

# EDITOR'S NOTE

The process of selecting articles from the six journals published in Arabic by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies for translation into English is not an easy one. We seek thematic and geographic diversity to the extent possible, and we make sure to provide opportunities for promising young researchers to publish their work and reach an international audience. This volume achieves both of these goals. The articles included cover the Horn of Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and North Africa. They tackle diverse themes ranging from state formation and state failure in Somaliland to women's rights in Palestine, the multiplicity of Kurdish identity, the impact of remittance on Tunisian urban spaces, and the plight of Egyptian prisoners fighting for the right to education. The volume also features an analysis of raw data published by the Arab Opinion Index pertaining to the West Bank and Gaza, then concludes with two book reviews.

Suhaib Mahmoud offers a comprehensive analysis of the cultural and political structures in Somaliland that contributed to state failure. He discusses the motives of and obstacles to Somaliland's secession from Somalia in 1991 and assesses the international community's attitudes towards this partition.

Aya Randall argues that both the PLO and the PA have dealt with women's rights as a matter of means, not as ends in themselves. She illustrates how the PA has in effect marginalized those rights, only leveraging them to secure political gains.

Seevan Saeed deconstructs Kurdish identity and provides an analysis that avoids essentializing it. He distinguishes between traditional and new Kurds, a binary that has produced dichotomous labels based on Kurds' self-identification within the current political atmosphere of the region's Kurdish communities.

Chiheb Yahyaoui identifies the main sectors and areas that absorb migrants' financial returns in Tunisia and examines the impact of remittances on the urban space. He explores the ways in which migrants serve as agents of development in Tunisia and how this in turn provides them with social capital.

Saif Alislam Eid sheds light on de facto policies and practices that render prisoners' rights to education null in Egypt since the 2013 military coup, contrasting these procedures with the guarantees of this right that local legislation and international law and treaties provide for.

Yara Nassar analyses material from the Arab Opinion Index to examine popular sentiment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip toward certain political issues in order to highlight major differences of opinion between the residents of both territories.

Sena Khateeb reviews Azmi Bishara's *Transition to Democracy and its Problematics: A Theoretical and Applied Comparative Study*. She sheds light on how the book grounds its analysis in experiences from the Arab region and integrates these local cases into wider debates on democratic transition.

Sofia Hanezla reviews Asef Bayat's *Revolutionary Life: The Everyday of the Arab Spring*, exploring the ways in which Bayat shifts the analysis of the so-called Arab Spring revolutions from the realm of high politics to that of everyday life and the grassroots.

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