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The roots of the phenomenon of the current uprising in the Near East surprise: protests were started by secular young people. The development from the dominance of the market to the return of societies have contributed to new secular thinking. The emergence of the satellite TV channel Al Jazeera became part of the revolution. It was a communication channel and engine that influenced Southern hemisphere countries and has improved the language level of ‘classical’ Arabic.

Problems and roots of change:
- Stagnation, repression: e.g. United Nations Development Program report
- Absence of freedom: half of the nation (female population) not actively participating in the society
- Unjust distribution of resources
- Iraq war delayed the process with the deformation of rule of law and democracy

Energy interests: the Greater Middle East holds 80% of strategic commodities: oil and gas. Population never had the opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination. Pipelines were the origin of nation borders between Syria and (then) Mesopotamia.

Facilitators for change: young generation together with new technology (social networking) AND reports about protests via satellite TV (Al Jazeera)

Testosterone as a factor in this revolution:
- “Shaved young men in their 20s” (secular)
- Aggressive young men
- Frustation on a hormone level

Trajectory: what happens next?
- In Libya: tribes against tribes
- There is no military solution to Libya
- Outside intervention by NATO leads to frustration among rebels
- Gender aspect: men in the White House against military intervention, women all for it
- Maybe: temporary partition of Libya with Egyptian influence

Dream in 1911 and 2011: Pan Arabism: uniting the Arab world, which voices will prevail?
- Enormous secular potential

Impact on the European discourse about Islam:
- Demographic changes in European countries are going on
- Emergence of true multipolar order on an international level (e.g. Turkey)
- Maybe: return of migrants (migration back to home countries)
- Role reverse: Europe is stagnant, “underdeveloped” countries are alive and changing

Discussion:
- The role of individual intellectuals in the movement?
- Very courageous people, risking their lives
- Kinship liability of war or food crisis
- Art also gave people hope

The beginnings of the revolution in Egypt and Tunisia were a leaderless revolution.

Reverse of roles: young people inspiring older “intellectuals” not: older, wiser generations inflaming the youth

BUT: young people writing tweets

Muslim brotherhood is losing importance: fundamentalism or frustration with politics (as in Europe)?

What can we do?
- Young people voting for extremist parties
- Powerlessness in the leading elite all over Europe
- We could see pro-Chinese emirates

Impact on Upper Austria:
- Contracts in the future will be written in a different way: we will negotiate in different ways for business in the region
- No longer contracts with patriarchs BUT: contracts that can be ratified in parliamentary process: takes more time

Energy: geopolitical approach; alternative energy, self-sufficiency

Rewrite the parameters into something worth calling energy policy

“Testosterone has been a driving force in revolutions”

Effects on the European energy industry:
- We have seen little development in how we commute: same type of engines, same type of fuel
- Alternative energy > self-sufficiency in energy
- Energy as a lever for changing geopolitics

Carving up of the Middle East after World War I was done in the name of oil

“Who runs energy policy?”
- Not: government
- But: power companies

Rewrite the parameters that would result in something worth calling energy policy

The driving force of secular young people

Impacts on the European energy industry: