

Democracy transition in the Arab – Islamic World will be too hard to implement:

Hassan Mneimneh: *a Senior Transatlantic Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, DC.* in his GMF Blog in October 2012.

There are at least five reasons to believe that the continuing political transitions in the Arab world are likely to be considerably more difficult than those experienced by the countries of the former Eastern Bloc two decades ago. Those reasons are:

1. Different political fault lines: The Arab world today has no clear choice. If anything, there is a trilateral tussle for influence between autocrats, democrats, and theocrats. The democrats are the least organized and have the least access to resources and support.
2. The absence of positive incentives: The hardships associated with difficult political transitions are evidently easier to tolerate with the promise of an ultimate reward. But no such incentives are currently available to countries in the Middle East and North Africa.
3. Weak civil society organizations: The agent of change in the region, while influenced by civil society activism, was a more spontaneous popular outburst. Civil society in much of the region remains weak, fragmented, and divided between tainted organizations closely identified with the fallen regimes and new, often-ephemeral ones.
4. A less conducive geopolitical climate: With actors such as Russia, China, Iran, and even Saudi Arabia and Algeria, lining up to influence the so-called Arab Spring for their own purposes, the prospects for a smooth transition have diminished. What effect their influence has is a function of the strength and assertiveness of the transatlantic alliance.
5. Cultural: The question of culture — in its social, political, and religious dimensions — may be the worst served in Western assessments of the transformations in the region. Adopted by many Islamists, which stipulates the superiority of Islamic culture. Recognizing both the historical and current multiplicity of cultural frameworks in the region may help blunt the negative use of cultural arguments in curtailing democratic progress.

Many disagree and reject reason # 2, because they consider that freedom is enough incentive and to start working on a better future is a good incentive. The issue here is that to finish your drive and arrive your destination, you have to have enough fuel, otherwise you stop in the middle of the road.

The reason # 3 of weak civil society, is rejected by some, because to reach to better civil organization you have to start somewhere and fail many times until success is achieved. Theoretically it's true, but planning the transition in a better way to facilitate faster success and also better outcome.