

# What Happened to Human Development after the Arab Spring? A Qualitative Choice Analysis from the Middle-East

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## **Paper Abstract:**

Lagging human development constitutes a major obstacle that prevents the Arab region from confronting the challenges of globalization. The Arab Spring that changed governments in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen did inspire others to demand democratic rules. This paper examines how the region's per capita income, democracy level and petroleum revenue affected human development before and after the Arab Spring. Our analysis considers data from 21 Middle East economies drawn from a sample of 47 African and 39 Asian countries on two time points, viz., 2010 and 2013. Our results suggest a statistically significant and positive impact of both per capita GNI and democracy level in the HDI regressions. We subsequently include intercept and slope dummies in the regressions to capture any qualitative change in variable relationship after the Arab Spring in 16 nations. The significance of intercept dummy indicates that HDI during 2013 remained higher in the Arab Spring nations. The interaction dummies suggest that the impacts on HDI could run either from per capita GNI or petroleum rents.