



Analysis: Revolutionary Unrest in the Middle East



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Assessing Revolutions: An Analytical Model



Triad of Revolutionary Unrest: Trends, Triggers & Tools

- ***Trends***: underlying factors as prerequisites for an environment conducive for revolutionary unrest
- ***Triggers***: significant single events sparking to mobilize and galvanize “people power”
- ***Tools***: methods to harness, leverage and sustain popular awakening and “people power”

Trends

Misrule, abuse and an “arrogance of power,” widening inequality

Entrenched corruption, weak/absent rule of law, subservient judiciary

“People Power” & civic awakening, pronounced discontent and unrest

Little or no legitimacy

Triggers

Electoral fraud, isolated but mobilizing incident, etc.

“People Power”

Demonstrations & protests

Regime over-reaction

Tools

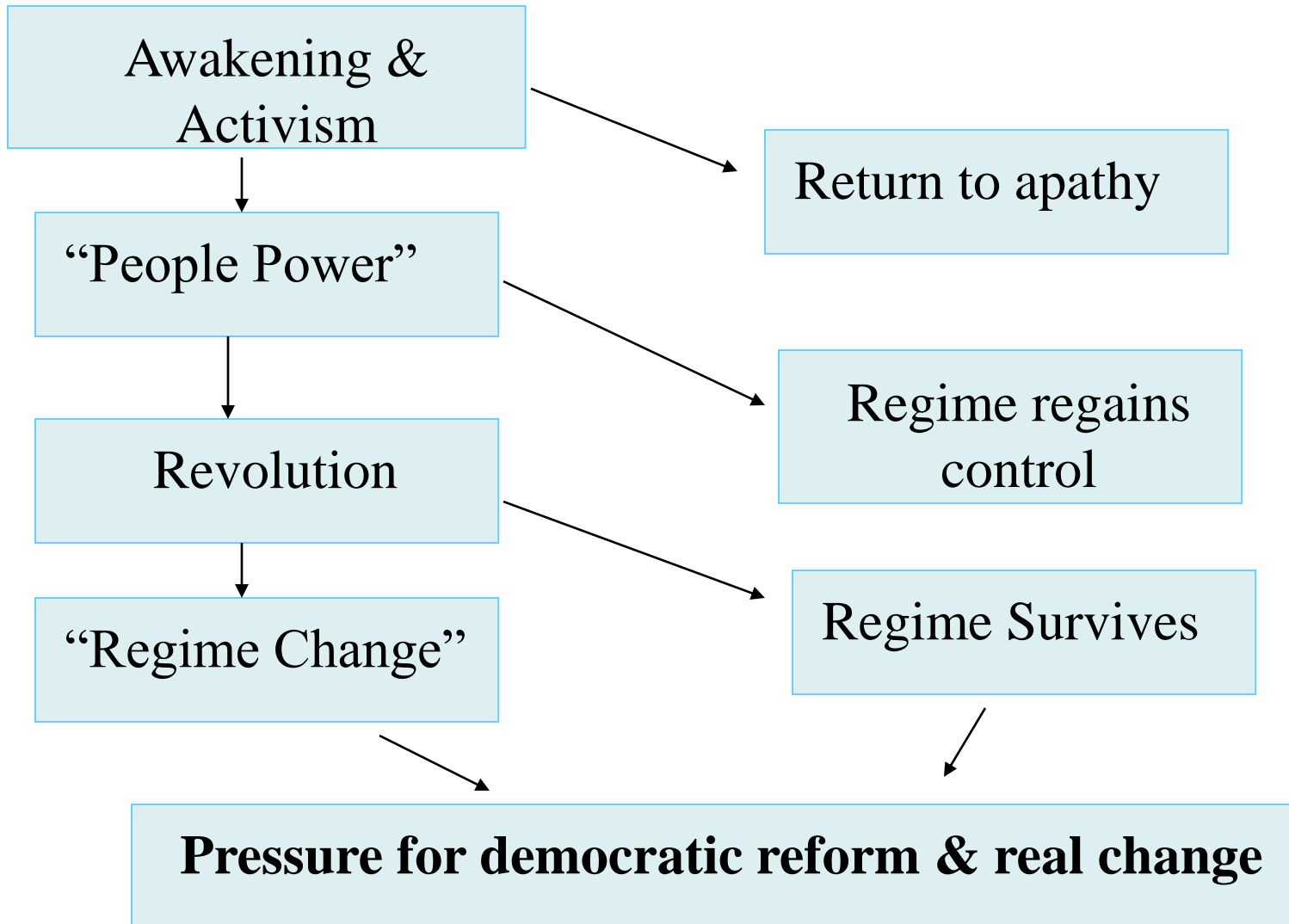
Popular support & mobilization

Leadership & strategy

Demonstrations & street protests

Regime security switch sides
Decisive “tipping point”

Revolutionary Pathways



Conclusion

- Inherent weakness & vulnerability of governments lacking legitimacy;
- Explosive power of pronounced humiliation, hopelessness and rage;
- Economic “deep drivers” of discontent;
- “Beware the blogger” & employing social media tools to empower;
- Limits of revolution; the day after is hardest.



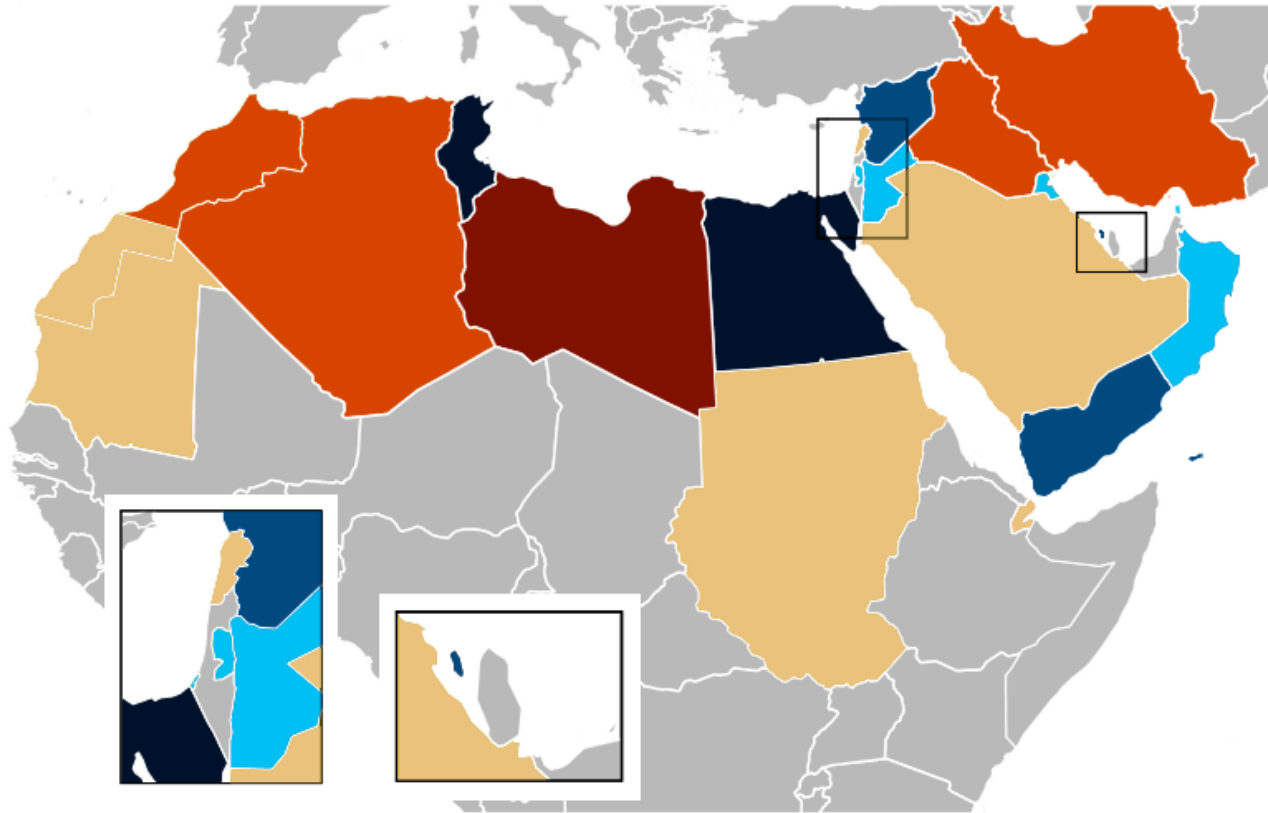
Rebellions, Riots & Revolutionary Unrest in the Middle East



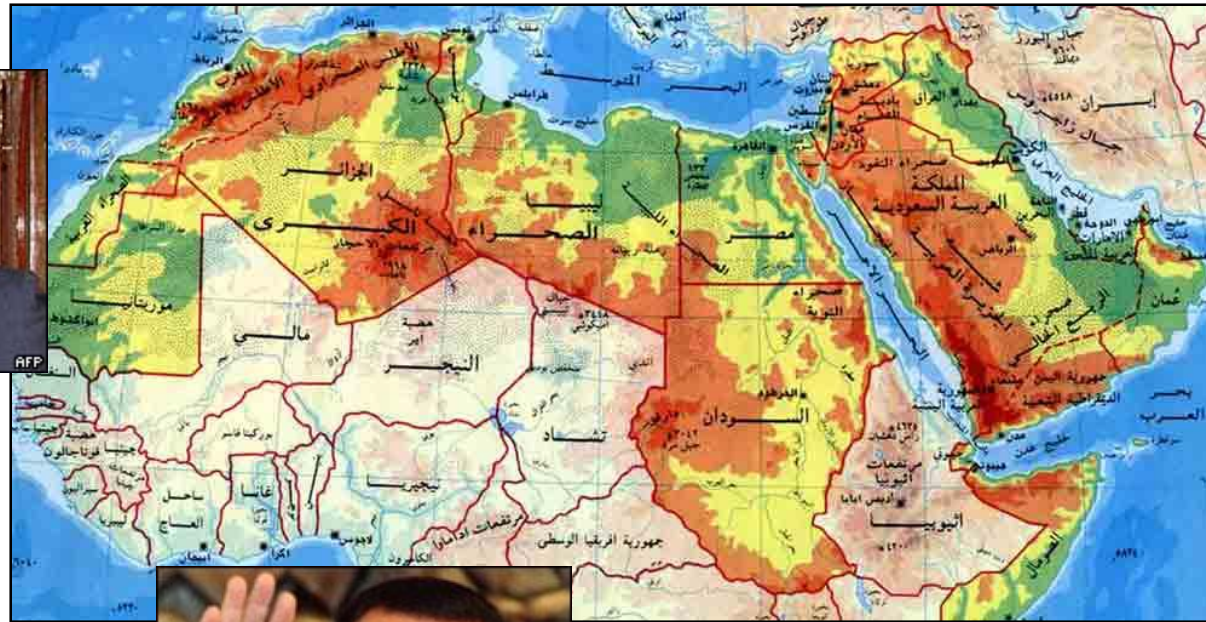
2011: A Year of Revolutionary Unrest

- ***Tunisia***: President Ben Ali ousted; **23-year** regime overthrown
- ***Egypt***: President Hosni Mubarak ousted; **30-year** regime overthrown
- ***Libya***: civil war & NATO intervention; Gaddafi killed by rebel forces; **42-year** regime overthrown
- ***Syria***: civil war & mounting conflict
- ***Yemen, and Bahrain***: Civil uprisings against the governments, despite government changes
- ***Jordan, Kuwait, Oman & Morocco***: implementing government changes in response to protest

Rebellions and Riots 2011



Kings & Dictators



Common Characteristics

- With Exception of Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories, Arab States Remarkably Stable For Three Decades + :
 - King Hussein, Jordan, More than 40 Years
 - Hafiz Al-Asad, Syria, 30 Years
 - Hosni Mubarak, Egypt, 23 Years
 - Saddam Hussein, Iraq, Almost 25 Years
- Authoritarian Governments Dominate the Arab World
 - Many Leaders Live in Fear
 - Rulers Fear Political Reform as a Catalyst for Instability
- Arab Countries are Often Essentially Police States with Relatively Large Security Services and Militaries—Armed Forces are Not Servants of the People, But Served by the People (Corruption)
- Despite Rich Cultural Composition and Histories, Civil Society is Often Stifled or Closely Monitored
- Large Portions or Majority of Population Often Cut Out or Impoverished—No Vehicles for Upward Mobility

Stability vs. Security

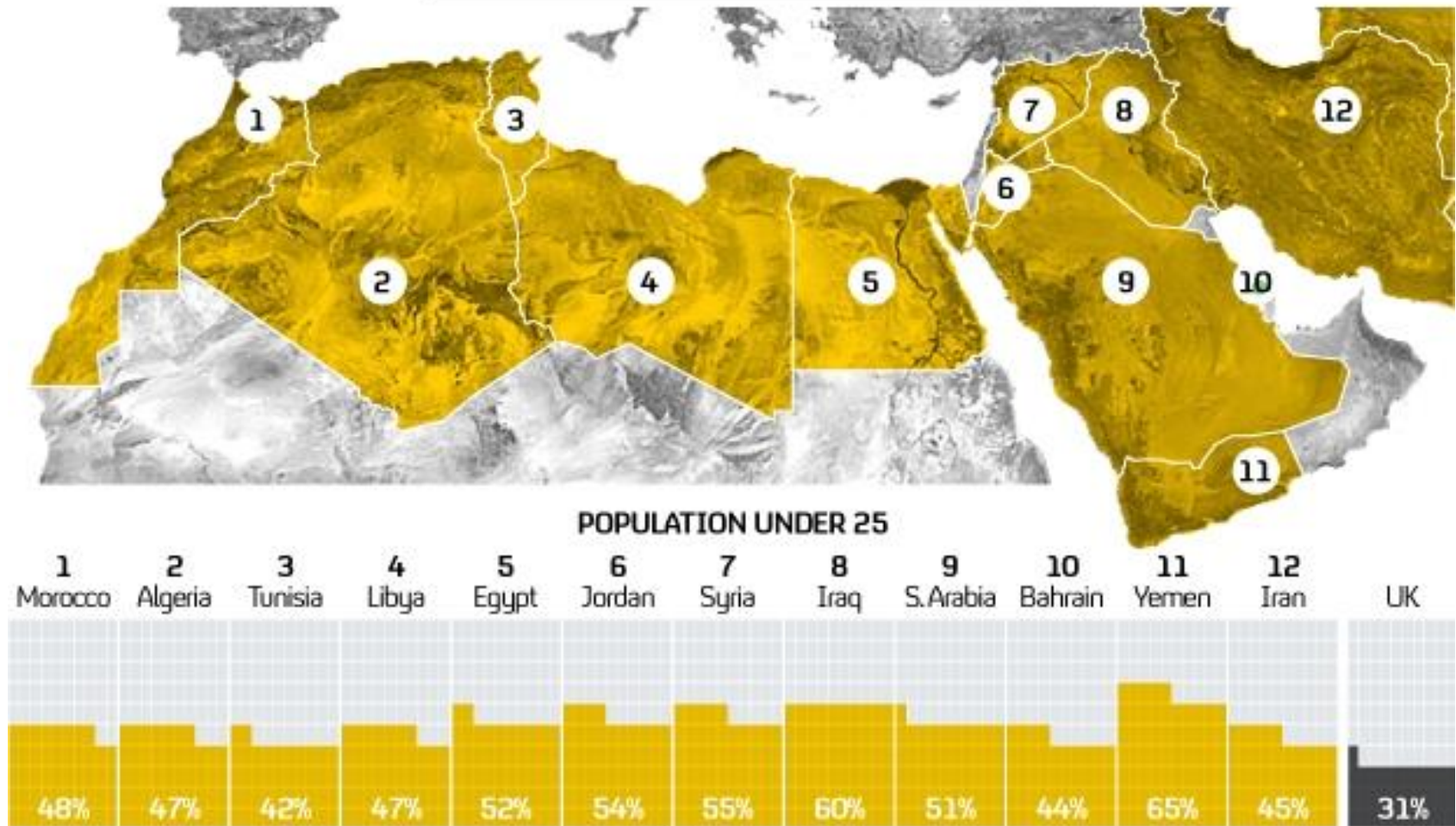
- Co-opting and Promoting Particular (and often Minority) Ethnic Groups, as well as loyalty of key tribes
 - Syria—Alawis from the Coastal Mountains
 - Iraq—Sunnis from the Sunni Triangle/Tikritis
 - Jordan—Bedouin Families from East Bank
- Controlled Demonstrations and Protests—
Pressure Valves
- Promotion of “Military” Societies—Most Arab Leaders Either Rose Up through the Military or Closely Identify Themselves with the Military
- Dual Militaries with Simultaneous External Defense and Internal Protection Missions. In Fact, #1 Mission is Actually Regime Protection

Drivers & Determinants

- Economic:
 - Unless Oil/Natural Gas Revenues High, Development is Stifled As Bright Young People Emigrate or Are Forced to Settle for Jobs Beneath Capabilities
 - Defense Budgets are Disproportionately High, Taking Money From Civilian Industry
- Military/Security:
 - Sycophants, Often from Particular Ethnic Groups, Advance Before Capable Leaders
 - Centralized Control Slows Speed at which Operations are Executed
 - Jealousies Hurt Cooperation Between Individual Services
- Social/Political:
 - Political Cronies and Loyalist Leaches Attain High-Level Positions
 - Due to a Lack of Legal Outlets for Frustration, Extremism on the Rise

Demographic Pressure

Arab unrest: youth revolt



Source UN Population Database

Technological Empowerment



Internet in the Arab world



- Internet access ranges from only 5% (Libya) to 34% (Tunisia).

Egypt and Internet

- Egypt: Only 20% of population have ever used Internet.
- Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen have a combined total of 14,642 Twitter users
- PC ownership remains almost exclusively available to the upper and upper middle classes.



Limits of Revolution

- Needs, frustrations, and ideas kindle the fire of revolution, not the Internet alone;
- Social media can:
 - spread ideas,
 - spread information,
 - ease recruitment and coordination,
 - attract media attention

