

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-3f Muslims
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition
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20-3f Muslims

Elsewhere in the Arab world a rash of popular demonstrations starting at the end of 2010 led to the “Arab Spring,” an anti-authoritarian political current that toppled the rulers of Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Yemen and plunged Syria into its civil war. Though not the instigators of the demonstrations, previously suppressed Muslim political parties like Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood emerged as the best organized contenders as shaky democratic regimes struggled into being. Tunisia alone, however, emerged from the turmoil with a reasonably democratic government, though one that still fell short in areas like youth employment that had helped trigger the demonstrations. Egypt reverted to military rule when the army overthrew the elected Muslim Brotherhood government.

In trying to explain a current of violence, analysts argued about the factors that may have contributed to the violence. One school of thought argued that the United States incurred al-Qaeda’s wrath by enacting policies supporting Israel and stationing troops in Saudi Arabia and that those policies should therefore be reconsidered. Those who disagreed pointed out that despite its support for Israel and Saudi Arabia, the United States had championed the Muslim cause in Bosnia, driven the secular dictator Saddam Husain out of Kuwait, and expressed support for the popular uprisings of the Arab Spring.

After the interventionist attitude of President George W. Bush and the reluctance to get involved of President Obama, America’s stance in the Middle East, and vis-à-vis Islam more broadly, remained uncertain when Donald J. Trump became president in 2017.

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