

# The Arab Spring: The Promise of Democracy

Prof. Robert Springborg

## Biography

Robert Springborg is a Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs of the Naval Postgraduate School and Program Manager for the Middle East for the Center for Civil-Military Relations. Until August 2008 he held the MBI Al Jaber Chair in Middle East Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where he also served as Director of the London Middle East Institute. Before taking up that Chair he was Director of the American Research Center in Egypt. From 1973 until 1999 he taught in Australia, where he was University Professor of Middle East Politics at Macquarie University. He has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

His publications include *Mubarak's Egypt: Fragmentation of the Political Order*; *Family Power and Politics in Egypt*; *Legislative Politics in the Arab World* (co-authored with Abdo Baaklini and Guilain Denoeux); *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East* (co-authored with Clement M. Henry); *Oil and Democracy in Iraq*; *Development Models in Muslim Contexts: Chinese, 'Islamic' and Neo-Liberal Alternatives* and several editions of *Politics in the Middle East* (co-authored with James A. Bill). He co-edited a volume on popular culture and political identity in the Gulf that appeared in 2008. He has published in the leading Middle East journals and was the founder and regular editorialist for *The Middle East in London*, a monthly journal that commenced publication in 2003. He has worked as a consultant on Middle East governance and politics for the United States Agency for International Development, the US State Department, the UNDP, and various UK government departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development.

He is a member and past President (1991), Australasian Middle East Studies Association; member of the National Advisory Committee of the Middle East Policy Council, Washington, D.C. 1997-; member of the Editorial Board of *The Middle East in London*, 2003-; member of the Editorial Board of the LMEI/SOAS Saqi Series on Contemporary Middle East Issues, 2005-; member of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for British Research in the Levant, 2005-; member of the Board of the British Society for Middle East Studies, 2004-; member of the Editorial Board of *Foreign Policy Bulletin*, 2005-; Member of the Board of Trustees, Arab-British Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 2007-; member of the Steering Committee of *Il Vicino Oriente*, September 2007-; member of the Editorial Board of the Routledge Series on the Political Economy of the Middle East, 2008-; member of Phi Beta Kappa Epsilon of Minnesota, 2008-.

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