

Democratization in Eastern Europe: A viable model for the Middle East?

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Abstract:

Almost a decade before the end of the 20th century, most parts of Eastern Europe were still under the communist rule and, with a few exceptions, the Middle East was checker squared with varying degrees of authoritarianism. Almost a decade into the 21st century and many East European countries are now regarded as democracies. The Middle East, however, continues to be dominated by authoritarian regimes. This study outlines some of the factors that can help to explain this contrasting outcome in a comparative framework.

Keywords:

Democratization, Eastern Europe, Middle East, MENA, islamization, terrorism

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