ARAB SPRING OR ARAB AUTUMN: A CASE STUDY OF EGYPT AND SYRIA

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MASTER OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
2014

ARAB SPRING OR ARAB AUTUMN: A CASE STUDY OF EGYPT AND SYRIA

By

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Thesis Submitted to Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government

Universiti Utara Malaysia

In Fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Public Management

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify causes and consequences of Arab Uprising in Egypt and Syria. The main objective of this research is to understand the terminologies that have been used to define the situation and major implications that have influenced the outcome of the revolution. Primary data has been generated to solve research problem. The methods used in this study to collect data were qualitative method and semi-structured interview. The findings of the study indicate that the term of "Arab Spring" is wrongly used in Syria and Egypt. Instead, the study found the best terminology that should be used in describing Arab Uprising is "Arab Nightmare" or "Arab Autumns" since the happiness of the people and prosperity of the country has fallen off. Also, the life of citizens after uprising become miserable and both countries have fallen in major aspects. The study also determined the factors that have caused the emergence of riots and protests in Egypt and Syria including unemployment, inflation, poverty, the lack of public services, the lack of freedom, domination, political exploitation, segregation, abusing power and corruption. The consequences of the uprising are the death of more than 140,000 Syrians, and more than 7000 others in Egypt despite the economic, social and political downturn. The study founds negative international role and indicates that international community failed to stop bloodshedding in Syria and military involvement in Egypt. In all, the study founds negative involvement of some countries such as Russia and Iran that are responsible for the killing of thousands in Syria. The findings of this study also identifies other factors that caused the failure of opposition groups in toppling Assad down from presidency other than Iran and Russia including Jihadist, Al-Qaeda affiliated groups and division between opposition groups. In conclusion, based on the consequence of the revolution and respondents, the Arab Autumn can become the most relevant terminology to define the uprising.

Keywords: Arab Uprising, Civil War, January 25 Revolution, Arab Spring, Arab Autumn

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenal pasti sebab dan akibat “Kebangkitan dunia Arab” di Mesir dan Syria. Objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk memahami istilah yang telah digunakan untuk mentakrifkan keadaan dan implikasi besar yang telah mempengaruhi hasil revolusi. Data utama telah diperolehi untuk menyelesaikan masalah penyelidikan. Kaedah yang digunakan dalam kajian ini untuk mengumpul data adalah kaedah kualitatif dan temuduga semi-struktur. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa istilah "Arab Spring” adalah salah digunakan di Syria dan Mesir. Sebaliknya , kajian ini mendapati istilah yang terbaik yang perlu digunakan dalam menerangkan “Arab Uprising” adalah "Nightmare Arab" atau "Arab autumns" kerana kebahagiaan rakyat dan kemakmuran negara ini telah merundum. Selain itu, kehidupan rakyat menjadi sengsara selepas kebangkitan dan kedua-dua negara telah mundur dalam kebanyakan aspek. Kajian ini juga meninjau faktor-faktor yang telah menyebabkan kemunculan rusuhan dan tunjuk perasaan di Mesir dan Syria termasuk pengangguran , inflasi, kemiskinan , kekurangan perkhidmatan awam , kekurangan kebebasan , dominasi, eksploitasi politik, pengasingan, penyalahgunaan kuasa dan rasuah. Pemberontakan ini telah mengakibatkan kematian lebih daripada 140,000 orang Syria , dan lebih dari 7000 di Mesir walaupun dalam kelembapan ekonomi ,sosial dan politik. Kajian ini menjelaskan peranan antarabangsa yang negatif dan menunjukkan bahawa komuniti antarabangsa gagal menghentikan pertumpahan darah di Syria dan penglibatan tentera di Mesir. Secara keseluruhannya, kajian menunjukkan penglibatan negatif oleh beberapa negara seperti Rusia dan Iran yang bertanggungjawab membunuh beribu-ribu rakyat Syria. Hasil kajian ini juga mengenalpasti faktor-faktor lain yang menyebabkan kegagalan kumpulan pejuang pembangkang dalam menjatuhkan Assad turun dari jawatan presiden selain daripada Iran dan Rusia termasuk pejuang Jihad ,kumpulan bersekutu Al- Qaeda dan puak-puak penentang. Kesimpulannya , berdasarkan akibat daripada revolusi dan responden-responden, “Arab Autumn” boleh menjadi istilah yang paling relevan untuk mentakrifkan kebangkitan.

Keywords: Kebangkitan dunia Arab, PerangSaudara, Revolusi 25 Januari , Arab Spring, Arab Autumn

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It gives me great pleasure in expressing my gratitude to all those people who have supported in making this thesis possible. First and foremost, I must acknowledge and thank The Almighty Allah for His blessing, protection and guidance me throughout my enlightenment journey. I could never have accomplished this without the faith I have in the Almighty. I felt His love in every step of the way.

I express my profound sense of reverence to my supervisors Dr.Mohd Fitri Abdul Rahman for his constant guidance, support, motivation and untiring help during the course of my Master. His ultimate support and friendly treatment has taken a place in my heart, and gives me all the reasons to not give up on this project. I will always remember his calm and relaxed nature. I am thankful to the Almighty for giving me a supervisor like him.

I would like to thank my family members. My gratitude goes to lovely grandmother and my mother who always supported me in my study. Also, my wife has encouraged me to complete this project. I also dedicate this work to my kids for their support, encouragement, prayers, and patience during my study.

Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the people who helped me in contacting research participants, those who answered my research questions, friends and colleagues who have contributed in one way or another to help me complete this project paper successfully.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Arab world has been marred by decades of classical dictatorial and authoritative rule and rulers. The people have been kept away from transparent and true representation government. In the other words, the government sank in corruption, misleading, and democratic principles of government has been undermined. Syria and Egypt are two countries that exhibited nearly same outlook and had their rulers distant from the masses. Most of the states in the region were single party states with little or no place for the opposition forces in political spectrum. Syria was the front runner in this regard and it was a one party state system with no place for opposition parties (Billingsley, 2009, 151). The other major reason that angered mass population was the lack of freedom. In Fact, freedom of speech and freedom of expression is absolutely curbed and little or nothing could be said against political elites.

So, as the anger of people increased incrementally. At first, the Arab uprising started in Tunisia on December 18, 2010. A twist in tale took place in as the Tunisian young Mohamed BauAzizi committed self-immolation as reaction to the social and political injustice in the country Tunisia (Beinin&Vairel, 2011, p.237). The act of BauAzizi soon increased anger among Arab society in general and Tunisian in particular. So, rioters increased substantially in the matter of hours. Rioters refer to

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APPENDIX
Appendix A
Interview Questions

Please indicate your gender, occupation, age and nationality.

1. What are the causes and consequences of Arab spring in Egypt and Syria?
2. How do you define your life after Arab Uprising?
3. Do people have better life now? If yes how? If no why?
4. What are the worst thing happened during and after Arab Uprising?
5. What are the main problems that people challenging as the result of Arab Uprising?
6. What were the advantages and disadvantages of Arab Uprising?
7. What did you lose and what did you get as the result of uprising?
8. Are you satisfied with the reaction of the government and Army against protesters? Why?
9. Have you lost any relative or friend?
10. Why opposition groups unsuccessful to topple down Bashar Regime?
11. How do you evaluate the roles of international community in the crises in of your country?
12. Are you agree with the use of term “Spring” for Arab Uprising? Or it was just a nightmare that brought darkness to the people of Arab Countries?

Appendix (B)

Interview Respondents

No	Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Types	Nationality	Date
1	Al-Hussein AbdulQader	42	Male	Journalist	Face to Face UUM, Sintok	Syrian	26/4/2014
2	Ahmed Sharif	56	Male	Activist	Phone Interview	Egyptian	13/4/2014
3	Haitham Hamid	33	Male	Businessman	Phone Interview	Syrian	16/4/2014
4	Arshad Sabah	28	Male	Employee	Phone Interview	Egyptian	23/4/2014
5	Shaima Faruq	36	Female	Housewife	Social Media	Egyptian	29/5/2014
6	Husna Salm Hamdani	27	Female	Teacher	E-mail	Syrian	20/5/2014
7	Mustafa Said	31	Male	Unemployed	Social Media	Syrian	30/4/2014
8	Kutiba Nanaa	32	Male	Postgraduate Student	Face to face Penang	Syrian	5/5/2014
9	Hilal Sultan	26	Male	Postgraduate Student	Face to Face Penang	Egyptian	9/5/2014
10	Hussein Karim	28	Male	Postgraduate Student	Face to Face Kuala Lumpur	Syrian	11/5/2014