

Riots, Rebellions, Revolutions

Political Science 17.581

Final Exam

Question 1:

Writing from her structural perspective, Theda Skocpol argues that “Revolutions are not made; they come.” In explaining the outbreak and course of the Arab Awakenings, do you agree with Skocpol? Is she right in some of the cases but not in others? In your answer, refer both to information on the fact sheet and to the short biography of Tawakkul Karman, Yemen’s Nobel-prize winning “mother of the revolution.” What is the relationship between larger structural forces and the ideas and leadership of individuals?

Question 2:

Read the short essay by Gada Mahfud, written for the *Libya Herald*. Do you agree with the author’s view on the critical role of social media in the Arab Awakening? Please refer to class theories in your assessment of the essay.

Question 3:

Why were some cases violent while others were peaceful?

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Spring 2013

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