



# The Sharia State: Arab Spring and Democratization

By Bassam Tibi



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Set against the backdrop of the Arab Spring, *The Sharia State* examines the Islamist concept of political order. This order is based on a new interpretation of sharia and has been dubbed "the Islamic state" by Islamists. The concept of "the Islamic state," has been elevated to a political agenda and it is this agenda that is examined here.

In contrast to the prevailing view which sees the Arab Spring as a revolution, this book argues that the phenomenon has been neither a Spring, nor a revolution. The term 'Arab Spring,' connotes a just rebellion that led to toppling dictators and authoritarian rulers, yet in *The Sharia State*, Bassam Tibi challenges the unchecked assumption that the seizure of leadership by Islamists is a part of the democratization of the Middle East.

Providing a new perspective on the relationship between the Arab Spring and democratization, this book is an essential read for students and scholars of Middle Eastern Studies, Islamic Studies and Politics.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Bassam Tibi is a Professor Emeritus of International Relations. Between 1973 and 2009 he taught at the University of Goettingen, and he was A.D. White Professor at Large at Cornell University until 2010. Between 1982 and 2000 Professor Tibi was parallel to Goettingen at Harvard University in a variety of affiliations, the latest of which is the Bosch Fellow of Harvard. His work has been translated into 16 languages, and he has published a great number of books including *Islam's Predicament with Modernity* (Routledge, 2009) and *Islam, World Politics and Europe* (Routledge, 2008). The president of Germany Roman Herzog decorated him in 1995 with the highest Medal/State Decoration for his "bridging between Islam and the West".

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