



## 10 years after Arab Spring, autocratic regimes hold the upper hand

Analysis: Most revolutions failed to bring democracy or prosperity. Instead, the turmoil was boon to the autocrats the protesters meant to depose.

By Matt Bradley / Dec. 19, 2020

[...]

Throughout the decade, Iran used its Shiite Muslim proxy forces, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria and the Houthis in Yemen, to expand its power throughout the region. Saudi Arabia and other Sunni-dominated kingdoms perceived Iran's moves as a threat to their power.

Same with groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, whose appeals for both democracy and conservative Islam made them appealing to millions throughout the region.

"From the standpoint of those leaders, there was a deep concern coming out of the Arab Spring, that groups like the Muslim Brotherhood could capitalize on a lot of the public frustration, to seize power," said **Sarah Feuer**, a research fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv, referring to Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. "I think what we've seen in the last few years ... in a way has to do a lot with the recent normalization agreements with Israel."

*For full article:*

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