois	USA
8	Akhmad Rizal Shidiq	Universitas Indonesia	USA
9	Jillian Schwedler	University of Massachusetts	USA
10	Hassan Ersel	University of Ankara	Turkey
11	Fadhel Kaboub	Denison University	USA
12	John Waterberry		UAE
13	Saifedean Ammous	Lebanese American University	Lebanon
14	Izak Atiyas	Sabanji University	Turkey
15	Hamouda Chekir	Lazard Frères, Paris	France
16	Mahmoud El-Gamal	Rice University	USA
17	Paul Salem	Carnegie Endowment	Lebanon
18	Philips Vermonte	Centre for Strategic and International Studies	Indonesia
19	Pratap Mehta	Centre for Policy Research	India
20	Hazem El Beblawi	Former Minister of Finance of Egypt	Egypt
21	Mohamed Hassan		
22	Michael Robbins	Harvard Kennedy School	UK
23	Mustapha Nabli	Central Bank of Tunisia	Tunisia
24	Daniel Kaufmann	Brookings Institution	USA
25	Imane Chaara	FUNDP (University of Namur)	Belgique
26	Ibrahim El-Badawi	Dubai Economic Policy and Research Institute	UAE
27	Amr Hamzawi	Member of Egyptian Parliament	Egypt
28	Najib Harabi	University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland	Switzerland
29	Omar Razzaz	World Bank	Lebanon
30	Ibrahim Saif	Economic and Social Council, Jordan	Jordan
31	Samir Makdissi	The American University of Beirut	Lebanon
32	Taher Kanaan	Jordan Center for Public Policy Research and Dialogue	Jordan
33	Atef Kubursi	McMaster University	Canada
34	Tarek Youssef	Silatech	Qatar
35	Evann Smith		
36	Rima Khalaf	UNESCWA	Lebanon
37	Lisa Anderson	AUC	Egypt
38	Michael Ross	UCLA	USA
39	Bassma Kodmani	Arab Reform Initiative	France
40	Jeffery Nugent	University of Southern California	USA
41	Ragui Assaad	University of Minnesota	Egypt
42	Noha El Mikawy	ford foundation	Egypt
43	Lahcen Achy	Carnegie middle east	Lebanon
44	George Corm	George Corm Economic & Financial Consultancy Office	Lebanon
45	Hamed Mohtadi	University of Wisconsin	USA
46	Alia Al Dalli	UNDP, Arab Bureau, Cairo	Egypt
47	Nisrine Salti	American University of Beirut	Lebanon

48	Phil Keefer	world Bank	USA
49	Massood Karshenas	University of London	UK
50	Ayesha elbereir	UNDP Khartoum	Sudan
51	Zaki Fattah	Consultant	Lebanon
52	Rabad el Mahdi	AUC	Egypt
53	Samer Soliman	AUC	Egypt