

Outsourcing Security and the Reconfiguration of State Power after the Arab Uprisings

Research Question

How privatizing & outsourcing security, amid wider security developments, contribute to reconfiguring authoritarian rule in the Arab region after the 2010-2011 uprisings?

Gaps & Contribution

- Qualitative: security scholars largely adopted the security sector reform discourse and focused on changes affecting the public security institutions
- Quantitative: there is a critical shortage of studies on private security in the Arab region post-2010
- Filling these gaps, this study brings the multifaced dynamics of privatizing security post-2010 to the academic discourse. It also constructs a wider framework to study similar processes in other post-uprising states

Theory & Methods

- The study integrates two rich bodies of literature: Studies on authoritarian regimes & state coercion and Critical Security Studies

Key Concepts

- Markets for force
- Regime security
- Authoritarian adaptation
- Security states

Research Methods

- Official documents & secondary sources
- Interviews & fieldwork

Main Argument

- Security market's reconfigurations, amid spreading terrorism & popular unrest, follow authoritarian adaption schemes pursued by post-2010 Arab ruling regimes
- Widespread outsourcing of security is essentially shaped by regime security, embedded in close political-security tie & damaged state-society relationship

The Arab Security Market

Pre-2011: Dominant abusive public security forces



Post-2011: Abusive public security forces
+ Rise of private & non-state security actors



Case (1): Egypt - Outsourcing Security amid Ongoing Unrest

EGYPT FEATURES/INTERVIEWS

Private security firms attempt to fill a gap left by a weakened security apparatus

MEE MIDDLE EAST EYE

The Falcon has landed: the problematic rise of Egyptian private security

Rise of private security & outsourcing is linked to:

- 1/Regime's loose control over state security forces
- 2/Major gains for state & private actors = Regime Interests
- 3/Creating jobs & alleviating economic hardships
- 4/Tightening state control over political mobilization

Case (2): Tunisia - Non-State Actors & Security Reforms

- Many non-state security actors contribute to SSR projects
- Security market steadily growing amid shaky environment
- SSR is slow, internally resisted & constrained by various challenges and threats
- Public forces continue to exhibit large institutional autonomy that translates into weak accountability & poor professionalism

Conclusion

How privatizing and outsourcing security enforce authoritarianism depends on the interplay of a multiplicity of factors that are dynamic, unpredictable & not easily controlled.

Among these factors are the historical background of PSI in a country, continuous post-uprising political, social & economic developments, and the international input.