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The Age of Counter-Revolution

States and Revolutions in the Middle East

Jamie Allinson

University of Edinburgh

The 'Arab Spring' has come to symbolise defeated hopes for democracy and social justice in the Middle East. In this book, Jamie Allinson demonstrates how these defeats were far from inevitable. Rather than conceptualising the 'Arab Spring' as a series of failed revolutions, Allinson argues it is better understood as a series of successful counter-revolutions. By comparing the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Libya and Yemen, this book shows how these profoundly revolutionary situations were overturned by counter-revolutions. Placing the fate of the Arab uprisings in a global context, Allinson reveals how counter-revolutions rely on popular support and cross borders to forge international alliances. By connecting the Arab uprisings to the decade of global protest that followed them, this innovative work demonstrates how new forms of counter-revolution have rendered it near impossible to implement political change without first enacting fundamental social transformation.

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'The Age of Counter-Revolution provides the most perceptive insights into counter-revolution since the work of Arno Mayer some 50 years ago. It combines a richness of detail alongside a striking command of theoretical debates. The book contains a simple, powerful message: for revolutions to fail, counter-revolutions must succeed. In this way, counter-revolutionary projects, founded on logics of preservation and defence, are just as powerful as revolutions. The book is the hallmark of a skilful, creative operator within the history-theory loop. It is essential reading.'

George Lawson, *Australian National University*



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