

Preface

This book builds on earlier work delineating a Euro-Mediterranean Regional Security (Super) Complex (EMRSSC) (Boening 2009) as a modification of Buzan's et al. (1998) concept of a Middle East Regional Security Complex by expanding this theoretical model to integrate some ramifications of the Arab (and Ottoman) Spring, especially in terms of (select) intra- and inter-regional actors, and the power shifts this represents. As such, this work is not intended to be a finite analysis of the Arab Spring, as this is continuing to evolve—likely for many decades to come. Rather, this work represents a special perspective of the evolving geostrategic developments in the greater Euro-Mediterranean region with particular consideration of the implications the Arab Spring has on it by utilizing Buzan's et al. (1998) concept of *select* (to remain within the limits of this work) security *sectors* and *levels*.

This book does not seek, as no book on this region ever could, to be all inclusive of every aspect—historical, political, social or otherwise, pertaining to the *problematicues* addressed (nor are the countries involved in the Arab Spring reviewed equally, but rather areas of emphasis were chosen to illustrate a certain point)—hence the widely varying depth and length of analysis on different aspects and topics. As this book focuses on state/intergovernmental actors, the often substantial work of NGOs involved in the EMRSSC exceeds the scope of this work and was hence not included. Instead this book intends to show the interconnections of the Euro-Mediterranean region as an intricately interconnected Regional Security Super Complex—like it or not, as Deutsch and others have repeatedly pointed out: We experience the most security issues with those with whom we are most closely related. And I would say, also the greatest opportunities—for all society groups, rather than just a few—in the socio-economic and political areas, if we manage to sort them out in a positive sum manner. This “if” perhaps the greatest threat to the EMRSSC....

Ontologically, the analyses in several sections are divided into “soft” and “hard” power and incorporate the Euro-Med Partnership's (EMP) historic concept of the “3 baskets” (political, economic, and sociocultural) to facilitate comparisons, though it is not intended to result in a “line-by-line” comparison.

To counter comments of West-centrism, if not neocolonialism, I sought to include a broad range of other authors' analyses as an (indirect) process-tracing as

well as discourse analysis methodology to augment—and contrast—my own analysis and broaden its conclusions. The special details included in certain portions are intended to outline some of the intricacies of the multitude of actors involved with often contradictory domestic, ideological and security agendas.

I would like to extend my particular gratitude to Jon Gurstelle, my editor from Springer Publishers in New York, who was beyond patient in awaiting the original proposal for this book since our initial contact several years ago, through the intervening publication of another volume with Springer Verlag: His flexibility, understanding, support, and professionalism are superb—and matched by Springer's New York team involved with this project, especially Brian Halm's experience and wisdom, and Kevin Halligan's patience in coordinating this project. Most importantly, Lorraine Klimowich for her wisdom and understanding of the entire project's complexity, and led to my decision to publish with Springer rather than another publisher. I hope their patience was justified with this volume! Last, but not least, this book became a reality as a result of Alvaro de Varconelo's encouragement—I am deeply indebted for it!

The Arab Spring

Re-Balancing the Greater Euro-Mediterranean?

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