

CHARLES UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Institute of Political Studies

Department of Political Science

Dissertation Abstract

The Islamist Movement Interactions

within the Arab Uprisings

The Impact of the Islamist Movements' Interactions on the Democratization Process and the Level of Radicalization

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Abstract

The Islamist movements played a socio-political role in many Arab and Middle Eastern countries. They provided social services and a resistance ideology, either for the West or local political regimes. They mobilized their supporters in a large social movement that crystallized the Islamic Ummah's relative deprivation and common grievances. In some cases, Islamism was used as a justification ideology to legitimize the ruling regime. Also, it has been used as an ideology to justify the use of radical and jihadist violence. The Islamism involvement in the Arab Spring raised the classic dilemma in a new shape, either to integrate the Islamists in an open political process; however, this integration may undermine democracy and individual rights in the long term, or to exclude the Islamists from the political life in a way that may encourage more Islamists to resort to violence to achieve their goals.

The dissertation tests the concentration level of cultural, organizational, political, and economic resources in Islamist movements in four cases, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt, in which the degree of concentration of Islamist movements' resources varies, in order to measure the effect of resource concentration as an independent variable on the degree of moderation/radicalization of Islamist movements as a dependent variable. The dissertation argues that if the Islamist movements could highly mobilize and concentrate cultural, organizational, political, and economic resources, this would radicalize their positions and discourse. If these resources were distributed between the Islamist movements and non-Islamist actors, this would moderate the position and discourse of these movements.