

Political Parties and Governance in the Arab World

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The role of political parties has been largely neglected in studies of the Middle east and North Africa for two reasons. First of all, they are not deemed relevant in a region where authoritarian structures of power abound. Second, parties are considered weak and personalistic.

However, the post-Arab revolts has demonstrated their importance in guiding processes of transition to democracy. The lecture explains how and why political parties are relevant in the politics of the region, how they affect governance and what their relational dynamics are.