



## **Arab League**

# **The Political, Economic, and Social Ramifications of the Arab Spring for the Arab League**

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**HDI—Human Development Index**

### **Introduction**

The Arab League consists of 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Arab countries have a rich diversity of ethnic, linguistic, and religious communities. These include Kurds, Armenians, Berbers and others. The Arab League was founded in 1945, and is headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. The League serves to represent the interest of over 361 million Arabs, through a political and economic forum of its leaders. Nabil El-Araby was elected Secretary-General of the Arab League in May 2011, succeeding fellow-Egyptian Amr Moussa. All Secretaries-General of the Arab League have been Egyptian with the exception of those elected between 1979-1991, during which Egypt was expelled from the league due to its peace treaty with Israel.

### *Geographic & Demographic Indicators*

The Arab League comprises a landmass of 12.84 million km<sup>2</sup>, with an average population density of about 27.3 people/km<sup>2</sup>, and a median of 72.6 people/km<sup>2</sup> (132<sup>nd</sup> worldwide). Population growth within the region averages at around 2.12% per year, and with a median of 2.22% (57<sup>th</sup> worldwide). Life expectancy stands at 69.5 years, with median life expectancy at 73.7 (105<sup>th</sup> worldwide). Although, the life expectancy shows great variations, with the highest in Jordan 78.9 years and lowest in Djibouti at 43.4 years (2009 estimates, 39<sup>th</sup> and 220<sup>th</sup> worldwide, respectively.) Median age, which is another pertinent factor in the understanding of the current revolution alongside with population growth, stands at 21.7 years for the region's median (161<sup>st</sup> worldwide), and 30.8 in Qatar representing the highest recorded average, and the lowest in Yemen at 16.8 years. (2009 estimates, 85<sup>th</sup> and 218<sup>h</sup> worldwide, respectively.)

### *Economic Properties:*

Real GDP for the region stands at 1.89 trillion per year, with GDP per capita at \$5,500. Median GDP per capita, is perhaps a closer representative, stands at \$2,900, with the highest in Qatar at \$89,000 per capita, and lowest in Somalia at \$298. GDP growth for 2008 averaged at around 5.54%, although this number is expected to drop in the 2011 estimates due to the ongoing 'Arab Spring.'

(TO be included Social Indicators; Political Freedom Indicators; Human Rights Indicators; Democracy Indicators ; HDI; Income Inequality, Literacy rates, and comparison over time)

This briefing aims at providing an overview of both the challenges facing the Arab world in light of the recent revolutionary developments and potential mechanism to deal with said crisis. The region has been undergoing a transformational change that



will continue to have political, social and economic ramifications in both the short and the long-term. As we know, our region is of utmost important to the global economy, the vast natural resource endowment, and the plethora of international trade routes such as the Sinai Canal, Hurmuz Strait, Persian Gulf. Finally, it is of utmost geopolitical and military importance in the Near East and Western Asia for many Western powers, most notably the United States, which anchors its 5<sup>th</sup> fleet in Bahrain, and possess numerous military bases across the landscape with upwards of 200,000 troops. Instability in the region is a cause of worry not only for the leaders of the Arab League nations, but also for all those who are dependent on the region or its resources. Developing hotspots have created interesting alliances, and a system of power that is most reminiscent to that of the Congress of Vienna, with those in power seeking only to consolidate their power and suppress the spread of revolutionary ideals.

Other important events or key conflicts will deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2006, the rising tension between the GCC and Iran, and the rising influence of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean.

GCC—Gulf Cooperation Council

## Explanation of the Problem

### *History of the Problem*

The History of the modern Arab World can be traced to the post-WWI period. After the collapse of the Ottoman rule, with the combined help of Arab and Western armies the Ottoman grip of 400 year old ceased to exist. The liberated territories, however, especially those of the Levant and North Africa enjoyed a brief moment of freedom. Shortly thereafter, the British and French divided up the Ottoman Empire in accordance to the Treat of Sykes-Picot (1917). The League of Nations legally internationalized this treaty by giving a mandate to Britain and France to divide up the Levant, with Transjordan and Palestine given to the first, and Lebanon and Syria to the latter. France also retained its colonies in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, while Italy began shortly thereafter colonizing modern-day Libya. Egypt at the time, ruled by the Khadives dynasty, remained a British 'protectorate,' exercising limited sovereignty. The UK also helped empower the Najd-based Al-Saud tribe allowing them to take control of the Arabian Peninsula, dethroning the Sherrif of Mecca Sayyed Hussien bin Ali in the process. The British compensated the Sherrif by promising to place his two elder sons, Abdullah I as King of Jordan and Faisal I as King of Syria and Iraq. However, Faisal I was quickly expelled from Syria by the French occupying powers in 1920, and he retained the throne in Iraq. All in all, as a result of colonial aspirations, and monarchical power structure, the majority of the Arab World lived under total or so foreign control up until the end of post-WWII era.

Nationalism and Anti-Colonialists movements began springing up in the 1950s with the rising growth of Arab Liberalism and Pan-Arabism. Colonel Jamal Abdel Nasser alongside Mohammed Naguib, the first president of Egypt, helped lead a revolution that overthrew the monarchy and expel King Farouk of Egypt and the Sudan. In Syria and Iraq, The *Ba'athist* party led a coup d'état against the ruling parties at the time. Historically, since French forces were expelled after WWII, a combination of military and nationalist parties dominated the political scene. The Ba'ath first came to power in 1963 and while they promised secular and liberal pan-Arab ideals, they remained much or less a ruling military junta. The Ba'ath history in Syria during its first decade was marked with volatility and political turmoil within the ruling party, up until 1971 when Hafiz Al-Asad, the father of the current Syrian President Bashar, consolidated power. In Iraq, the Ba'ath party's rise to power took a different path. In 1958, the Ba'ath bandwagoned with the rest of the military in a *coup d'etat* against King

Faisal II led by Abdel-Karim Qasim in 1958. In 1963, the Ba'ath party usurped power from Qasim and established rule, only to be overthrown the same year. The Ba'ath returned to power five years after in 1968, and were ruled the Republic was ruled till 1979 by Ahmed Hassan al-Bakar. The latter was replaced by Saddam Hussein, who remained the ruler of the nation till the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. It is worth noting that the Ba'ath party split up in 1966 after a coup against the spiritual command of Michel Aflaq. Ever since, the two branches of the party espoused different national ideals, with the Syrian branch promoting Qotri (regional) nationalism, in accordance with the Saudi model, and the Iraqi branch espousing Qawmi (National) nationalism. The two parties became bitter rival to such an extent that Syria would become the sole nation that openly supported the non-Arab Iran against Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war.

**PPP**—*purchasing power parity*

By contrast, the political situation in the Gulf region, with few exceptions, has been marked with stability and little interruptions. The Monarchs of Saudi Arabia, with a few exceptions, have faced little insurrection on behalf of their people. Similarly, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain have more or less been stable under the rule of their respective clans or Emirs. The First Gulf War issued several waves of instability in some of these nations, especially Kuwait who was occupied by neighboring Iraq, but shortly thereafter the end of the war, the political situation on the ground return to the usual. Although, interestingly enough, Kuwait is reported to have been the most active democratic country out of its regional allies, with numerous protests and calls for accountability against the PM and MPs, which often turned into large scandals over the past few years. Despite the most recent attempt by the government to quell the citizens anger by dispatching a bonus payment to all citizens, protest have continued, bringing fear to the regimes in not only Kuwait but other rentier economies which buy out the support of their public.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 a popular uprising in Tunisia ousted Zine El Abidine Ben Ali – the country's dictator for 23 years. As the contagion spread from nation to nation, many Arab dictators began consolidating their powers, fearing a similar faith to Ben Ali. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Egyptian police state apparatus failed to keep Hosni Mubarak in power. The fall of Mubarak's regime intensified the momentum of the revolution. Arabs of all walks of life began protesting in many countries, although the outcomes were very different. In Bahrain, the government with the aid of the Gulf Cooperation Council (mainly troops from Saudi Arabia) crushed the local's population's aspirations—citing that the military intervention was necessary in order to exterminate a foreign conspiracy against the regime.

The Arab world has been plagued with despotic regimes for the past few decades, these regimes have tampered with the ability of people to exercise most of the rights that should in theory be granted to them. While republics sprung up in the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, little democratization has followed. Widespread corruption is one of the many symptoms. In a 2010 estimate, of the total Arab League GDP estimated at around 3 trillion USD at PPP, about one third is squandered on military expenditures, one third is retained by the ruling parties and officials, and the remaining third eventually trickles down to the rest of the society.

### *Question of Palestine and the 'Arab Spring' & the 'Axis of Resistance' versus the 'Axis of Moderation'*

The Question of Palestine remains a stringent development that is often overcasted by the regional developments, or sometimes, serves to trump the other. Yet

another interesting dimension in all of this, and that is the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict which definitely at some times overshadows this and takes over all the media attention. But there is an increasing rise of pro-Palestinian demonstrations, especially in countries such as Tunisia, Libya, and most importantly Egypt. Now that the street can influence the decision making process in these countries to a much larger extent than before, America, Israel and the EU are definitely not too pleased with all of this, and are to some extent cooperating with the counter-revolution. For example, some recent Israeli analysts that argue in favor of the Syrian regime, even though it is openly hostile to Israel in the media, doctrine and ideology- But they argue, that the Syrians where all talk, and haven't raised a single finger against Israel in the past few decades.

**NATO**—*North Atlantic Treaty Organization*

### *Recent Developments and Interest Groups*

As of October 2011, the situation on the ground has been escalating as usual. There are a few possible ways to categorize the developments, by region or revolutionary movement and progress. There has been one failed revolution in Bahrain, suppressed by the military forces of Bahrain supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council Military Shield (known as 'Dir'a Al-Jazira, or the Island's Shield, in reference to the Arabian peninsula). Two revolts have escalated into a full-blown revolution in Egypt and Tunisia resulting in the overthrow of the governments and a transition, albeit unpredictable, to democracy. There has been one revolt that led to an armed-insurrection, subsequent civil war and a foreign military intervention in Libya. Finally, there remain two major ongoing revolts in Syria and Yemen where the situation remains restive and unpredictable.

### *Libya*

In Libya, Mu'amar Qaddafi, perhaps one of the most idiosyncratic leader, few days after the launch of the February 17 movement vowed to crush the "traitors," or as he stated in his first televised address on the matter, "I am calling upon the millions, from the desert to the desert, and we will march in the millions to purify Libya, inch by inch, house by house, home by home, corner by corner, person by person, until the county is clean of the dirt and the impurities." Qaddafi's rhetoric was soon translated on the ground, with casualties being reported in many of the cities. The 'rebels' or 'revolutionaries' were successfully able to dismantle and 'liberate' the city of Benghazi and its surroundings in what soon became an open military conflagration. Qaddafi at that point realized his desperation; some argued he even began bringing in military, and ordered the aerial bombardment of rebel held cities and protesters alike. In response, the UNSC adopted a resolution sponsored by Britain and France to activate the "RtoP," in accordance to of Libya by enforcing a No-Fly-Zone. Shortly after, NATO led a military intervention aimed at supporting the ground effort of the local rebels against the Colonel.

Six months after the initial intervention, the stalemate on the ground was finally broken as Tripoli fell in the hands of the rebels. However, while some argue that the Libyan leader would have massacred thousands in Benghazi had he not been stopped, others question the true motive behind the Western led intervention, pointing towards oil as the prime motivator for the otherwise seemingly noble act.

The situation in Libya, with the NATO-led intervention, is still unpredictable. On the one hand, while the regime of Qaddafi has been all but destroyed, with few

remaining pockets of loyalist, the political situation remains unpredictable. Many have accused the Libyan Transitional Council of having many ties with the old regime, while others blame it for inviting foreign occupation and military intervention. Some question the efficacy of the NATO-led intervention, arguing for greater transparency in the transition process and hoping for minimal foreign intervention in the political process that follows.

**Word—definition goes here.**

In support of the latter assumption, one must look at the Syrian revolt, whereby the Syrian dictator, much like the Yemeni dictator, has unleashed all sorts of retaliation against his people. Yet little intervention is taking place in those regions.

### *Yemen & Syria*

While the situations in the Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic are not necessarily one of the same, they can be grouped in the same category for a few sets of reasons. First, both nations are currently allied with the opposing regional power rivals, Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively. Second, both nations have undergone an excessive repression of unarmed civilian protestors with little to no international reaction. Third, both nations have similar population size, although the standards of living are significantly worse in Yemen. Finally, both nations have a far from homogenous ethnic and religious composition, that make the onset of a civil war vis-à-vis the Libyan model a serious possibility. However, it is worth to note that in the case of Yemen, a civil war is unlikely, in that while the regime is hoping to infuse this, the country has suffered greatly from its civil war which is still ingrained in the memories of the living and many are skeptical towards the possibility of another breakout despite the continuous government repression.

### **Syria**

The Syrian regime has been brutally suppressing the demonstrators, and enforcing martial law on the majority of the cities. The Arab Syrian Army is being deployed across the country to suppress and punish any disobedience. Early estimates of casualties surpass the 3,000 mark. It is notable to mention, however, that the Syrian army has also suffered casualties on behalf of the rebel. While true figures are not verifiable, there is little doubt that a rising insurgency is forming- some point to members of the Arab League – mainly GCC countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar as financing the revolutionaries. Other conflicts began to brew as the army itself is slowly disintegrating.

Syria long viewed as an ally of both Iran and Russia will be a much more difficult regime to fall. Internationally, the Security Council was unable to reach similar economic and political measures, let alone enact the “RtoP” due to a dual Russian and Chinese veto in early October. There is very little doubt that Russia will leave its ally in the future- especially one that has not only been one of its largest military equipment purchaser in the region but also, Russia finally has a military base on the Mediterranean that it will not wish to see disappear. Iran on the other hand, will also suffer drastically as it will see a splinter in its sphere of influence, the fall of the Syrian regime, will most likely bring rise to an Sunni dominated political party that will be less friendly towards Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iran.

Last but not least, the Syrians are in an increasingly difficult position as the state itself is dominated by a coalition of an elite Sunni industrialists and financiers, allied with the Christian and Alawite minority of the country with the centers of power in Damascus and Aleppo. The rest of the country is predominately Sunni Muslim,

however, they have little or no say in the states of affair in the country. The story of Alawite domination of the country began after the overthrowing of the king and the rise of the Baa'thish party, whereby Arab Christians and Alawites formed a pan-Arab national rhetoric with wide mass appeal. Simultaneously, the Alawites realized that their only way to consolidate power was to infiltrate the ranks of the military, and make the military subservient to their denomination. Hence, for many of the conscripts defection is not an option as for most of them they are fighting a battle of survival.

This situation is made even more complex, by the fact that the Syrian opposition has been incredibly disorganized with those in the Diaspora often being characterized by the locals as mere opportunists. Moreover, other critics claim that the opposition is dominated and led by the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood- a party with a history of violence and hatred for other religious minorities. Before they were brutally suppressed in 1982 on the hands of Bashar Al-Asad's father, Hafez Al-Asad, when he sent the army to encircle and bombard the city of Homs. The event became known as the Homs massacre in which upwards to 20,000 were killed. This rise in Sunni militarism and sponsorship of the Muslim Brotherhood only increases the security dilemma that the Christians and Alawite Muslims retain.

However, other Arabs have argued that the history of Syria and its cultural importance in the Arab world will not allow it to fall into the hands of fundamentalist parties, and that, even if that was the case, the demolition of dictatorial power through the deconstruction of the barrier of fear is far more important in the long-run.

Finally, the Syrian regime, often cites that it is a target of conspiracy, due to its alleged historic act in support of the Palestinian cause and its defense of Lebanon and Lebanese resistance groups. This will be discussed in a later section.

### *Overview of other 'potential' hotspots*

**Lebanon** is often termed as the state with no real sovereignty, more like a marionette being controlled and influenced by the major regional powers, Saudi & Iran via the Syrian regime. It's more of a free-for-all land and political power grab, and while much needs to be changed in the country's leadership and system, any change will be stymied by its confessional system (Please refer to attached note on confessionalism). For instance, in terms of the 'Arab Spring,' it has often been remarked that the government is playing an obvious game of words, one day it calls out for restraint to what's going on in Syria, and the other day, the same government, shows its appreciation to the Syrian regime. There have been some protests in Beirut against the confessional regime, against the militarization of Hezbollah and its proponents the March 8 camp, and against the alleged corruption of the Hariri March 14 camp.

**Algeria** is another example of a country that has been somewhat uninvolved in the 'Arab Spring', there were initial protests at the start, but it seems that the government was able to maintain the barrier of fear. Most analysts, who discuss Algeria, assert that Algerians are reluctant to march down an uncertain path that might bring them back to civil war. Many also believe that the fate of Algeria is tied with the progress of revolutions in Libya, Syria and Yemen.

**Sudan**, is dealing with something that is different than the rest of the Arab League states, and its alliances is more with China and external powers, and it doesn't necessarily have good relations with its Arab neighbors either. Sudan as far as the 'Arab Spring' is concerned is rather marginalized, even though one could argue that the Su-

danese have quite a lot to be discontent about. (more information will be included)

**Jordan & Morocco** These represent interesting situations where the government is giving "concessions " to the public, but business continues as usual. They are trying to take precautions and are working hard to silence any discontent (whether through force or media blackout). For these two countries, it's perhaps really interesting to note that the GCC is considering adding both Jordan and Morocco to their exclusive club. A move that will only strengthen the notion that this is not really just a normal revolutionary contagion, but something we have seen before, similar to the Congress of Vienna Era, with Metternich heading the Holy Alliance (Monarchies) and trying to counter the revolutionary and liberal ideals of France (and UK to a lesser extent) at the time. This role is being played by Saudi Arabia right now, and the smaller Gulf States.

Morocco is a monarchy that has underwent some constitutional changes over the past few months as a result of the revolution. Critics of the regime have said that the changes were merely cosmetic, while loyalist have argued that the King has led the country on the path of development, and he should be given a chance to continue his work. Many claim and often title him as the "King of the Poor" as he has increased both urban and rural development.

Jordan is also of interest to both regional and global powers; it is regarded as a cornerstone to Israel's stability, and the US foreign policy in the region with respect to Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Jordan's King Abdullah II believes that he is reforming the country and leading it on a democratic track, although, this can be largely debated. (More statistics and sources will be implanted here.)

Finally, there are other member states in the Arab league that have been more or less uninvolved, **Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, Comoros.**

## Focus of the Debate

### *Conservative View*

Saudi Arabia, and the other Monarchist, believe that any change in the region must come from within, it must not challenge the authorities of the existing governments, especially if they happen to be monarchies. In the effort to buttress the monarchies Saudi Arabia via the GCC offered membership rights to the GCC to the other non-gulf kingdoms of Morocco and Jordan. Even offering financial grants to the latter. Moreover, the GCC has been prominently active in injecting cash awards to parties in Tunisia and Egypt, as well as participating in the Libyan intervention. Finally, Saudi-Qatari media has launched an all-out campaign against the Syrian regime, hoping to dislodge it.

In essence, the GCC nations seek to buy out the "republics" and new "democracies," have interest in removing certain historical enemies such as the Syrian regime, while maintaining any of their associates, the Yemeni regime for instance.

### *Liberal View*

Although the liberal Arab view has often been in decline, as the majority of the Arab secular and left-wing parties have faded in popularity after the tumultuous decades of the 70s and the failure of the Nasserist and Baathist regimes to fulfill their stated goals. However, there has been resurgence to some extent, as seen in Tunisia and Egypt. It is interesting to note, that while the liberals provided much of the needed ideological grounds that incited the revolutions, often, lost power shortly after the collapse of the government- giving rise to Islamic or opportunism from exile to attempt to consolidate power.

This section needs to be developed according to the results of the Tunisian elections on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tunisia will be a potential model for 'liberal' view if the elections are conducted in a fair and appropriate manner. It is hard to include Egypt in this section at this point, as the recent events in Cairo, that have resulted in the murder of 24 Coptic civilians by the Military Council are beginning to show the deep cracks in the society and the failure of the regime to protect the Coptic minority. (Some critics have blame Saudi-Qatari alliance, media and funding, for this incident, citing their work as the primary source for agitating the public and empowering extreme elements in the Muslim Brotherhood.

**EMC—Egyptian Military Council**

While the two states underwent similar and rather different paths to revolution, there is a huge contrast between the two societies, in terms of income, population, distribution of wealth, literacy levels, infrastructure and health. However, many have placed their confidence in the Tunisian model, arguing that change in Tunisia could be used as a model for other nations undergoing the process.

**Egypt** on the other hand, is aiming to accomplish many things at once, it is still undergoing a strong counter-revolutionary drive funded by many parties and at the same time is attempting to clear the previous ruling party. If successful, Egypt will then seek to restore its once grand position in the region. Depending on how this turns out Egypt can play a distinguished role in helping other peoples earn their liberty.

### *Presidential View*

There has been few resolutions passed unanimously amongst the league's members, although, the league did call upon member states to avoid endorsing actions (military) against one another. ***More on that later (this week, there is a session discussing Syria, it should be interesting to see how the developments affect the situation and the briefing will be updated).***

### **Possible Solutions**

#### *Democratization and Collaboration*

Wide step adoption of democratic ideals, and a serious reform process, including the start up of a fund to develop democratizing nations, and attempt to ease the problems facing potential hotspots.

Although this is probably the least likely scenario, as those who are in power are most likely to be adamant about conceding such powers- especially in having seen the outcome of what happened to dethroned dictators. For instance, the Hussni Mubarak trial is certainly one that will continue to bring fear into the Arab dictator's psyche- this is obviously dependent on the degree of seriousness that the trial will be carried out. As mentioned above, certain powers have been pressuring the EMC (Egyptian Military Council).

#### *Foreign Intervention and Regional Military Cooperation to provide transition and ease potential deadlocks*

Foreign intervention in Syria, Yemen, and other countries where the dictators are evidently disregarding their populations demands. This is perhaps an equally undesirable outcome for member states in the League, because it will set precedent for member states to attack one another's sovereignty in the event that such outbreaks of

protest occur in their respective domains. Many dictators will see this as a limitation on their 'right to repress.'

*Attempt to restore the barrier of fear – enforce it through military rule.*

Restore the Status quo. Continued violence and oppression in Syria and Yemen, with the same tactics threatening any new population seeking to mimic the Tunisian or Egyptian model.

*Do Nothing.*

Maintain the current the status quo, with regional powers to save their allies and interfere and only after the regime has officially been destroyed attempt to influence and subterfuge the revolution

## **Questions a Bill Should Address**

- What sort of intervention is necessary in order to protect the democratic aspiration of citizens? Can the Arab League endorse foreign intervention vis-à-vis NATO for instance? Or Should they have their own military force?
- Who can activate the responsibility to protect? What if a 'spill-over' occurs from nations, for example, in the case of Bahrain? Was the threat to Saudi Arabia credible enough to allow for the usage of the GCC forces? Was Iran deemed as the "foreign powers" really behind this, and even if so, does this make the GCC intervention acceptable?
- How do you ensure the protection of ethnic or religious minorities post-revolution? The Copts in Egypt for instance, or the Alawites in Syria?
- Should democratization be allowed, even in monarchies, and if so, at what cost?
- Should monarchies be allowed to crush rebellions in other monarchies, and if so, at what cost?
- Should Member States of the Arab League be allowed to provide financial and military support, just as with the Libyan Transition Council, SCAF, and the Syrian Transition Council?
- Should the Gulf Monarchies be allowed to publically lecture other member states about democratization, when in fact, they are the most backward societies in terms of women empowerment, political participation, and economic liberalism?

## **Glossary**

*GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council*

*Shura Council – Parliamentary Body of Saudi Arabia, Shura means "advise" in Arabic, this council is appointed by the Crown.*

*OPEC – Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, founded in 1960, to coordinate politics and prices, out of the eleven members, seven are members of the Arab League.*

*EMC- Egyptian Military Council / SCAF*

*Arab Peace Proposal or Arab Peace Initiative*

*Saudi-Iran Cold War*

*RtoP – The Responsibility to Protect is a special set of international law, for more information, please read the <https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/>*

[United Nations Security Council Resolution 1674](https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Responsibility_to_protect#RtoP_in_the_United_Nations) and  
[https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/  
Responsibility to protect#RtoP in the United Nations](https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Responsibility_to_protect#RtoP_in_the_United_Nations)

*Hashemite – Are claimed descendants of the Prophet Muhhamed, they're seat of power has historically been centered in Mecca and Medina, however, after the Al-Saud take over of these areas, and the subsequent founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Hashemites were exiled, and placed onto leading thrones in Iraq, Syria and Jordan. Only the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan exists till this day, ruled by King Abdullah II.*

#### Religious Power Politics

*Alawites: Alawites are a Shi'a denomination that currently rules Syria. Historically, they have never accounted for a substantial part of the population, and up until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, they have been a minority with limited political and economic power. The Alawites during the Arab Nationalist period, used this, and allied with other minorities to form a coalition against the Sunni majority .the Alawites involved themselves in military affair, and through coups, were able to consolidate power in Syria, eventually, leading it under the rule of the Al-Asad family (Hafez, the father 1971-2000, and his son, Bashar 2000-now)*

*Shi'a: Shi'a are a denomination of Islam, which is considered the largest sect other than Sunni, there are several differences in beliefs and customs, including the interpretation of the Quran. There are significant minorities in Lebanon (contested, some believe majority), Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Eastern regions of Saudi Arabia, and Oman. Regionally, Iran is the center of the Shi'a power, and other ME countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan are believed to have certain minorities.*

*Druze- are an ethnic and religious minority that resides in a region transcending modern day Syria, Lebanon, Northern Israel & Jordan.*

*Copts- are the original inhabitants of Egypt, tracing their lineage to the Pharaohs days, they are generally followers of either Catholicism or more commonly Eastern Orthodoxy. The Copts are estimated to be about 10-15 million inhabitants in Egypt, and they have been historically, oppressed.*

*Maronites-*

*Greek-Orthodox*

*Ethnic Security Dilemma*

*Qawmi vs Qotri Nationalism – Qawmi Nationalism or is a pan-Arab nationalism that focus on the grand picture and state of affairs in the Arab world, it seeks to reduce western intervention, and other regional interferences, as well as seek a just solution for the question of Palestine. In contrary, Qotri nationalism emphasizes the modern constructed nation state, and asks its citizens to pledge allegiance to the country and it's leaders agenda, rather than any other extraterritorial values or notions.*

*Rentier State:*