

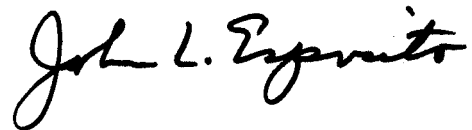
As I have noted previously, Mohamed Saad has tackled a topic that has generated a great deal of coverage in recent years: the nature, ideology, and politics socio-political roles, of Islamist movements in Middle Eastern countries. He employs a complex set of methodologies including social movement theory, Islamic studies, and area studies. His review of the literature is comprehensive and diverse in orientation as is demonstrated in the thesis. Saad's case studies are well chosen, reflecting diverse governments, movements and methodologies and policies. This has the net effect of underscoring the Mohamed provides a good historical, political, religious and ideological background for Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia. He effectively demonstrates the importance of diverse Islamic ideologies and the extent to which they have been influenced not only by their specific religious ideologies but also by government policies and responses which can lead to ideologies and policies of accommodation or of militant resistance and violence.

The coverage of the Arab Spring and Western governments responses is especially important and well done. Saad's selection of Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, and Tunisia is perfect in providing diverse governments and Islamist organizations. The country case studies are substantive and well written. Saad manages to identify the key players, governments, military and Islamists, their relevant orientations and issues, differences in government and deep state responses and policies which then led to differing responses by Islamists.

I had also included a number of areas that could be strengthened. Thus, while noting that his section on Islamist involvement in the Arab Spring was quite good, I asked that he strengthen with a more nuanced approach and analysis of its diversity and impact. He has done a very good job in providing additional data and examples including that of

the case in Egypt. Of particular note is the strengthening Saad did in his coverage of Tunisia and Ennahda.

My summary conclusion is that this is not only a very good dissertation but could also be a candidate for inclusion in my Religion & Global Politics series with Oxford University Press.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Esposito". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

John L. Esposito

Distinguished University Professor

Professor of Religion & International Affairs