



MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

***Strategies of Economic Aid and Development in the Arab World
from the Cold War to the Present***

Max Weber Programme
Department of History and Civilization
Robert Schuman Research Centre for Advanced Studies

May 14, 2012 - Conference Room, Villa La Fonte

Organizers

Elisabetta Bini (MWF, EUI)

Virginie Collombier (MWF, EUI)

Massimiliano Trentin (Department of History, University of Padua)

Federico Romero (HEC, EUI)

Olivier Roy (RSCAS, EUI)

Abstract

During the second half of the 20th century, economic aid and development cooperation have been crucial in shaping international politics in the Arab countries of the Mediterranean.

The Cold War was particularly important in promoting economic aid as a political and strategic tool to define relations between donor and recipient countries. It was not only used by the two superpowers and by European nations to define their position in the Arab world, but became a tool for North African and Middle Eastern countries to pursue their own economic and political interests.

Since the end of the Cold War, international economic aid has continued to play an important role in shaping relations between Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. The Conference of Madrid, the Barcelona Process, as well as the European Neighborhood Policy and Union for the Mediterranean, heavily banked on "development aid" to define relations among the shores of the Mediterranean basin. Yet the MENA region has experienced increased political instability, economic ups and downs and vast unemployment, thus questioning the actual impact of economic and development aid to the region.

The recent development of the "Arab Spring" has shown both the inadequacy and the limits of international development aid. Concerns over migration issues, economic investments, international competition from Eastern Asia and the political orientations of the new regimes, have all played an important role in defining international economic aid.

This conference will examine the major changes that have occurred over the last sixty years in the economic development of North African and Middle Eastern countries, and the different impact and meanings assigned to international economic aid during and after the Cold War, in order to understand the long-term rationales of the policies adopted by Western states and by recipient countries.



Programme

9.00-9.30 Coffee and tea

09.30 Opening remarks: **Federico Romero** (HEC, EUI)
Empires and the Cold War in the Mediterranean

9.50-12.30 – Session I

Chair: **Chris Colvin** (MWF, EUI)

Massimiliano Trentin (University of Padua)
Development Policies of the GDR in the Arab World

Elisabetta Bini (MWF, EUI)
Italy's Development Policies in North Africa

Rinna Kullaa (University of Jyväskylä)
Non-Alignment and Development in the Mediterranean

12.30-14.00 - Lunch

14.00 -17.00 – Session II

Chair: **Tina Freyburg** (MWF, EUI)

Sara Lorenzini (University of Trento, Visiting Scholar HEC, EUI)
Getting Rid of the Cold War Rhetoric: European Development Policies in the 1970s

Robert Springborg (Department of National Security Affairs, The Naval Postgraduate School)
The Evolution of the US Program of Support for Governance and Democracy in the Arab World (video conference)

15.15 – 15.30 Coffee/tea break

Giorgia Giovannetti (RSCAS, EUI and University of Florence)
The European Report on Development: Social Protection for Inclusive Development

Virginie Collombier (MWF, EUI)
Foreign Assistance as a Political Tool for Arab Regimes of the Middle East

Concluding remarks: Olivier Roy (RSCAS, EUI)