

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA  
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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DOMAIN: FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
OPTION: LITERATURE & CIVILIZATION

# The Arab Spring and the U.S. Democracy Promotion: Egypt as case study

Thesis Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Master in Literature and Civilization

**Submitted by:**

Miss. NAGHMOUCHI Fawzia

Miss. FATMI Chahra

**Supervised by:**

Mr. REFICE Nouredine

**Academic Year**

2016/2017

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## **Abstract**

Democracy promotion is considered as a policy that is adopted by many developed countries. It has been used in their foreign policy; one of them is the United States. This latter has pretended to promote democracy to the rest of the world. The present research aims to examine whether the United States is really using this principle to promote democracy abroad, or just to preserve its interests. Also, the work highlights the U.S. intervention in the Middle East during Bush and Obama administrations. This study tries to reveal the contradiction between the U.S. values and interests, taking Egypt as a case study. It sheds light on the Egyptian uprising, which has shown the opposite of what the U.S. has pretended to spread. To investigate the topic, the descriptive method was used. The results of the research show that the relationship between the United States and Arab countries is one of power, and one of achieving benefits. This relation has put U.S. interests first, and applied universal values selectively.

### **Key Words:**

Democracy promotion- Arab spring- US intervention.

## ملخص

لقد اعتبر تعزيز الديمقراطية أحد المبادئ الرئيسية. وقد استخدمها العديد من الدول المتقدمة في سياستها الخارجية، ومن بينها الولايات المتحدة. وقد تظاهرت هذه الأخيرة بتعزيز الديمقراطية في بقية العالم. ومن هذا المنطلق، يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة ما إذا كانت الولايات المتحدة تستخدم هذا المبدأ فعليا لتعزيز الديمقراطية في الخارج، أو لمجرد الحفاظ على مصالحها. كما يسلط العمل الضوء على تدخل الولايات المتحدة في الشرق الأوسط خلال إدارتي بوش وأوباما. كما يحاول أيضا إلى تحليل التناقض بين القيم والمصالح الأمريكية، مع أخذ مصر كدراسة حالة. وهو يلقي الضوء على الانتفاضة المصرية التي أظهرت عكس ما تدعي الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية نشره. ولتحقيق هذا الموضوع، تم استخدام المنهج الوصفي. وأظهرت نتائج البحث أن العلاقة بين الولايات المتحدة والدول العربية هي علاقة هيمنة، وتحقيق مصالح. وقد وضعت هذه العلاقة المصالح الأمريكية أولا، ثم يأتي تطبيق القيم العالمية بشكل انتقائي.

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## **Dedication**

*To the dearest people to my heart*

*To my dear parents: Darradji and Z. Samia, who have shown me what nobody else would even have, and have provided me with their love.*

*To my brothers: Ramzi, Fouad, Islame, for their whole-hearted support, love, and patience*

*To my lovely husband: “Zebbich Fateh”, who stood beside me for the last moment.*

*To my friendly classmates: Zahra, Sabrina, Rima, Roumaissa, Imane, Halima, Amel, Nabila, and Layla.*

*To my lovely sister, and close friend Chahra, with whom I have conducted this work.*

### **Fouzia**

*This manuscript would not have been possible without the help of my family members, friends, and colleagues who withstood the musings of my journey.*

*I want to dedicate this work especially to my parents: Tayeb and T.Djamila, to whom I have a sincere gratitude for their love and encouragement.*

*To my cute sisters: Nassima and Ikhlass, who have provided me with their patience, and extraordinary support.*

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*To my sweetheart husband: Kadri Abd el-karim, who stood by my side despite everything.*

*To my close friend, crazy sister Fouzia, who have shared with me everything we have passed through.*

*To my dearest friends: Zahra, Sabrina, Ibtissam, Amina, Bassma, Amira, Imane, Ismahan.*

### **Chahra**

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## **Declaration**

We hereby solemnly declare that the work we are going to present in this thesis; “*The Arab Spring and US Democracy Promotion: Egypt as case study*”, is our own work. It has not been submitted before to any other institution or university. All sources, which we have used and quoted from, have been indicated by means of complete references. This work is to be carried out at Mohammed Boudiaf University M’sila, Algeria.

# **General Introduction**

Democracy promotion has been considered a practical tool of imperialism for the past several decades. It has continued to be used to validate the indirect U.S. involvement in the politics of other countries. Ever since, democracy has been one of the lasting values and interests of U.S. foreign policy to remake the order of global world, and shape the international system itself. The United States has a long tradition on promoting democracy in its foreign policy. Also American presidents have put democracy at the heart of their affairs and the focus has shifted to the Middle East.

Since the earlier part of the twentieth century, the United States has perceived the Middle East as a political power. Its intervention in the region has been perceived by the name of democracy promotion. It has pretended to spread democratization abroad as a mean to end tyranny and fight terrorism, promote stability in troubled countries, and increase prosperity and wealth in poor states.

However, U.S. democracy promotion has reversed in the beginning of 21 century because of the Arab revolutions. It was the most significant development in international affairs since 2011, which saw dramatic changes in the political landscape of the Middle East. The Arab Spring has changed the form of thinking, because democracy promotion strategies are seen as part to secure larger U.S. interests around the world. The efforts of the United States to promote democracy in the region are not innocent. They are the efforts of external power attempting to shape and control the internal dynamics of Arab countries.

Yet, the Arab Spring has changed the setting in the Arab world. Particularly in Egypt, the political transition towards democracy and human rights has influenced the region. The Egyptian uprising has been described as a struggle for the right to dignity, freedom, democracy, and the sake to end corruption. It has opened up opportunities for the U.S. vast

implications. As a result, U.S. democracy promotion has ensured that the relationship between the United States and Arab world has remained one of power and domination.

This research study aims at providing the necessary information, and good understanding about democracy promotion as a mean to maintain stability in the world. Besides, it identifies U.S. monopoly of democracy promotion towards Arab states as a foreign policy, which pretends to help civil societies to back for political reform and democratic transition. It also intends to examine the role of the United States in promoting democracy in the Arab world, particularly in Egypt during the Arab Spring. In addition, the work seeks to analyze the contradiction between American values and interests in its foreign policy.

In this context our research study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. Is the U.S. really working to promote democracy in the Middle East?
2. Has the U.S. helped to create a democratic regime in Egypt?
3. Is there a contradiction between values and interests in American foreign policy?

The method that is designed to be used in this field is descriptive analytical, since the work is based on qualitative analysis that aims at describing the events as it exists and analyzing the findings.

First, this study gives a historical background about democracy promotion as a core component of the American foreign policy. Second, it analyzes the Egyptian uprising which has brought an end to the 3 decades of Hosni Mubarak rule, and investigates the contradiction between the American values and interests. This research draws upon interpreting primary and secondary sources including books, dissertations, and articles.

This research study will be presented into two chapters. The first chapter is entitled “U.S. Democracy Promotion”. In this chapter we are going to shed light on democracy promotion

on general, U.S. democracy promotion and its principles in particular. Also we will discuss U.S. intervention in the Middle East during Bush and Obama's presidency.

The second chapter is devoted to "the Egyptian Uprising". It gives an overview about the Egyptian uprising, mentioning the main factors behind the revolution and the role of social media in facilitating the protest. In addition, we will discuss the U.S. implication in the uprising, showing the contradiction between American values and interests.

**Chapter One:**

**U.S. Democracy**

**Promotion**

# Chapter One: U.S. Democracy Promotion

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## Introduction

Most of the world's great civilizations have sought to spread their political system and ideologies far beyond their borders. They were persuaded by self-evident and universal truth of their respective messages in order to promote democratization to the entire world.

Democracy promotion, as the practice of encouraging the development of democracy in many countries, has become a prominent component of foreign policy for developed countries around the world. It is defined as the widest range of actions that one country can take to influence the political development of other countries toward greater stabilization. These actions are differentiated in terms of the degree of engagement and the tools used, including diplomatic engagement, public diplomacy, assistance and building programs, and economic relationships.

In this view, most developed countries, such as the United States, have made commitments to promote and enforce democracy promotion among other countries, one of which is the United States. Therefore, democracy promotion has been a core component of American foreign policy in order to produce international peace and stability. As President George Bush states,

*we are led, by events and common sense, to one conclusion: The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in the entire world....So, it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world (Markakis 9).*

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## 1.1 Definition of Democracy

Democracy which derives from the Greek word “demo” or “people”, and “kratos” or “rule”, is defined basically as a form government “*of the people, by the people, and for the people*”(Cincotta 1). Democracy is a system in which no one can choose himself, no one can invest himself with the power to rule, and therefore, no one can abrogate to himself unconditional and unlimited power. The concept is defined as a mode of decision- making about committing rules and policies over which the people exercise control collectively, where all people enjoy effective equal rights to participate in such decision-making directly. (Samarasinghe 6).

According to Erik wright, an American sociologist, “*all people should have broadly equal access to the necessary means to participate meaningfully in decisions over things which affect their lives. This includes both the freedom of individuals to make choices that affect their own lives as separate persons, and their capacity to participate in collective decisions which affect their lives as members of a broader community*” (qtd.in Democracy: How it works 1).

Therefore, democracy needs the existence and free exercise of certain basic individual and group rights without which no democracy can exist. Each one of these basic rights in turn would give rise to substantive rights. These rights are constituted in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights<sup>1</sup>, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>2</sup>. As the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights<sup>3</sup> argues, “*democracy, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.... The*

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<sup>1</sup> The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR): is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10/12/1948 in Paris.

<sup>2</sup> The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16/12/1966.

<sup>3</sup> The Vienna Declaration on Human Rights: is a common plan for the strengthening of human rights work around the world, adopted by consensus on 25/06/1993.

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*international community should support the strengthening and formation of democracy, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world”*

(Bassiouni et al. 7-10).

## 1.2 Democracy Promotion

Democracy promotion, as a foreign policy goal, has become acceptable throughout most of the international community. It is regarded as a system of governing which has near-universal appeal among people of every ethnic group, every religion, and every region in the world (McFaul 148). From the early 1960s to the late 1980s, an era of intensive tension, between superpower competitors, was the most common condition for developing assistance and promoting democracy. Security priorities dominated the choice of help. While the Soviet Union (USSR) supported Marxist-Leninist, the United State and other westerners provided economic assistance to developing countries, in order to facilitate the containment of communism and Soviet expansionism (Brown 180-181).

Western Europeans used such aid as a mean to enforce developing countries to carry out certain political and social reform. For instance, France and Britain maintained important commercial and financial relationship with their colonies. Also the Nordic countries and the Netherlands’ programs were motivated by social priorities. Few countries, such as the Scandinavian ones in 1970s, officially related aids to human rights concern. However, foreign aids were offensive to democratization by supporting military civilian oppressed countries (Brown 181).

In the last century, communist ideologies created alternative political models to democracy. However, ideological contest between communism and democracy was competitive. Eventually, as a result, opponents to communist dictatorship strengthened and the Soviet Empire collapsed. Several States that emerged from the USSR’s dissolution called

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their regimes communist. But in all these dictatorships, rulers no longer advocated an alternative governmental form to democracy; rather they either claimed that they were already democratic even if they were not, or their leaders by time would move toward democracy “step by step” (McFaul 149).

After the disappearance of the communism and the Soviet expansionism, the balance of power was shifted, and the United States emerged as a superpower that played a pivotal role in making the advancement of democratic values. In 1990, the United States hold the monopoly of democracy promotion that helped people to protect their own fundamental rights (Brown 181).

### 1.3. U.S. Democracy Principles

Democracy for the United States refers to the “American Dream”. This idea that shapes the mentality of the American nation, can be found in the constitution of the U.S, and more precisely in the “Declaration of the Independence”. Before that, it was a singular product of the Puritans in early protestant cultural foundation of the American life. By nature, they believed that all people were created equal and were talented by their creator with fixed rights (Russell Mead 1) as:

**1- Equality:** is the first democratic value announced in the “Declaration of Independence”, it simply means “equality of interests”, which identifies that no one has any obligation to scarify his happiness and interest for the benefit of anyone else. It is the most fundamental of democratic and American values that no one is above the law and all people were created equal.

**2- Freedom:** democracy is universally based on common values shared by people. It is a basic right of citizenship to be practiced under condition of freedom. This latter includes

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defining for themselves their own interests and to pursue those interests by whatever social, political, intellectual, technological, and economic means available to them.

**3- Self- Government:** as a form of government, democracy is the best way to achieve the cohesion of society, and enhance national tranquility. Democratic government can serve the interest of everybody, promoting the freedom, prosperity, and happiness of the Americans. Democratic government permits its citizens to take part in the management of its public affairs. It needs the existence of representatives to express the will of people by legislating and overseeing governmental action.

**4- Self-Determination:** Americans take charge of their own destiny, deciding for themselves who they are, what is important for them, and how they choose to live their lives. This is the true “American Dream”. Democrats recognize that tyranny over individual takes many forms, and one of the fundamental functions of government is to free them from all forms.

**5- Diversity:** freedom and self-determinism necessarily means a wide range of life styles, modes of work, styles of dress, religious and spiritual beliefs, and matters of personal morality. Many of these are the product of the diverse cultures present in American society. Individuals are free to make their own decisions regarding the cultural heritage. They choose to accept, adopt, and change their interests.

**6- Practicality:** as Thomas Jefferson, an American president, states that governments are established among people. Every institution and organization is the creation of human being for the purpose of advancing their interests; but one principle, announced by Jefferson himself, is whether existing laws, institutions, and organizations actually work to advance their interests. Concerning democratic self-government, people have the right to create and modify institutions. Thus, democracy is based on the existence of well-structured and well-functioning institutions.

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7- **Transparency:** the key element in the exercise of democracy is free and fair elections, enabling people's will to be expressed. Voters can choose their representatives in conditions of equality and transparency. To that end, civil and political rights are more important as the right to freedom of opinion, expression and assembly, and the right to organize political parties and carry out of political activities. Individual participation in democratic processes and public life at all levels must be regulated and impartially avoiding any discrimination.

8- **Prosperity:** democratic governments should adopt a favorable economic policy, by which society is committed to satisfy the basic economic needs of people. Economic, social, and cultural developments are conditions for and fruits of democracy.

9- **Dignity:** democracy aims to preserve the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, to achieve social justice, foster the economic and social development of the community, strengthen the cohesion of society, and enhance national tranquility, as well as to create a sense of international peace (Bassiouni et al. 4-7).

## 1.4. U.S. Democracy Promotion

The spread of the American way of life has been part of the U.S. foreign policy, from a belief in the Manifest Destiny. As Patterson in his article "*Obama and Sustainable Democracy Promotion*" shows the advancement of freedom is one of most sacred values of the United States. It has been established among American executives, such as John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter. As Harry S. Truman declares, "*I believe that we must assist free people to work out their own destinies in their own way. I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures*"(27).

Moreover, democracy promotion was embedded in U.S. foreign policy in the time of President Franklin Roosevelt. In particular, it dated back to the World War I, when Woodrow

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Wilson asserted that America entered into the war to make the world safe for democracy. Although, democratization efforts went back to 1983, when the United States sought the containment of communism (Mousavi, and Heydari 111).

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, which marked the end of the Cold War, promoting the international spread of democracy replaced containment of the Soviet Union as the guiding principle of U.S. foreign policy. Policymakers and commenters embraced the idea that democratization could become America's next mission. According to Lynn-Jones, "*the United States should promote democracy and disapprove some of the important arguments against U.S. efforts to spread democracy around the world, which will offer many benefits to new democracies and the U.S. as well because Americans and global interests would be achieved if the world contained more democracies*" (1).

In recent years, democracy promotion as a controversial concept came to be the formal currency of the United States' foreign policy. It is among the abundant supply commodities in U.S. foreign policy lexicon and among U.S. presidents' vocabulary. The Founding Fathers held that America is an exceptional country that possesses the best framework to practice democracy, based on the belief that humans have fixed rights (Mousavi, and Heydari 111).

The United States attempted to spread democracy because it was founded on the principle of securing liberty for its citizens. Its founding document stressed liberty as a core value. As Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, argues, "*the United States is a country founded on a set of ideas, and ideals, applicable to people everywhere. The founding fathers declared that people were created equal-not just those in Britain's 13 American colonies. To secure liberty and the pursuit of happiness, people had the right to establish governments that derive powers from the consent of the governed*" (qtd. in Lynn-Jones 6).

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Besides, promoting freedom and protecting human rights around the world have been a central component of U.S. foreign policy. The United States wants to promote democracy as a tool to achieve security and stability to the entire world, to assist newly formed democracies, to establish vibrant democracies in their own countries, and to identify and denounce regimes that deny the right to choose leaders in transparent elections for their citizens (Mousavi, and Heydari 111).

According to Moussavi and Heydari, every American president over the last 30 years ended up his presidency with an emphasis on democracy promotion. For instance, Ronald Reagan formulated his policy to contain the Soviet Union's communism using democracy promotion as an instrument, and established some programs which continue today. Also President Bush involved in the establishment of U.S. policies in order to support democratic transition around the Post-Communist world.

In addition, President Clinton redefined America's security profile and global outlook in the Post-Cold War. He focused on democracy promotion, which was the main theme of his foreign policy in both first and second terms. He engaged in the support of democracy activities in the world. His National Security adviser, Antony Lake, believes , *“the addition of new democracies makes us more secure because democracies tend not to wage war on each other or sponsor terrorism”* (111).

In 2006, the National Security Strategy of the United States<sup>4</sup> pointed out that democracy promotion was the effective way of obtaining stability, because democracies were the responsible members of international system. Promoting democracy was the most effective means for strengthening international security for a long-term. As Elliott Abrams, an

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<sup>4</sup> The National Security Strategy of the United States (NSS): is a document prepared by the executive branch of the US government for congress, which outlines the national security concerns.

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Assistant Security of State, declares, “*democracy became the organizing principle of our policy*” (qtd.in Mousavi, and Heydari 112).

In order to promote democratic transition, the U.S. government changed its attention to support dictatorial regimes. For instance, Washington supported Saddam during Iran-Iraq war. However, it took back its support when Saddam thought to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. As Condoleezza Rice, the Secretary of States, points out at the American University in Cairo in 2005, “*For 60 years, my country, the United States pursued stability at the expense of democracy in this region here in the Middle East....Now we are taking a different course. We are supporting democratic aspiration of all people. Freedom and democracy are the only ideas powerful enough to overcome hatred, division, and violence*” (Ibid 112).

### **1.4.1. U.S. Intervention in the Middle East**

Since democratization had advanced in developing countries, the United States had implemented strategies to promote democracy abroad. U.S. foreign policy was designed to protect the countries national interests. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the United States influence had marked in every country in the world. Thus, it had presented as a world power, particularly its relationship with the Middle East. The U.S. has considered itself as the only worthy nation to spread freedom (Scott, and Steele 47).

Moreover, the United States has had a greater impact on global democratization, for better or for worse than any other country in the world, especially during the last decades. It has used its vast political, cultural, economic, and military resources in order to create new democratic states. In particular, the Middle East has been shaken by interstate conflict, political unrest, and tensions. In fact, the building blocks of the U.S. democracy promotion have raised in the Middle East as a strategic priority after the terrorist attack of September 11, which has initiated a significant departure in the traditional direction of the US policy, and

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recent events within the region. Subsequently, democracy promotion has emerged as a central tenet of the U.S. toward the Middle East (Mousavi, and Heydari 110).

The U.S. administration's solution to the Middle East problems was to apply democratic social reform in non-democratic countries. Therefore, the Bush and Obama administrations tried to spread democratization in friendly Middle Eastern states, in order to continue the operation of democratizing Arab countries as a basic feature of U.S. foreign policy (Pee 7).

### **1.4.1.1. Democracy Promotion and Bush's Foreign Policy**

Bush entered office in a changed world. The Cold War was over and the last previous decades had been characterized by military humanitarian intervention. Following a foreign policy and domestic reform, Bush pursued this path until September 11 which obliged him to formulate a new approach to address the dangers of terrorism (Peterson 28). In response to the attack of September 11, Bush launched a war to defeat terrorism worldwide. The United States were in an offensive mode; assertive action should prevent new attacks on the U.S. homeland. Countries that hosted terrorist groups were exposed to become targets. The United States would be offensive against states allied with terrorist, particularly in the Middle East.

The National Security Strategy (NSS) annual report of the Bush administration, published in 17 September, 2002, affirmed that the United States did not act in its own interests only, but it would make peace by freeing the world of terrorists and tyrants. The NSS document defines terrorism as an enemy of global reach that targets innocent people (Demant, and Finguerut 5-6).

In addition, the Bush administration promised to put democracy promotion abroad a primary objective of U.S. foreign policy to advance freedom around the world. According to him, the administration was committed to promote democracy not only in the Middle East but

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in the entire world. As Bush declares, in his February 2003 Speech at the American Enterprise Institute, *“the world has a clear interest in the spread of democratic values because stable and free nations do not breed the ideologies of murder”* (Carothers 3).

Thomas Carothers argues in his book *“U.S. Democracy Promotion During and After Bush”*, that democratization under Bush administration will get rid of the roots of the terrorism in the region. President Bush, in his second inaugural address, set the “Freedom Agenda” policy; an ambitious policy to improve the long-term stability of Arab States and eliminate the appeal of extremist ideology by advancing democratic transformation in the region. As he declares, *“America is a nation with a mission, and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs....It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture”* (1-3).

Moreover, this policy developed out of the Bush Doctrine, that of supporting and promoting human liberty worldwide. It was descended from the “Declaration of Independence”, in which he confirmed the moral nature of politics, the worth of individuals, humanity’s rights to and desire for freedom, and the responsibility of free societies to help the oppressed people (Paterson 29). In order to apply the “Freedom agenda”, U.S. government had used multiple tools of foreign policy including the presidential diplomatic pressure.

President Bush focused on the structure of three major initiatives: First, Middle East Partnership Initiative, which was created in December 2002 as the most important U.S. program to advance Arab reform, to empower women and youth, and to foster economic opportunities. Second, the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, that was established in 1998 to promote democratic programs, and address human rights worldwide. Third, the United States Agency for International Development, which has provided economic assistance aiming at supporting democracy (Glassman, and Glickman 51).

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Congress played a vital role in promoting democracy, setting funds and providing oversight of administration programs, which shows that congress influenced U.S. democracy programs. It had passed legislation which were introduced to authorize funds for democracy in specific countries and regions, and to push governments of non-democratic states to begin a process of transformational democracy. Also it had supported multiple bilateral and multilateral activities to spread freedom around the world.

The U.S. government used specific activities to support democratic reform. These activities provided aids to support election procedures and governance practices, helped to build the legal system, and assisted in military and police training. For example, The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) was proposed by Bush in 2002 and authorized by congress in 2004, and was planned to provide foreign aids to Arab countries that witnessed democratic and economic reform.

Besides, the congress contributed to add other multilateral activities in order to assist democratic reform, such as the United Nations Developments programme<sup>5</sup>, the UN Democracy Fund<sup>6</sup>, and the Community of Democracies<sup>7</sup>. The Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, declares in her announcement to establish the Advisory Commission<sup>8</sup> on democracy promotion to *“help us think about the issue of democracy promotion, to from time to time give us constructive criticism on what it is that we are doing, as well as constructive suggestions about what more we might do”* ( Epstein, et al 18-22 ).

The State Department Authorization Act for 2003, which was passed just a year after the attack of September 11, expressed the sense of the congress that the budget for the State

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): is the United Nations’ global development network .It focuses on poverty reduction, democratic governance, and social development.

<sup>6</sup> The UN Democracy Fund: was created by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2005, to support democratization efforts in the world.

<sup>7</sup> The Community of Democracies (CD) : is an intergovernmental coalition of states established in 2000 to support democratic rules , and strengthen institutions.

<sup>8</sup> The Advisory Commission: was an alliance of political parties in Afghanistan, founded in October 2010.

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Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Right, and Labor should be increased. Congress established and funded Human Rights and Democracy Fund. It was administrated by the Bureau to support defenders of human rights and encourage the growth of democracy in other countries (Paterson 30-32).

Bush suggested that the lack of political freedom in some countries, especially in the Middle East, fostered political extremism and terrorism. Promoting democracy in these places would therefore help get rid of the roots of terrorism. President Bush's announcement of a new "Freedom Agenda" in November 2003, argued that the U.S. would no longer prioritize strategic friendships with dictators at the expense of freedom. The United States would sponsor political reforms in the hope to foster democratic transitions across the Arab World.

Therefore, America's role against tyranny would spread democratization for the Arabs just as it would leave the U.S. more secure. It would win the war on terrorism by reducing the authoritarian culture of political repression that had nurtured Al-Qaeda. Democracy would solidify the United States' sphere of influence by seeding the region with anti-extremist ideas. The "Freedom Agenda" made a tremendous splash in the Arab countries, where it sparked extensive media coverage, political gossip, and academic attention (Yom131).

Since the Middle East has witnessed democracy promotion more than any other region. Interstate conflict, political tensions, and outside interventions have affected the region for a long time. Therefore, Bush pledged to strengthen democracy and promote peace in this region. He promised to end tyranny and helped to spread democracy and liberty as the alternatives to terrorism, and here he had addressed Al-Qaeda (Yerkes, and Wittes 2).

As a result, Bush's invasion of Iraq was justified by Saddam's possession of weapons and his links with Al-Qaeda. He justified his occupation of Iraq by the name of promoting democracy. As he reported in December 2006, "*We are committed to a strategic goal of a free*

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*Iraq that is democratic, that can govern itself, defend itself, and sustain itself*". Since Bush failed to prove Saddam-Al-Qaeda links and his possession of mass destructive weapons, he stated that the overthrow of Saddam dictatorship would lead to a new version of a democratic transition. His administration officials turned the Iraq intervention into a democracy mission first and foremost. They asserted a policy aimed at supporting a democratic transformation of the entire region (Mousavi, and Heydari 110).

Besides, democracy promotion is an evolutionary phenomenon rather than a revolutionary one. Under the leadership of Bush, the U.S. government could free the Iraqis from the rule of Saddam Hussein. It supported the creation of new Iraqi government. In 2005, Iraq held elections as sign of transition from dictatorship to democracy. American military presence in the country for seven years was to maintain security, stability, and to initiate democratization process (Ibid 111).

The U.S. government cooperated with the Iraqi army to reduce violence, restore security to Iraqi communities, and drive terrorist groups out of their territory. This security helped for political and economic development. For instance, Iraq's parliament passed laws on amnesty and elections, which approved new strategic agreement with the United States. Also Iraq's economy increased relying on private investment. The administration successfully negotiated a Strategic Framework, and Security Agreements with Iraq<sup>9</sup>, which would strengthen their relationships providing the U.S. with vital protection to continue their mission of stabilizing Iraq (Yerkes and Wittes 3).

Bush administration had made the Middle East the front line of his "Freedom Agenda" to advance democracy in the region. Thus, Bush officials shedded light on the following:

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<sup>9</sup> The Strategic Framework and Security Agreements: are established to protect US interests in the Middle East, help the Iraqi people stand on their own, and reinforce Iraqi sovereignty.

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- 1) The administration got rid two dictatorial regimes in the region, and oversaw their replacements by elected governments, both Iraq and Afghanistan straggled tyranny. They represented a significant Pro-democratic advance over their predecessors. U.S. interventions in both regions considered as a democratizing mission to maintain security.
- 2) The President and his advisors had spoken out clearly about the possibility of democratic change in the Arab world. Administration officials believed that this public speech created Pro-democratic pressure on government in the region, and encouraged citizens to push for good political reform.
- 3) The administration took some of interrelated measures to motivate Arab countries to move forward with political reforms; rewarding reformers with praise and economic benefits, such as establishing new aid program to support economic, political, and social reform initiatives throughout the region.
- 4) The administration had practiced pressure in order to make international political change in Syria and Iran through economic sanctions, diplomatic initiatives, and new democracy aid funds. This pressure included its effort in 2004 to get Syria to withdraw from Lebanon (Carothers 4-5).

### **1.4.1.2. Democracy Promotion and Obama's Foreign Policy**

The victory of Obama in the elections of 2008 was widely appreciated. When he entered in the White House in January 2009, Bush ended his presidency with low rates of approval. As Obama entered office, the opportunities for advancing democracy in the Middle East appear much more limited than when his predecessor entered office, since his administration faced a set of challenges in the region (Katulis 3-6).

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Observers assumed that Obama's Mideast policies represent a sharp break from that of Bush. His campaign slogan of "change" seemed to address Bush legacy more than anything else, including bringing an end to the Iraq war. He had stipulated December 2010 as the end for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. While the U.S. withdrawal planted the seeds of security, it oversaw a rapprochement with Iran in the hope that Teheran would help to reduce the Shiite tensions against the Baghdad government. Iran handled the Iraq crisis in which it was a victim of Saddam Hussein's aggression for eight years. As American military forces returned home, Baghdad declined and became the center of terrorism. Seven years of western occupation had failed to resolve Iraq's ethnic and religious crisis, produce corrupt polity, and irritate its population to plan its anger with Iraq's economy (Demant, and Finguerut 10-12).

During the 2008 presidential election, Obama held position on aspects of nuclear non-proliferation and arms control, including the intermediate nuclear forces treaty, and the fissile material cutoff treaty .However, when president Obama expressed a willingness to work within the non-proliferation treaty regime, he wondered on how to deal with the situation of Iran. He suggested steps that would increase the warning and decision times for the launch of all nuclear-armed ballistic missiles to reduce the risks of accidental or unauthorized attacks.

Obama administration's principle toward the Middle East agenda was to prevent Iran from producing the nuclear weapons. He talked a great deal about the issue of Iran, opening all inclusive negotiations that included the nuclear issue. He tried not to give the impression that he would accept a military nuclear program from Iran. Numerous speeches had made to Teheran, as the inaugural speech "extended hand" in order to solve the problem of the nuclear impasse (Ahmad Khan 25).

While Obama stated his commitment for advancing democratic values, he worked to promote an Israeli-Palestinian peace process, which was the most important component of his

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Middle East agenda. Therefore, he began to address it from his first day in office. His involvement in the peace process was to press on the Prime Minister Netanyahu, in order to adopt positions in the negotiation process.

President Obama adopted a markedly modest approach to promote democratization than it pursued by his predecessor George Bush. Obama's Secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, asserts, "*our pressing on human rights cannot interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crisis*". Obama mentioned democracy as the fifth of seven issues for discussion as he declares, "*our administration has set an ambitious goal to advance democracy not through the imposition of force from the outside, but by working with moderates in government and civil society to build those institutions that will protect that freedom* (Singh 2-3).

Moreover, Obama's presidential campaign had focused more on domestic issues and a critique of Bush's war in Iraq. He had called for U.S. support for "sustainable democracy". As he states at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs,

*We have heard much over the last six years about how America's larger purpose in the world is to promote the spread of freedom, that it is the yearning of all who live in the shadow of tyranny and despair. I agree. But, this yearning is not satisfied by simply deposing a dictator, and setting up a ballot box. The true desire of all mankind is not only to live of free lives, but lives marked by dignity and opportunity; by security and justice....It also requires a society that is supported by the pillars of a sustainable democracy: a strong legislator, an independent judiciary, the role of law, a vibrant civil society, free press, and an honest police force (Patterson 30-32).*

Obama called upon the U.S. to support what he named "sustainable democracy". As he committed to support democracy, he says, "*we must support a strong and sustainable democratic government....History offers a clear decision: governments, that govern by*

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*consent and not coercion, are more prosperous, they are stable, and more successful than government that do not....”* (Patterson 26). He suggested three related trends. First, continuity of funding for most targeted Bush-era democracy initiatives; including the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the Millennium Challenge Cooperation<sup>10</sup>. Second, a reduction in general democracy funds via the state Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), but increases in country-specific democracy funding particularly in the Middle East and central Asia. Third, a tension between promoting democracy and supporting autocratic regimes that advances immediate U.S. interests.

Obama administration would seek to reduce Bush’s “Freedom Agenda”, and related initiatives specifically the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). It forced developing countries to meet basic conditions of accountable, and governance before having economic assistance. He requested an increase of 70% in MEPI and MCC funding for greater Middle East, and signed a new Millennium Challenge Compact in September 2009 (Patterson 35). As Brian Katulis reportes, *“In reviving democracy promotion in the Middle East, the Obama administration should seek to launch a pragmatic reform effort that discards the label, and main approaches of the Bush “Freedom Agenda”, and set a new strategy grounded in the context of Arab public own well-documented aspirations for democracy and human rights”* (4) .

### Conclusion

Throughout the twentieth century, the promotion of democracy has become a feature of US foreign policy. It has marked a pivotal reassessment of the United States’ traditional policies, particularly towards the Middle East. Its policy has been determined by several objectives in the region, including the maintenance of security to oil, Israel security and

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<sup>10</sup> The Millennium Challenge Corporation : is an innovative and independent US foreign aid, which helps to fight against poverty

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regional stability, countering terrorism, proliferation of weapons and mass destruction, and promoting political and economic reforms.

The strategy of democracy promotion incorporates a diverse array of influences in the Middle East, which have had mixed results. However, the impact of democracy promotion policies tends to be limited and to benefit specific projects. This strategy is difficult to transfer even through military intervention because of a long list of failures. Consequently, Arab countries would suffer from the additional problems that have been part of democracy promotion industry.

**Chapter Two:**

**The Egyptian**

**Uprising**

# Chapter Two: The Egyptian Uprising

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## Introduction

In 2011, Arab countries have witnessed many changes, which have resulted in revolutions. These changes have begun in Tunisia, where people have died in violent protests and demonstrations. Following the wave of revolution, Egyptians gathered on January 2011, specifically in Tahrir Square. At the beginning of the protest, tensions have increased between the police and demonstrators, and the government has taken riot-control strategies against these protests.

Moreover, the Egyptian revolution has been an important socio-political event in the Middle East history. The circumstances in Egypt have paved the way for revolution. The Egyptian people were ready to begin street protests, demanding political, economic, and social changes that led to the departure of President Hosni Mubarak.

As a result, the events of the Egyptian uprising have imposed outside powers to interfere, one of which is the United States. However, the U.S. intervention has contradicted its values and interests by the name of democracy promotion and human rights.

## 2.1. Egypt under Mubarak

Hosni Mubarak became the president of Egypt because of the assassination of Anwar Sadat on October, 1981. His presidency was legitimized through a referendum in the People's Assembly. The Egyptian government has marked by continuity in the policies pursued by his predecessor Anwar Sadat. He initiated a policy of economic liberalism, and limited political pluralism. Also his foreign policy was based on the commitment toward the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979 (Benerji 7).

Moreover, Mubarak's regime has been known as a populist authoritarianism during his 30 years of rule. In those periods, he played an implicit role to take the legitimacy from the

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public. The largest organizations in Egypt were the military and the bureaucracy (Ismail Kurun 184).

Besides, Mubarak's presidency has affected the Egyptian politics, economy and society. Egyptians have suffered from the corrupted government, lack of democracy, foreign debts, poverty, and bad living conditions. Those latter have inspired the Egyptian to depose their leader.

### 2. 2. An Overview about the Egyptian Uprising

For more than a year, Arab countries have witnessed many episodes. It was the greatest wave of dissatisfaction that Arab World has seen in the twenty first century. People have been disappointed with their leaders' oppressed policy in order to improve their life's conditions, and get rid of the dictator. They have tried to shake the status quo policy<sup>1</sup> that has made their life's conditions too miserable. It has also worsened their economic, political, and social conditions. As Abu al-Qasim al-Shabi, a Tunisian poet, says, *"if, one day, a people desire to live, then fate will answer their call. And their night will then begin to fade, and their chains break and fall. For he who is not embraced by a passion for life will dissipate into thin air"* (Aissa 1).

The wave of social discomfort, that has swept the Middle East region during the year of 2011, has been known as "the Arab Spring". These revolutions have been huge political upheavals, which have taken thousands of people to the streets against their oppressive regimes. The Arab awakening has started in Tunisia in December 2010. Later similar revolutionary protests have broken out in many other countries such as Egypt. The suicide of

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<sup>1</sup> The status quo: means the existing state of affairs, regarding political and social issues. It applies to maintain social structure and values.

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Mohammed Bouazizi, a Tunisian vender, has been the first flame for the Egyptians to show their discontent about their leader Hosni Mubarak (Beissinger et al. 3).

On January 25, 2011, thousands of Egyptian activists have moved into the Tahrir Square. They have gathered to protest seeking an end to corruption, injustice, bad economic conditions, and the 30 years of the dictator Hosni Mubarak and his closet allies. They have crossed into the security barriers, and entered in a riot with the police. Egyptians have waved placards calling for Karama (dignity), and hurriyah (freedom). The slogan of the 2011 Egyptian revolution has concerned with “bread, freedom, and social justice”. This statement has taken from the economic and social disappointment of ordinary people in Egypt (Lesch 35).

During this uprising, four movements have encouraged the protest against the rule of Mubarak. First, Kefaya has been an Egyptian movement that has called for change. It has established in 2004, in order to enhance the political situation in Egypt. It has gained wide support when it has criticized the 2005 constitutional referendum, and the presidential election campaigns. Also it has helped to protest against the re- election of Mubarak in 2010 .Kefaya movement has contributed to the success of the 25 January revolution.

Second, the National Association for Change has founded in 2010. Its main concern has been to change the political setting in Egypt via democracy, social justice, and free fair election. It has played a role in ending the tyranny of Hosni Mubarak. Third, the 9 March Group for the Independence of Egypt’s Universities has founded to assure the freedom of the Egyptian universities from security, and government’s interference. Fourth, the April 6 Youth Movement has established in 2008, to support workers in El-Mahalla El-Kubra. It has used social media to mobilize the public support for their strike (Abushouk 55-56).

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Moreover, Egyptian protestors have insisted on Mubarak to withdraw from his office, leaving it for a new elected democratic government that would achieve their demands. However, the Mubarak administration has prevented all public gatherings, and the police forces have separated these peaceful demonstrations. Rebellious actions have spread from the Tahrir Square to other squares in the country. As a result, Mubarak was obliged to dissolve his cabinet and form a new one.

On February 4, 2011, thousands of Egyptians have gathered again at Tahrir Square and other cities, demanding Mubarak's resignation and regime change. They have obliged him to leave his office before completing his presidency in 2013. Under a high pressure, Hosni has resigned on February 11, 2011, leaving his administration to a military council headed by Mohammed Tantawi (Abushouk 57).

### **2.2.1. The Motives behind the 2011 Revolution**

The Egyptian revolution of January 2011 has happened due to mixed reasons and factors. This latter has pushed Egyptian to overthrow Hosni Mubarak on February 2011. 18 days of tension, which has begun by peaceful demonstrations, has marked a transitional period. Through this uprising, Egyptians have asked for political, social, and economic changes that may adjust their situation (Wahba 1).

#### **2.2.1.1. Political Factors**

##### **a. The Widespread of Corruption**

The corruption within the government is considered as one of the main political factors, which caused the Egyptian awakening. The spread of this phenomenon in the government affected the Egyptian economy. It had prevailed in Egypt before the uprising and reached the highest scale in the mid-2000s. When new cabinet ministers were appointed, they used their

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position to promote corruption. They constituted a group of businessmen, friends of Gamal Mubarak. They controlled the Egyptian economy, and run it in favor for their personal goals.

In addition, those appointed ministers used their puissance to sell a large amount of public sectors for their benefits. They also discouraged public investment in health, agriculture, education, and housing. On the other hand, they tried to promote private investments that would serve them at the expense of the Egyptians. For instance, they worked with great economic persons who had puissance such as: Ahmed al-Maghraby “minister of housing” and Mohamed Mansour “minister of transportation” (Lesch 1-8).

### **b. Lack of Democracy**

Many politicians have argued that the lack of democracy in Egypt is considered as a main political factor for the revolution. The ruling years of the dictator “Hosni Mubarak” caused the uprising. He enjoyed thirty years of dictatorship by establishing a bureaucratic government. The power was centralized in the executive branch. Mubarak created a system in which he was appointed by the people’s assembly, although the appointment had to be validated by public referendum.

Besides that, Hosni had made all appointments, including mayors, and even governors. He had established a system in which local council leaders were elected based on the winner-take all system. This latter had provided the ruling leaders with a monopoly of domination, which had encouraged corruption and nepotism among governmental officers. In this respect, the widespread of corruption and the lack of democracy have caused deprivation, economic inequality, and the revolution (Ibid 1-8).

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### 2.2.1.2. Economic Factors

#### a. Failed Economic Policy and the Rising Cost of Living

The worsening economic conditions fueled the 25 January revolution. It has remained a significant component in the political uprising. Mubarak followed the economic policy that Anwar al Sadat initiated. His cabinet advisors did not change it because it served their interests. In addition, the Peace Treaty of 1979 between Egypt and Israel resulted in Arab's lack of assistance to Egypt. This situation made the Egyptian government reliant on the U.S's assistance. Mubarak borrowed loans from outside countries. However, he stopped asking for loans when those countries stopped providing him such as: Saudi Arabia, which had less money to give because of the decrease in oil revenue (Amin 57).

Moreover, the Egyptian external loans had continued to flourish during Mubarak's first five years. During this period, the amount of debt had got over \$45 billion. The increase rate of the Mubarak loans had been added to what Al-Sadat had left. The total debt had risen to \$47 billion because of the Egyptian entry to the 1990 Gulf War. As a result, this increase had made Egypt's debt as one of the highest amount in the world that it had never experienced before. In this view, the country would not be more likely to borrow anymore. Money lenders had begun to worry about their money. Besides, Egypt had found itself wondering about repaying the past debt or the new one. Consequently, Egypt had stopped requesting more money by enhancing countries' payments due to the reduction of its imports (Ibid 58).

From 1986 to 2004, this reduction had affected the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)<sup>2</sup>. Also it had caused a decrease in the amount of Egypt's growth of per capita income, which did not exceed 4 percent. The decrease of GDP had been due to the austerity policy. Additionally, the government had started to sell the country's properties that had been the

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<sup>2</sup> Gross Domestic Product: is an indicator to measure the country's economy.

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profit-producing possessions. However, it had resulted in decrease in state's revenue and salaries (Ibid 64).

### **b. Soaring Food Prices and Poverty**

Since the Egyptian's economy has broken, people have wondered about the falling of global food prices. The increase of the agricultural productions has placed a greater pressure on the Middle Class. Their salaries have spent towards nourishment, which has high prices. 40% of the people have lived under the poverty line. During the world economic crisis, the Egyptians living below the poverty line has increased drastically from 17, 8 to 23%. As the Egyptian Council of Ministers report of 2010 states, "*the number of Egyptians living below the poverty line has risen from 17 percent to 22 percent between 2000 and 2010*"(Goldstone 8-16). According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, low payment and the increase in food prices has affected the growth, and urbanization of the population.

In addition, the misruling of the Egyptian leaders to provide food has been the main factor leading to this upheaval. The political corruption within the government has led to food shortage. For instance, the Mubarak administration has put restrictions on producing main crops just before the uprising such as: rice. As a result, rice prices have increased significantly and thus the main food has been taken from the poor (Akcesme 25-26).

The rising of food prices have affected Egypt's dependency on its imports. This latter has increased the poverty line, especially during the time of the uprising. Before the revolution, Egyptians have protested against the rising of food prices. On April 2008, factory laborers made demonstrations in the business city of al-Mahala. However, Mubarak reacted against worker's protest using police forces. He refused to negotiate their demands concerning the raise of payment. As a result, Mubarak monopolized the production of low-prices food.

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Between 2004 and 2006, a period of worker's demonstrations, Mubarak government had tried to make economic reforms. Nonetheless, his policy had failed because the living conditions of his people had worsened again. As a result, the unwise governing of Mubarak has been a great factor for the general rebellion (Rastegari 4).

Despite the increasing demands to reduce the prices, oil production had failed to increase after 2006. Consequently, the product of dependent industries had been affected as well, leading to the downfall of the Egyptian revenue (Akcesme 29).

### c. The Need for Food Import

As the Egyptian population has risen, the need for lands to build new houses has raised as well. As a result, agriculture has fallen, and Egypt's production of food has decreased. Egypt became the greatest importer in 2010. As the Egyptian oil minister declares, "*the country was importing 60 percent of its wheat and 40 percent of its food*" (Akcesme 30).

In addition, the economy relied on foreign aids. During three decades of Mubarak governing, Egypt was dependent on those aids. However, this dependency affected negatively the economic growth of the country. The process of importing foreign food continued until 2010 when Russia, a major exporter of wheat, witnessed an economic crisis. Suddenly, prices increased and Egypt was obliged to pay more money for its imports. Even though the government sought to realize food self-sufficiency, it continued to depend on worldwide imports (Clement Moore, and Springborg 173).

As Egypt was a great importer, this made it weak to control food prices. It became dependent on importing food from other countries. Thus, it opened the door for economic crisis. The rising of food prices and its import highlighted an economic and social background for the uprising (Akcesme 34).

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### 2.2.1.3. Social Factors

#### a. Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment has played a pivotal role in motivating young people to revolt. It is more crucial because people have lived in a miserable situation without jobs. Thus, it has forced them to protest against their government. Egyptian youth have sought to achieve freedom, high income, and better living conditions. This latter has led them to take part in the 2011 revolution. As the Egyptian population has risen, youth rate has been outnumbered. Consequently, Egypt's youth have helped to be a key element behind the rebellion (Akcesme 51).

Additionally, the absence of jobs in Egypt has not affect only the income deficiency but also personality, dignity, and social standing. The widespread of unemployment may lead to an extensive dissatisfaction, which has provided a ground for the revolution. At the beginning of the uprising, young people has not care about the result of the revolution, which has affect their lives. They have requested a good quality education, jobs, and good living conditions.

In 2010, youth unemployment has increased more than 30 percent while the general unemployment rate has used to be 9.7 percent. As a result, millions of people have felt angry about the bad situation they have lived. The unemployed people participated as bases in the demonstrations. During the Tahrir revolt, Egyptians asked for jobs to achieve their needs for better future (Korotayev, and Zinkina 139).

Moreover, high unemployment and low payment have been the major obstacles facing the youth to get married, and make a family. Nevertheless, Mubarak did not take into

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consideration the anger of his people. His underestimation fueled people's desire to rebel against his government, since they had no social position or good jobs to lose (Amin 75).

### **b. Income Inequality**

In any country, revolutions may arise from inequalities, typically when the population may seek social equality and privileges. As a result, upheavals may occur because of the desire for equality. Inequality has played a role in inspiring Egyptian people to overthrow their dictator, because it has resulted poverty in society. Also it has caused social classes. The poor rebelled against the rich to acquire wealth, while the rich fought them to protect their properties. Income inequality has affected the Egyptian growth, which has resulted dissatisfaction leading to social disorder (Berg, and Ostry 12-15).

Besides, the widespread of inequality in Egypt has caused political tensions, obscuring investments, and preparing for economic financial crisis. During this economic crisis, government may face difficult decisions such as; imposing taxes to avoid such phenomenon. In addition, income inequality has reflected the poor's inability to get opportunities in education, and business activities (Ibid).

The inequality in income has reduced the ability of the middle, and lower classes to achieve their needs. Thus, insufficient regulation of the monetary policy would lead to an economic uncertainty, and lower growth rate. The inequality has affected the progress of the Millennium Development Goals<sup>3</sup>, and the decrease of poverty. Also it may delay the country's developments and lead to misuse of productivity, which may create dependencies especially food dependency. Moreover, it may retard the economic growth that has caused

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<sup>3</sup> The Millennium Development Goals: are eight international development goals that were established by 189 United Nations members to eradicate poverty.

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health and social problems including bad education outcomes, high rate of unemployment, and social insecurity and clashes (Ncube, and Anyanwu 2).

In addition, the dissatisfaction among the Egyptians has fueled the protest, because they were treated unfairly by the rich, who have benefited from the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The percentage of the rich people has been increased at the expense of the poor, who have sought high social services in return of fewer rights (Abdou 93).

Those problems, which have been resulted from income inequality, have caused the Egyptian revolution. On January 2011, people have demonstrated against the economic inequality, they have felt that they have not benefited from the county's economic growth. This uprising does not occur from nothing, because Egyptians have taken into consideration social, economic, and political problems that have been increased for a long time (Diener 542).

### **2.2.2. The Role of Social Media during the Uprising**

Besides the economic, social, and political factors, media has played a massive role in the reflection of Egypt's political tensions. The Egyptian uprising has started first on social media by social activists. Facebook and Twitter have contributed in the modernization process, which has helped people to organize themselves against their leader. They have called for democratizing their corrupted system (Martin 36).

In addition, Egyptians' discussions on social media have helped to overcome the fear of police forces, particularly when they have used phone videos to show the brutality of police against protesters. Young people have used communication tools to mobilize millions of people in an uprising against Mubarak's tyranny. Social media have been used to conduct political conversations, in order to put human face on political oppression, and to impose

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pressure on their government. However, Egypt has attempted to block access to social network, in order to cut the connection between protesters (Howard et al. 2-3).

Consequently, social media have facilitated the spread of information, and organization of the Egyptians. They have stood against their corrupted regime, and called for democratic transition. As some Egyptian social activists say, *“we want what everyone in the region wants: an end to corruption, the ability to choose and dismiss our leaders, freedom of speech, and freedom of fear”* (Abushouk 61).

### **2.3. The U.S. Interference in the Egyptian Uprising**

On February 2011, and after 18 days of demonstrations, the Egyptian people could impose Hosni Mubarak to resign from his office. As a result, the uprising in Egypt has a greater impact on the landscape of the Middle East, and the world as well. Regardless of the domestic implications of the revolution, the U.S engagement has a profound influence on the Egyptian affairs. Egypt has attempted to realize a more democratic government, which has had a major implication for the U.S. foreign policy (Sharp1).

In addition, the U.S. administrations have viewed Egypt as an influential country in the Middle East. Consequently, its intervention has affected for better and worse politically, military and economically.

#### **2.3.1. Political Interference**

The departure of Mubarak in 2011 left Egypt without leader. Thus, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) offered to control, and run the county’s affairs. However, the United States could not express its support for the revolution, because it could not live without an ally like Mubarak. He was viewed as a supporter of the Arab-Israel Peace Treaty,

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which was signed in 1979. The SCAF stayed in power for 6 months. It established a close relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, and Islamist organizations (Abul-Magd 2).

On June 2012, under the leadership of Mohammed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood won the presidential election with the support of the army. This latter issued a constitutional declaration, which prevented Morsi to take an authority over the army. On August 2012, he dismissed Tantawi, and put El-Sisi as a general of the army. However, the emergence of the new regime “Muslim Brotherhood” led to a drastic change in the U.S. strategic relationships and its ally, Israel as well.

Egypt used to play an important role in the United States’ affairs, because of the Peace Treaty of 1979. Nevertheless, the Muslim Brotherhood changed the way of thinking. They were considered as a worst case for Israel, and known for their anti-Israel attitude. Also, the United States had not favored the presidency of Morsi, because they had considered them as terrorist group (Zohar 3-4).

Moreover, many policymakers have pointed out that the Brotherhood members have committed to violence, and have a rapprochement towards any organization that may nurture Al-Qaeda. In addition, the U.S. has stated that Islamist groups are devoted to militancy and terrorist attack. On the other hand, it has worried about whether to include them in politics, and power or not. If it did so, the Muslim brotherhood may pursue policies against the U.S. interest in the region.

Besides, they may transform neighboring states into theocracies like Iran. As the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Margret Scobey announces, “*the Muslim Brotherhood is a banned group in Egypt, and there are no direct relations with them. There is no direct dialogue between us and them*” (Sharp 20). The U.S. tried to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from taking seats in parliament. The rise of any indigenous power in the region could challenge its

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power, and therefore its interest. It tried to deprive outside powers from having domination in the region (Demant, and Finguerut 22).

On July 2013, Egyptian military- in response to the protesters- decided to depose Morsi. As revenge, the armed members of the Muslim Brotherhood fought against the Egyptian masses, which has resulted several massacres. These latter had shown abuses on human rights. Nonetheless, the United States committing to protect human, did not interfere to undertake the problems (Abul-Magd 4).

Despite the internal conflict over the leadership of Egypt, the U.S. has not supported political reform in the country. It has not stated democratization as a primary objective in its foreign policy toward Egypt. Its main concern is to advance the partnership. It has been emphasized by the Egyptian, when they have asked about the sincerity of the U.S. democratization efforts in the region. Their perception has become more negative, asserting that the United States has not help to make democratic transition (Glassman, and Glickman 35).

During the departure of Morsi, Al-Sisi made his efforts not to lose support on the internal, regional, and international levels. Internally, the Egyptians have supported him, and various political parties have stood beside him. Regionally, he has received extensive support from neighboring states. Internationally, although the U.S. has used to suspend its aid to the Egyptian government, it has not prepared to cut it altogether (Abul- Magd 4).

On June 2014, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi became a president of Egypt. Egypt has followed a failed attempt to democratization. In addition, the renewed military domination under El-Sisi could not bring stability in view of human right abuses. Indeed, the economic conditions have worsened markedly since the departure of Mohammed Morsi (Dunne 1).

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Despite the Egyptian situation under the rule of El-Sisi, the U.S. has needed Egypt more than ever. In addition to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, U.S. has continued to need Egypt's cooperation against global terrorism, and the threat caused by Iran. El-Sisi has continued to serve U.S. interest. He has committed to respect the treaty, and to seek resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He has increased the scope of Egypt's peace with Israel, and opened up further understanding based on common interests (Zewail 2).

Moreover, the United States implication has suffered significant setbacks towards democratic transition. For instance, El-Sisi has continued political repression, and human rights abuses, which have resulted terrorism and protest. However, the U.S. has tried to stay close to whoever has been in power, in order to realize its benefits (Dunne 4).

### **2.3.2 Economic and Military Interference**

Since the Peace Treaty of 1979, Egypt has been the second-largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance. The United States has provided Egypt with \$2 billion in economic and military aid. Prior to the recent events in Egypt, it has provided \$1, 55 billion in total assistance.

In 2011, the Obama administration has requested 250 million in economic aid. However, some analysts have criticized his strategy, asserting that U.S. democracy funding has been ineffective. They have argued that U.S. aid should seek to improve the lives of the Egyptian protesters. Besides, Obama's policy should be conditioned to protect human rights, and religious freedom reform (Sharp 1).

The newly elected government, the Muslim Brotherhood, has faced an economic stagnation that has needed an outside support, in term of financial assistance, loans, and trade.

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Despite of the economic crisis, the United States has played a role to undertake the situation in Egypt (Hamid 3).

Moreover, the U.S. has used bilateral economic aid for Egyptians, including the Economic Support Funds (ESF). This latter has approved by Congress to be used in Egypt. The United States has viewed it as an investment in democracy promotion. This can be misleading, because it has aimed to advance U.S. security, and strategic interest in the region. It has used aids by the name of democracy promotion, and political transition. However, the Egyptians have rejected the ESF. Democracy activists have believed that the Obama administration has not been more practical enough to support reforms in Egypt (Sharp 25).

In addition, the United States has markedly decreased the economic aid to Egypt. Israeli officials have negotiated with the U.S. to increase the military intervention, because of the current event that has threatened its stability. If the United States reduces the military aid, it would undercut its interest in the Middle East concerning Egypt's support for Arab-Israeli peace. American officials have believed that the continuity of the military intervention would facilitate U.S. naval access to the Suez Canal. This latter has helped the U.S. to receive expedited process for nuclear worships. Egypt has provided over-flight rights to America's aircrafts (Ibid).

Egyptians have criticized U.S. aids. It has allowed the United States to influence their government in making decisions, including economic reforms. As some Egyptians state, *"U.S. aids limit our capacity to make decisions, and compromise our independence. Egyptians will become more proud if we reject aid"* (qtd. in Hawthorne 28).

Before the departure of Mohammed Morsi, the United States has been obliged to cut aids to Egypt in the event of the military coup. Nonetheless, it has insisted on the importance to maintain the military support in the region. Despite the massacre of Morsi supporters, led by

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El-Sisi armed forces near Rabaa Al-Adawiya mosque, Secretary of State John Kerry has appeared to approve the coup. He indicates, “*the army was in effect ...restoring democracy, and averting civil war*” (Hamid 4).

In addition, America’s reaction towards the massacre has been silent. Although a strong response to the killings would require a strategy, which emphasizes its pretense to protect human rights. U.S. foreign policy towards Egypt has been known as “leading from behind”. To pursue this strategy in the Middle East, the United States has left a power vacuum and struggles (Ibid 5).

The Egyptian economy has faced many challenges. President El-Sisi has asked the public to start applying an austerity policy. Thus, the United States has provided again \$ 12 billion as a support from the International Monetary Fund. This latter has conditioned to use aggressive economic reforms. Nevertheless, U.S. intervention in Egypt has fueled corruption in the Egyptian country. Indeed, the successive authoritarian El-Sisi has concerned to direct foreign support towards his own interests than benefitting his people. As an Egyptian analyst declares,

*The aid does not take into consideration Egyptians’ most pressing needs, such as permanent jobs to enable citizens to earn a living with dignity, as well as providing direct assistance to the most impoverished citizens....The so-called economic reforms recommended by the United States, and the International Monetary Fund have caused an unprecedented surge in unemployment, and have increased income inequality over the last decades (qtd. in Hawthorne 28).*

### Conclusion

The Arab spring represents a revolutionary wave of both violent and non-violent demonstrations, which has swept the Arab world. It has proven that what occur in one country can influence other Arab states in unexpected way. These

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demonstrations have started first in Tunisia, and inspired the Egyptians to revolt for change.

The Egyptian uprising has been a massive political upheaval, which has taken citizens to the street against their respective leader Hosni Mubarak. Although the revolution has lasted for 18 days, it represents a significant socio-political event in modern Middle East history. On January 2011, Egyptians have protested to bring an end to poverty, unemployment, unequal incomes distribution, and corruption in the region. This protest was known as a democratic revolution, which leads successively to the overthrow of Mubarak.

Throughout the revolution, Egypt's attempt to apply more democratic transition has led to a major implication for U.S foreign policy. However, U.S. implication has affected the region for better and worse, which shows the contradiction between its values and interests. As a result, the U.S. intervention in Egypt, by the name of democracy promotion, has proven that it has favored to achieve benefits at the expense of values.

# General Conclusion

Democracy promotion has been considered as one of the long-standing element of foreign policy for developed countries in the world. They have committed to enforce democracy abroad. Democracy promotion has marked a significant departure in the traditional U.S. policy. Thus, it has emerged as a core tenet of the U.S. towards the Middle East. The United States has pretended to enforce democracy as an instrument to achieve security, and prosperity in the region.

Nonetheless, the Arab Spring in the Middle East has changed the form of thinking. The revolutions have swept many Arab countries such as Tunisia, Libya, and Syria. However, the case of Egypt has represented a truly evidence, that shows the opposite of what the U.S has pretended to realize in the Middle East by the name of democracy promotion. Besides, it has not help to make political reform concerning democratic transition. It has not stated democratization process as its primary objective towards Egypt.

U.S. democracy and freedom agenda in the region were self-interested, aiming to transform the Egyptian society for America's benefits. The Egyptian people have done successful democratic transition that resulted the departure of Mubarak. Also, the United States has chosen to promote stability, concerning countering terrorism, at the expense of democracy promotion and human rights.

In another way, the United States has advanced its interest rather than its values. The U.S. political, military, and economic implications could emphasize that it has purchased stability over democracy. Moreover, it has continued to support the regime

over people. It has swept billions of dollars to help the leader over the Egyptian protestors, who have demanded the right of freedom and social justice.

Besides, supporting democracy does not mean to promote such fundamental American values. But it has helped to create a more secure and stable region, in which the U.S. can advance its national interest including access to the Suez Canal, maintaining Arab-Israel peace, and preserving strong military presence in the oil region. As a result, U.S. democracy promotion has glittered on the surface but hopelessly is corrupted underneath.

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