

Abstract

This thesis delves into the significant role played by civil society organizations and social movements in post-2011 Lebanon, focusing on their impact on the country's security dynamics, societal changes, and the contestation of sectarianism through the lens of the Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT). The research explores how these movements have been instrumental in driving political reforms and conflict resolution by pressuring the government, advocating for policy changes, and garnering public support, leading to the adoption of new laws addressing societal grievances. The emergence of social movements in response to regional uprisings and the Syrian displacement has presented Lebanon with both challenges and opportunities. While existing power structures and resistance to change pose obstacles, the interconnectedness of these movements through digital technologies and shared goals has amplified their ability to mobilize and shape political discourse, thereby holding the potential for transformative change and creating opportunities for a more inclusive and democratic society.

Empowering and supporting these actors will be crucial in fostering a more democratic and equitable nation. As Lebanon moves forward, the transformative power of civil society stands as a beacon of hope. The people's mobilization on October 20th of 2019 exemplified a population united in dreams and aspirations for a contemporary homeland, free from corruption and divisions, and showcases a step forward for a promising future. The journey towards a better Lebanon has just begun, and this research offers valuable insights to guide that path.