



European  
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DEPARTMENT  
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SCIENCES

# **Bread, Freedom, Human Dignity**

## **The Political Economy of Protest Mobilization in Egypt and Tunisia**

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### **Abstract**

The thesis analyzes the interaction between authoritarian rule, and societal mobilization by focusing on the two uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, using a comparison of the historical political economy of regime formation and maintenance.

The key argument is that the breakdown of authoritarianism in both cases was brought about by processes of transforming economies and societies initiated and furthered by their respective regimes. They unleashed structural changes in the relationship between state and society, as well as within each regime's support coalition, which in the long run brought social forces to the fore that the regimes' could neither tie to their rule, nor contain. Changes in patterns of incorporation resulted in the ongoing narrowing of the two regimes' basis of support in society to the point where few allies were left when crisis hit.

Thus, the by-products of processes of economic, social, and political change generated grievances, as well as spaces for mobilization and resistance that proved fertile soil for the uprisings to emerge.



**Jury:** Donatella Della Porta (EUI, Supervisor), Jana Warkotsch (Candidate), Philippe C. Schmitter (EUI), Jeff Goodwin (New York University), Emma Murphy (Durham University, by videolink).

## **Bio**

Jana Warkotsch holds a MA in political science from the University of Tuebingen, as well as an MRes from the European University Institute. Her research at the EUI has centered on the Middle East, mobilization and the dynamics of authoritarian rule. More recently she has been working on issues surrounding anti-corruption in her function as scientific coordinator for the Anticorrp project at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Berlin.