The Political Economy of Trade and Industrialization. Turkey and Egypt in the Post-Liberalization Era

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Abstract

This doctoral thesis addresses the question of how state economic institutions come about and why developing countries give different accounts of state institution-building. This study argues that state economic institution-building is a function of the ruling incumbents’ motives and scope conditions. Motives refer to the incumbents’ identification of state institution-building with their immediate and direct interest of political survival in office. Meanwhile, scope conditions refer to the enabling or constraining factors that the incumbents confront in pursuit of reform which either supplement or limit their autonomy and resources. The study examines the cases of Turkey and Egypt following the embarking on economic liberalization in 1980 and 1990 respectively. On the one hand, Turkey witnessed considerable institution-building in export-related policy and regulation areas with remarkable implications for export expansion and restructuring from raw materials into manufactured products. Conversely, post-liberalization Egypt suffered from institutional stagnation associated with a poor export performance and persistent dependency on oil exports. The claim is that Turkish incumbents have been more motivated and enabled to undertake encompassing institutional reforms with the aim of export expansion restricting than their Egyptian counterparts.
Bio

Amr Adly graduated in the Faculty of Economic and Political Science from Cairo University in 2004 with honours. He acquired his Master degree in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation from the same faculty in 2006. After graduating, he worked as an economic researcher for the Ministry of International Cooperation in Egypt dealing with state capacity-building programs and institutional reform in collaboration with a host of international organizations. He joined the doctoral program at the European University Institute as of 2006 and defended in 2010. Adly has presented contributions at an extensive range of conferences, and has published to date (September 2010) three academic articles: “Politically-embedded cronyism: the case of post-liberalization Egypt” in Business and Politics (Vol.11, issue no.4, December 2009); "Unorthodox Liberalism, Democracy and Post-Liberal Distributional Coalitions: The Case of Turkey” in the Journal of Turkish Studies (Vol.11, issue no.2, June 2010) and; “When cheap is costly: Rent decline, regime survival and state reform in Mubarak's Egypt (1990-2004)” in the Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (Forthcoming in March 2011).