

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

In line with the objectives of *AlMuntaqa* to publish articles authored by Arab scholars, this issue covers a wide range of topics from different perspectives and disciplines. These studies, originally published in Arabic, offer value in topic and originality and provide insight to fill a gap within their respective subject matters. In this particular issue, the selected papers examine diverse fields to reflect our equally diverse readership, while remaining devoted to showcasing knowledge from the Arab world. Abdulrahman Alebrahim's "The Balancing Powers in Kuwait in the 1938 Majlis Movement: New Insights from the Minutes of the Legislative Council" addresses the role of various social forces in the establishment and dissolution of Kuwait's 1938 and 1939 Legislative Councils, through selections from the 1938 council minutes. This study represents an important reference to the historical establishment of a parliamentary tradition in Kuwait and its development. Hami Hacene's "Transformations of the Welfare State in Algeria: Social Policies Tested by Economic and Developmental Crises" explores the relationship between transformations of the welfare state in Algeria and social constraints in the context of economic crisis from a historical and ideological lens. This is followed by Hani Awad's "Understanding Hamas: Remarks on Three Different and Interrelated Theoretical Approaches," which distinguishes between three interwoven theoretical approaches prevalent in writings of researchers seeking to understand the emergence of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Rahal Boubrik in "Nineteenth Century Slave Markets: The Moroccan Slave Trade" addresses the slave trade between western Sudan to Morocco during the nineteenth century, through a critical approach to statistics from earlier sources and studies. The final article is by Nezar Alsayyad, whose paper "Bottom-up Urbanization and the Culture of Squatting: A Critical Assessment," analyses the phenomenon of informal housing in relation to the informal economy in countries of the Global South.

In addition to the selection of articles, the Public Opinion Polling Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies analyses public opinion trends on the democratic experiment in Tunisia, using data from the Arab Opinion Index. Finally, in the book reviews section, Sena Khateeb, evaluates *A Study on the Foreign Policy of Qatar* by Zuhair al-Mokh, while Majd Abuamer follows with a commentary of *Palestinians Worldwide: A Demographic Study* by Youssef Courbage and Hala Nofal. In its upcoming fifth volume, *AlMuntaqa* seeks to continue advancing cross-regional knowledge accumulation between Arabic and English-speaking scholarship.