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Morsillini & The "Woodworms" Approach



Sandmonkey

The Game No One Wins

What people don't get about the declaration is this: it literally empowers the president to do anything he damn pleases. It's not simply about shaping the government institutions to his whimsy, but will also move to the private sector and syndicates, the latter for which he issued a new syndicates law yesterday that will remove all the elected heads of the syndicates and have him appoint them. ***Morsy can now strip people of their citizenships or hand it out to others, try them in "special courts" for vague charges, shut down private enterprises or media outlets or seize them, reshape our judiciary branches and their roles singlehandedly, and even change your last name, and no one will be able to legally question or stop his decision****. Granting yourself this level of power is so in the essence of fascism that president Morsy's new nickname is Morsilini. It's as if he is stating that while the old regime was autocratic, dictatorial and secular, thankfully the revolution happened and we are no longer secular"*

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The Big Pharaoh

Is The US Repeating The Same Mistake In Egypt?

"I truly believe that if it wasn't for Morsi's role in the Gaza ceasefire and the gratitude he got from the Obama administration (and Israel), neither him nor his organization would have had the guts to take such surprising decisions. The MB is doing exactly like Mubarak: give the Americans what they really want and do what you really want. By playing a key role in convincing Hamas to accept a ceasefire, the MB's have proven to the US that they can keep the peace in Israel and Palestine. In addition, unlike Mubarak, being the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, they showed they can really have more influence on Hamas, their official branch in Palestine. The Obama Administration's reaction so far can only be described as weak and does not coincide with the seriousness of Morsi's dictatorial decisions. Is the US back to doing the same mistake they did with Mubarak? Trading temporary peace

in the Middle East with democracy in Egypt. I am not saying that the US gave Morsi the green light, but maybe he took Hillary Clinton's praise after the ceasefire as an indication that the MB finally reached the goal they have been frantically working towards achieving even during Mubarak: to be accepted by the US as a legitimate alternative to the Mubarak regime"

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Ranya Khalifa

Morsy Brings Egypt To A Much Needed Ideological "Face-Off"

"Thank you President Morsy for helping Egypt's major non-Islamist political parties into creating a National Front to confront your very own new constitutional declaration! This new Front has declared that it will not engage in dialogue with Morsy until the declaration is annulled. The new Front includes the Dostour Party (led by El Baradei), the Social Democratic Party, the Socialist Popular Alliance Party as well as the Strong Egypt Party (led by Abul Fotouh). The Front will hold a million-people march to Tahrir this Tuesday, November 27th, to make their dissent and demands loud and clear. To counter this Tahrir march, the Muslim Brotherhood is having its own million-man march scheduled for the very same day near Cairo University! And so, dear reader, Egypt is now being divided into two clear camps: you are either with a "civilian state" or with an "Islamist state". And yes, you have to take a side now because the confrontation is not between revolutionaries and an ageing dictator anymore, but rather between two state-systems or political ideologies"

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Egypt's Draft Constitution, Morsi's 'Power Grab'



Nervana Mahmoud

Morsi's Power Grab Should Be No Surprise

"In his mind, Morsi views Egypt as a malfunctioning machine that must be restored back to its factory settings with Islamic instruction and an Islamist semi-monopoly that is geared to produce law-abiding citizens who agree rather than oppose, and worship rather than reject. An Islamic constitution and restoring a majority in the next parliament are musts, and for them, any path or actions are justified. Morsi's desired transformation is aimed to achieve a made-to-measure democracy, with some elements autocracy that is deemed by him as necessary. The problem with the "woodworms"

approach to politics is that it was tried before in Egypt and failed drastically. Gamal Adbel Nasser, Egypt's president from 1956 till his 1970 death, treated them as Muslim Botherhood as a dangerous worm — yet despite his ruthless oppression, he failed to prevent their spread in the Egyptian society"

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Heba Morayef

New Constitution Mixed on Support of Rights

"The final draft of a constitution approved on November 29, 2012, by Egypt's 100-member constituent assembly protects some rights but undermines others. The constitution, approved in the midst of a political standoff between the president and the judiciary, provides for basic protections against arbitrary detention and torture and for some economic rights but fails to end military trials of civilians or to protect freedom of expression and religion. The constitution drafting process has been extremely contentious, and a number of assembly members resigned in protest over what they said was the failure of the dominant Islamist factions to compromise on key issues, including the place of religion in affairs of state. The decision comes on the heels of President Mohamed Morsy's controversial November 22 Constitutional Declaration immunizinghis decrees from judicial review"

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Draft Constitution: Fast Tracking



Arabist

Dismantling the Brothers' revolutionary self-image By Karim Ennarah

"Morsi's government is not a revolutionary government. In fact, it has been against the goals of the revolutions from day one. You may think they're right, but please, ***this farce of "the revolution vs. the feloul!" has to stop immediately, or I may very well die from the tawdriness of it all.*** *The Muslim Brotherhood's problem is that they've taken hold of the issue of the most esteemed, shitty judiciary and turned it into the sole demand of the revolution. Let me then explain to you the bizarre inconsistencies in your explanations of the president's decree" [....] "****The revolution is always right and always in the streets and the street belongs to everyone. Politicians, though, are sometimes on the side of truth and***

sometimes not, depending on the expediency of the moment. *Former regime figures who now want to jump on the revolutionary bandwagon are no different from the likes of [senior Muslim Brother] Mahmoud Ghozlan, who also joined the bandwagon while cursing the revolution in private and public. The common denominator between those in power and those in the fickle opposition is that both are zealous statists.* ***They only turn to the revolution when there is no other recourse, but in all cases they support the repressive state and will again take refuge in it, the same way the Muslim Brotherhood has taken refuge in its embrace***"

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Mohamed El-Baaly

Against Morsy's constitutional declaration

*"In essence, President Mohamed Morsy's constitutional declaration is an attack on the judicial institution to force it out of the political realm. This is good in and of itself, because the judiciary is a corrupt institution that sympathizes with the Interior Ministry and the army, and derides the people and opposes their choices. Therefore, a democratic alternative necessitates the radical restructuring of the judiciary and calls for public monitoring on its operation, in a fashion similar to the jury system in the US. But the Muslim Brotherhood is not doing that; it is keeping the old web of interests, and only keeping it from interfering in the group's work. It is giving the judiciary a free hand, so long as that does not interfere with the Brotherhood's work" [.....] "****Morsy's decisions constitute a desperate attempt to restrict a hostile institution that belongs to a former regime, particularly after Constituent Assembly head Hossam al-Gheriany and Justice Minister Ahmed Mekky failed in this impossible mission. Of course I do support the removal of the prosecutor general, the radical cleansing of the judicial institution through legal amendments and the reduction of the age of retirement for judges. I also support scrutiny and monitoring of their operations****"*

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Hany Farouk Ghoraba

Darker Skies Ahead: Egypt's Future of Uncertainties

"Egyptian president Dr. Mohamed Morsi who just edged his contender Dr. Ahmed Shafiq by 1% in a controversial election in June 2012, have self proclaimed himself a demigod in every sense of the word. Not since the time of the Pharaohs who even had consultants, has any Egyptian ruler assumed all powers in his/her hands like Morsi have claimed in a dark day in Egypt's 7000 years. Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood group have single handedly euthanized the long awaited Egyptian dream for a free democratic life and a long sought after freedom. Morsi's Edict and constitutional declaration have surpassed any authorities accumulated any other tyrant even during Nazi Germany and fascist Italy. It's an unprecedented instance in the Egyptian political life that a president has the audacity to sideline the Judiciary system as well hold the legislative, executive and judiciary power in his own hands"

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Ramy Yaacoub

Bringing Down the Muslim Brotherhood

"Islamists were always bound to enjoy a political honeymoon after the revolution, but recent events show that initial support is fading. ***At first, the Brotherhood was ascendant not only because its political message was popular, but because it was able to present itself as the only organized alternative to the old regime*** *-- a legacy of Mubarak's old divide-and-rule tactics.* ***With or without Morsi, the non-Islamist opposition would have united as part of the normal evolution of post-revolution political development. The president's miscalculations merely hastened the process.*** *The watershed protests in Tahrir Square challenge the conventional wisdom of an Islamist tide washing across the region. Finally, there is late-blooming proof that the promise of the Arab Spring is real: We are not a homogenous entity demanding Islamist rule. This is nothing less than a wakeup call for Egypt and the world. As the Egyptian opposition increasingly gets organized, the international community must better understand the evolving Egyptian political scene -- and make sure it is on the right side of history. Our revolution is far from over. Indeed, it may just be beginning"*

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Hatem Rushdy

Five Facts Beyond Good and Bad. SCARY

"We are at a point where on one side some are calling for boycotting MB owned businesses – yes, a la Israel-aimed Palestinian BDS movement - while on the other, some are advising liberals who dislike the way things are to leave - as if Egypt were their private club and not all of our country. This is not a sustainable situation. We have to learn to live with, talk to and (I dare dream) cooperate with each other. The deeper these positions get entrenched - and all evidence points in that direction - the harder it will be for them to get de-trenched. And de-trenched they will have to be, regardless of who "wins"

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#Dec5 – *Itihadiyya – The Day that* Everything Changed

Nervana Mahmoud



Morsy's Stepchildren

"Fighting autocracy is not the war of the elite; it is the war of the oppressed who have suffered for decades under the junta's police state. A smart campaign to expose the flaws of this shambolic constitution may attract a big section of Egyptian society. It is not too late to fight smartly and campaign in every trade union, syndicate, and university in Egypt. It is the only way to strike the back at Morsy and force him to understand that the non-Islamists are not stepchildren, but legitimate sons and daughters whom he must take seriously"

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Mahmoud Salem

Tuesday is the New Friday!

In light of yesterday's events, we urge you to convince your president to withdraw the constitutional declaration and cancel the referendum. I am

sure you will find him very agreeable to this notion after his daring escape from the Presidential Palace yesterday. It must be very hard on him to be the first Egyptian President to escape from the Presidential palace, especially five months after he stood in Tahrir opening his suit to prove the absence of a bulletproof vest as a show of how unafraid he is from the people. But then again, he did escape from protesters at a mosque near his house last week, and before that from prison, so escaping is kind of his thing. I would also scale back the threatening Jihad talk from now on, because, what will you do, exactly? You obviously don't have the numbers to control the streets of Egypt, so your only option is terrorism, which, meh, we've been through before in the 1980s and 1990s and survived it with no problem. And if you go down that route, it won't be the MOI that will hunt you down, it will be the people this time who will view you as an enemy and act accordingly by bringing you from your houses. You will lose.

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Wael Ghonim

Yes, I Changed My Mind

"Yes, I have changed my mind. After I promised that the presidency will only make decisions after carefully studying them, I decided to act without consulting anyone so that even the minister of justice and the vice-president had reservations on my decisions.

Yes, I have changed my mind. After I promised to redress any wrong I do, I persisted and even mobilized people to support my decisions and labeled the opposition "a malicious minority" and "revolutionaries who abandoned the revolution for personal gains."

Yes, I have changed my mind. Yesterday when I needed your votes I told you that "our strength lies in our unity" and now I am telling you to "go to hell."

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Sarah Carr

Uncle Morsi

"The Muslim Brotherhood are doing what the National Democratic Party did for thirty years, albeit without the God element. The NDP also depended on consolidating their own position by deliberately misrepresenting their

opponents, making the law fit their decisions rather than the other way around, a fondness for thuggery and a paternalistic form of governance that reduces the public's role in politics to box ticking. The only difference is Morsi's tedious penchant for moralising (e.g. Morsi suggested that Egyptians go to bed early so they can get up and pray the dawn prayer). The moralising would be tolerable except that they are failing to do anything about the million everyday problems blighting ordinary Egyptians' lives (despite Morsi's election grandstanding about making considerable improvements in 100 days) while they have the temerity to think that they can thrust a dictatorship on us because God is on their side and they know best. All this is very Mubaraky. Good luck to the MB if they think it will work"

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Wael Eskandar

The Muslim Brotherhood's Militias in Action: A Firsthand Account

"The recent clashes at the Itihadiyya presidential palace leave little room for confusion. A day prior to these events, people took to the streets in Egypt's largest cities to denounce the manner in which the Muslim Brotherhood-controlled presidency has been running the country. On Wednesday 5 December, everything changed. The Muslim Brotherhood reacted by calling on supporters of President Mohamed Morsi to march to the Itihadiyya palace, where an anti-Morsi sit-in was ongoing. Morsi's supporters forced protesters out and destroyed their tents. A little past mid-afternoon all the demonstrators were kicked out and replaced by Morsi's supporters"

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Hani Shukrallah

The decline and fall of the Muslim Brotherhood

"On Wednesday, thousands of Muslim Brotherhood thugs, armed with rifles, shotguns, knives, chains, bludgeons and remarkably, tear-gas were bussed into the vicinity of the presidential palace to attack the few hundred peaceful protesters that had staged a symbolic sit-in before the palace following Tuesday march. As the footage and testimonies of protesters, bystanders and journalists kept coming onto the airwaves and the social media, we seemed to have been hurled back in time and space, to the rise of Nazism in Germany, Fascism in Italy, Francism in Spain. The mutation of the Muslim

Brotherhood into its ugliest caricature: a gang of fascist thugs was complete. No pasaran! They shall not pass!"

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Salama Moussa

Stuck

"Egypt is stuck, a hostage to the man it elected to serve her. The country made a serious mistake in allowing Mubarak to stay a dozen years too long and in forcing him to leave a few months too early. A lame duck Mubarak may have made for a differently difficult transition, but at least the delicate and critical fiction of a legal hand-over of power would have been sustained. But honesty recognizes that Mubarak is to blame for creating a generation with many activists and few politicians. If there is any hope in a bleak week it consists of faith in an Egyptian good nature that will prevent descent into chaos or sectarianism, keep the country adrift but not capsized, while a whole new generation masters the skills of negotiation and political navigation"

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Zeinobia

And what I feared happened!!

"Now Egyptians Vs. Egyptians are fighting each other , just like in Abassiya clashes sans army forces !! It is just sad and mad. I am so pissed off. I hope Morsi and his bosses in the MB's guidance office are extremely happy now. They have to be happy with their planning. I am not optimistic at all. After hours of hours of clashes between Morsi's Islamist supporters and protesters, we hear that central security forces have reached to Presidential palace and that these forces will stop the clashes but it does not seem so. The clashes are still going on in other areas around the Presidential palace"

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Morsi: #Dec8 And The Point of No Return

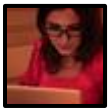


Elazul

To "Legitimacy" Pro-Morsy Supporters

Simple Argument to those saying you're backing Morsy for "Legitimacy" (الشرعية) , and claiming that the opposition don't respect "Democracy"; What has more legitimacy? The referendum in March 2011 with 77% approval with majority of eligible voters voting, or Morsy's election win of 52% with a smaller percentage of eligible voters voting? (Not even going to mention his round one percentage of 24.86%) Obviously the Referendum on the Constitutional declaration of March 2011, right?"

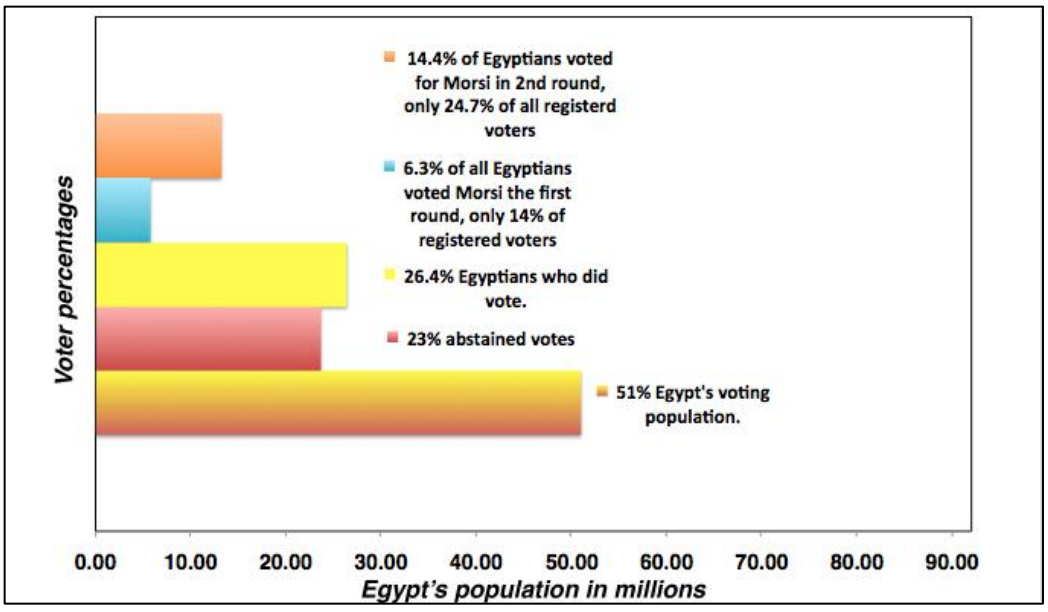
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Sarah Wali

To Morsi: 51% Is Not The Majority

"In Egypt, 51% is not the majority. Lets go back to May of this year, when we had our first presidential elections, and everyone was pumped about a democratic Egypt. Based on a population of 92 million with a voter turnout of 28.7%, his initial 5.8 million votes was support from little more than 6% of the entire Egyptian population. Even among voters he only had 24.7% of votes. In the run-off his 13,230,131 total vote count was the voice of only 14% of the population, but it's the 51% of voters that Morsi is banking on. What it really means is that 86% of the people of Egypt, me being one of them, did not give their voice to our current president. Morsi came in to lead a country whose social, economic and political systems were in turmoil, and a people that didn't really want or trust him or his band of brothers. It was a recipe for disaster"



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Ursula Lindsey

Get It Straight

It does not seem to occur to the Brotherhood that a referendum on a national charter is fundamentally different from a general election. You don't want to just narrowly win, or even substantially win. You want to rally the largest majority possible around a shared set of principles. You want the country's future constitution to pass by the most significant margin. The result of the presidential election suggests that half the country is anti-Islamist. But even if the constitution passes with say, 70 percent of the vote, there will be a significant proportion of the population that will not be on board and will not recognize the legitimacy of the new political system -- and there will be the continued temptation, which we've already seen the Brotherhood succumb to, to resort to the same readily available arsenal of tactics to smear and repress this "minority" [....] "Shouldn't responsible leadership want to give citizens the chance to acquaint themselves with the document they are voting on? The Brotherhood is displaying ineptitude and an impatience that belies its reputation as a far-thinking organization "

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H.A. Hellyer

The Irony in Egypt's Political Crisis

It is easy to reduce this entire crisis to two clearly defined sides – and certainly, it appears that much of the international media has succumbed to that. The way in which this has been portrayed as a democratically elected Islamist movement fighting against a secular opposition crying over spilt milk, is all but total in different fora. That narrative accepts untrue assumptions, and only serves to disrupt any effort at understanding what is happening" [...] "Egyptians must remember Egypt is big enough for all of them – and that is why the revolution began on the 25th of January 2011. Anything else is a betrayal of those 18 days. If the Muslim Brotherhood is convinced it is being targeted for destruction, then it must seek out alliances with those who, on principle, will not allow such a thing to happen. Their best hopes for that are within the opposition. ***There is one person who holds the key to beginning that process, not just for this crisis, but for Egypt's future. He was elected president of Egypt in June 2012****"*

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Bassem Sabry

Why This Was Not A Real Compromise

*"**By cancelling the previous Orwellian constitutional declaration and setting a potential roadmap in the case the constitutional draft was struck down in a referendum, it could be argued that the president made some step towards the center**. However: The recent package of decisions announced by the national dialogue team does not represent real compromise because the President has largely gotten what he wanted from his original constitutional declaration, even now as he rescinded it. In short, he has managed to let the constituent assembly finish its controversial draft constitution, despite walkouts from the assembly by all liberal members, feminist and human rights representatives, the Church, the advisory committee and more - leaving only Islamist forces and affiliates forming a total of 86 people on the final voting day"*

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Jadaliyya

Morsi Past the Point of No Return

*"**Just because the Brotherhood and the deep state may reach agreement that the current upheavals necessitate that the country be placed under a state emergency, does not mean that they would succeed**. Such schemes may have been feasible under the rule of Hosni Mubarak, but the new Egypt is one in which popular pressure does not take a backseat to elite-led pacts and backroom deals. **If it were up to the Muslim Brotherhood and the deep state, they would have divided Egypt between themselves behind closed doors long time ago when the realm of elite politics was dominated by a SCAF-Brotherhood partnership. Their failure to do so speaks to the power of a revolutionary spirit inside the sphere of Egyptian contentious politics—one that has consistently subverted elite-led pacts that sought to exclude the Egyptian people from the table**. This same revolutionary spirit stands in resilience throughout Egypt on the streets, in public squares, and, as of now, in front of the presidential palace"*

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The Chemical Weapons: Fact or Fiction?



Joshua Landis

“Chemical Weapons: Fact, Fiction, and Fib,” by Aron Lund

"On the WMD discussion, my guess is that what’s happening is that some intelligence agencies are really picking up signals of WMD motion on the ground, but that the dramatic “mixing sarin and putting it into bombs” info is pure propaganda. It seems designed to spook the public, make a case for intervention, and, to some extent, force the hand of the Obama administration. In the unlikely event that Assad has really started activating his WMD capacity, it could be for a military purpose or as a political signal. There are basically three things he would be interested in: 1) to threaten any would-be intervention force, e.g. Turkey, 2) to remind everyone that he could carry out a lethal last strike on Israel if the regime falls, 3) possibly, to shift chemical material over to allies in Lebanon, to create a kind of second-strike capability if the regime is attacked and unable to respond"

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Brian Whitaker

Syria's chemical weapons: how real is the threat?

"There's no doubt that some people are trying to whip up hysteria over the chemical weapons issue – whether because they want direct military intervention or because they strongly oppose it. There are also echoes of the propaganda campaign against Saddam Hussein's Iraq regarding weapons of mass destruction – though, as I pointed out yesterday, it's important to recognise that the situation with Syria is somewhat different"

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First Visible Cracks in the Alawite Community



Tony Badran

What's happening in Qardaha?

"According to Alawite activists, the regime is intent on setting an example. The shops of the Khayyirs and their confederates have reportedly been burned. And young girls from the Khayyir family are said to have been abducted to "teach the families a lesson." Up until now, Assad has been able to rely on the Alawites' cohesiveness and support. But Alawite discontent could well be surfacing under the stress of war and the fear of retribution. Time will tell whether Assad will be able to maintain communal solidarity"

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Sheikh Ahmad Moaz Al-Khatib: The New Head of The National Coalition



Thierry Meyssan

The Many Faces of Sheikh Ahmad Moaz Al-Khatib

"The dislocation of the armed Syrian opposition is a reflection of the conflict between the various States which are trying to "change the regime" in Damascus. We should pay particular attention to the Syrian National Council (SNC), also known as the Istanbul Council, since it was instituted there. This council is guided with an iron hand by the French DGSE (Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure), and financed by Qatar. Its members, who have obtained residency and various other privileges in France, are under constant pressure from the secret services, who dictate every declaration they make. The Local Coordination Committees (LCC) represent those local civilians who support armed action. Finally, the Free Syrian Army (FSA), which is principally managed by Turkey, unites most of the combatants, including the d'Al-Qaida brigades. 80% of these units recognize the Takfirist Sheikh Adnan Al-Arour as their spiritual leader. He is based in Saudi Arabia"

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Aron Lund

Islamism and the Syrian Revolution

"On November 11, the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces was established in Qatar, supposedly to lead the struggle against Bashar el-Assad. While not an insignificant event, the truth is that these exiled dissidents now have very little influence over the uprising. With Syria in a state of civil war since about a year, opposition leadership has drifted away from the politicians and diplomats, into the hands of guerrilla leaders. Among these armed groups, things are taking a nasty turn, with the uprising's sectarian character growing more apparent by the day. The regime is dominated by Syria's religious minorities, particularly Assad's own Alawite sect, while the vast majority of revolutionary activists hail from Sunni Arab majority. The exiled opposition retains a small number of Christian, Alawite and Druze leaders, but there is far less pluralism among demonstrators and rebels inside Syria; the armed resistance is almost exclusively Sunni Muslim. This does not imply that all rebels are religiously motivated, since Syria's sectarian dynamics are more a question of familial background than one of personal faith. But Islamism is gaining ground rapidly within the armed movement, as rebels grasp for ways to stake out their identity, formulate an ideological discourse, and privately seek solace with God. By November 2012, the ideological spectrum of Syria's armed movement had narrowed to one ranging from apolitical Sunni conservatism or rural Sufism, across the Muslim Brotherhood's ikhwani Islamism, to the rigid ultra-orthodoxy of salafism. There was little or no room for secular ideologies"

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Joshua Landis

Syrian Militias Establish New Command – Pro-Jabhat al-Nusra Alliance Emerges

It seems that the US has provoked the formation of a counter-alliance against it even before Assad has fallen. Syrian militias established a new command that is estimated to be made up of roughly two-thirds of representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafist allies" [....] "But blacklisting the Nusra Front could backfire. It would pit the United States against some of the best fighters in the insurgency that it aims to support. While some Syrian rebels fear the group's growing power, others work closely with it and admire it — or, at least, its military achievements — and

are loath to end their cooperation. Leaders of the Free Syrian Army, the loose-knit rebel umbrella group that the United States seeks to bolster, expressed exasperation that the United States, which has refused to provide weapons throughout the conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people, is now opposing a group they see as a vital ally. The Nusra Front "defends civilians in Syria, whereas America didn't do anything," said Mosaab Abu Qatada, a rebel spokesman. "They stand by and watch; they look at the blood and the crimes and brag. Then they say that Nusra Front are terrorists"

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Jordan

#Nov30: The End of the "Era of Absolute Monarchy"



Tamer Samadi



"The National Front for Reform, led by former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, the Muslim Brotherhood and a youth group known as the "November Uprising" called for mass demonstrations to press their demands for the abolishment of the government's decision to raise fuel prices and to enact constitutional amendments that would undermine the powers of King Abdullah II. However, Jordanian authorities quickly announced a security plan that consists of shutting down the main streets of the capital as of Thursday [Nov. 29] evening, as well as those in the country's most sensitive areas, including the vicinity of the al-Dakhiliyah roundabout, where the demonstrations will begin"

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King Abdullah Buying Time



Impatient Bedouin

Jordan's King Abdullah Continues to Buy Time

"When the people continued taking to the streets demanding much needed reform, King Abdullah's approach never changed. He became skilled at agreeing with the need for reform and perhaps an expert at changing governments, over and over again as well. In April 2011, Prime Minister Khasawaneh resigned, holding his position for only 6 months because he felt that although he was appointed to implement reform, he was not actually being allowed to do so. In an interview with the economist Khasawneh said, "I was supposed to run a country… I won't accept instructions from a palace." What was King Abdullah's response? What it has been this entire time, he not only said that reform needed to be implemented in Jordan but blamed Khasawaneh in a written letter saying that Khasawneh's resignation was necessary because Jordan "cannot afford any delay in achieving the needed reform."

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Kuwait

Elections & New Parliament



Impatient Bedouin

Kuwait Votes in 5th Election in 6 Years

"Kuwaitis voted on Saturday for the fifth time in six years, in a vote boycotted by the opposition, which held a rally on Friday attended by factions from across the political spectrum, including youth movements, Islamists, and liberals. The opposition boycotted the election due to the Emir's decree reducing the number of votes that each voter can cast from four to one, so the election was as much a referendum on the regime as an election campaign, because by participating, voters, and the candidates they supported were acquiescing (at least tacitly) in the Emir's decree. The results of this election should thus be taken with the understanding that they contests between regime supporters. However, it is important to analyze them to determine what they mean for the future of Kuwaiti politics, what it means for the nature of the regime's backers, and what it reveals about the

opposition. In particular with regards to the areas where the boycott was most widespread"

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Mona Kareem

New Parliament Marks A Setback for Kuwait

"Perhaps to compete with Jordan, whose government seems to change every few weeks, Kuwait has elected its second parliament this year. This might seem vindication for the opposition, but it instead represents just the latest round of a political struggle in Kuwait that is not abating" [....] "The likely outcome, however, is that all of these issues which are the cause of such political turbulence in Kuwait will be set back by the new parliament. The new National Assembly is instead more likely to defend executive authorities, facilitate sectarianism, and keep the money for projects and entitlements flowing. Protests continue since the elections. The opposition, despite the boycott, has no plan for what to do next. The government is hoping for a period of relative quiet with some of the leading agitators on the outside of the National Assembly. But the cause of such agitation, which remains, has just moved from the parliament to the streets"

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The #DignityMarch4



Shafeeq Ghabra

Kuwaiti Youth Shape Opposition Movement



*"The decree passed by Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad has reduced from four to one the number of votes that can be cast by a voter. The decision has caused an uproar. The one-vote project and the Dec. 1 elections have triggered massive popular and youth protests, and have reshaped the role of the Kuwaiti political opposition"[.....]""**What is happening in Kuwait is not a revolution. It is a movement that is loyal to the political system, to the Kuwaiti constitution and to the emir. The new generation, which is the majority of the population, wants a more modern country, more rational laws, less corruption and a merit-based economic system that helps the middle class and the marginalized**. All the protests (there has so far*

*been two protests of over 200,000 people and held under the banner "the dignity of the homeland") have so far been peaceful. They have called for dignity and the annulment of the decree"[.....] "**The current crisis may be long and may take several turns. The Dec. 1 elections will produce a weak parliament that lacks independence**. This means that the real parliament in Kuwait will be the larger political movement in the streets. Kuwait is reeling. There is a battle on the shape of the government and on the nature of political representation in it"*



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Impatient Bedouin

Kuwait After December 1st: A Divided Political Sphere

"The Emir's decree was seen by the opposition as crossing a line, as they decided the regime wanted to increase its power at their expense. Meanwhile, following the election the regime feels confident that it can endure the protests. Maybe they are right, at least in the short term. However, over the long term if (even according to the regime's own figures) one-third of the population rejects participation in the political process it does not bode well for Kuwait long-term. The regime may yet pull through this crisis without making any real concessions, but the people – as they have in the past – have been steadfast in demanding their rights. It is unclear whether any outcome can resolve the long-term political crisis, so the upheaval that has lasted for the past six years continues, and has entered a new phase with this most recent election"



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