



# The Arab Spring Ten Years After: A Long-Term Revolutionary Process

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INAUGURAL LECTURE

Ten years have passed since the Arab Spring started in Tunisia in December 2010 before spreading like wildfire to the whole MENA region in 2011, with major uprisings in five other countries. Three years later, it looked however as if the spring had turned into winter and regional revolutionary prospects were drowned in counter-revolutionary backlashes and/or civil wars. And yet, December 2018 saw the beginning of a new revolutionary upsurge that started in Sudan and spread to three other countries in 2019, before being stifled by the Covid-19 pandemic. This second wave was nonetheless a powerful confirmation of the view that what started ten years ago was deeply rooted in a structural crisis affecting the region's economic, social, and political features, and hence that the 2011 Arab Spring was but the beginning of a long-term revolutionary process that will inevitably carry on through successive phases of upsurge and backlash, with no end in sight to the crisis short of radical structural change.

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